

John T. Sebastian, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Medieval Literature

Director of the Common Curriculum

Founding Director of the Ignatian Faculty Fellows Program

Loyola University New Orleans

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EDUCATION

- 2004 Ph.D., Medieval Studies, Cornell University
Major field: Middle English literature
Minor fields: Old English literature, medieval music
- 2003 M.A., Medieval Studies, Cornell University
- 1999 M.A., English, Georgetown University
Concentration: medieval and Renaissance literature
- 1998 A.B., Medieval Studies and English, Georgetown University
magna cum laude

Postgraduate

- 2010 Ignatian Colleagues Program, Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2013-present Director of the Common Curriculum, Loyola University New Orleans
- 2010-present Associate Professor, Department of English, Loyola University New Orleans
Tenure granted in 2011
- 2007-2010 Deputy Director, University Honors Program, Loyola University New Orleans
- 2006 Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of English and Medieval Studies
Program, Georgetown University
- 2004-2010 Assistant Professor, Department of English, Loyola University New Orleans

2000-2003 Teaching Assistant, Cornell University

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Sebastian, John T., ed. *The Croxton Play of the Sacrament*. Kalamazoo: Medieval Institute Publications, 2012.

Fitzgerald, Christina M., and John T. Sebastian, eds. *The Broadview Anthology of Medieval Drama*. Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2012.

Edited material in anthologies

Contributing editor. *The Broadview Anthology of Medieval Drama*. Ed. Christina M. Fitzgerald and John T. Sebastian. Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2012.

General Introduction (with Christina M. Fitzgerald), pp. ix-xiii.

"The Fleury *Herod*" headnote, pp. 68-69.

The Fleury *Herod*, pp. 70-76.

"The N-Town *Mary Play*" headnote, p. 245.

The N-Town *Mary Play*, pp. 246-274.

"John Lydgate" headnote, pp. 309-311.

Lydgate, John. *Disguising at Hertford*, pp. 311-315.

Lydgate, John. *Disguising at London*, pp. 316-321.

Lydgate, John. *Mumming at Eltham*, pp. 322-323.

Lydgate, John. *Mumming at Windsor*, pp. 324-326.

Lydgate, John. *Mumming for the Mercers of London*, pp. 326-329.

Lydgate, John. *Mumming for the Goldsmiths of London*, pp. 329-331.

Lydgate, John. *Mumming at Bishopswood*, pp. 332-334.

"The Croxton Play of the Sacrament" headnote, p. 335.

The Croxton Play of the Sacrament, pp. 336-355.

"John Heywood" headnote, pp. 449-451.

Heywood, John. *The Play of the Weather*, pp. 451-476.

Contributing editor. *The Broadview Anthology of British Literature*. Ed. Joseph Black et al., 2nd ed. Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2009. Online supplement:

<http://sites.broadviewpress.com/babl/period-volumes/the-medieval-period/table-of-contents/>.

"John Lydgate" headnote.

Lydgate, John. Prologue to *Siege of Thebes*.

Lydgate, John. *Disguising at Hertford*.

Lydgate, John. *The Churl and the Bird*.

Lydgate, John. *On the Image of Pity*.

Lydgate, John. *The Child Jesus to Mary, the Rose*.

Articles and book chapters

Welsh, Timothy J., and John T. Sebastian. "Shades of Dante: Virtual Bodies in *Dante's Inferno*." In *Gaming Re-Imagines the Middle Ages*, ed. Daniel Kline (New York: Routledge, 2013), pp. 162-174.

Sebastian, John T. "'Whye ys thy cloathinge nowe so redd?': Salvific Blood in the Chester *Ascension*." In *The Chester Cycle in Context, 1555-1575: Religion, Drama, and the Impact of Change*, eds. Helen Ostovich, David Klausner, and Jessica Dell (Farnham: Ashgate, 2012), pp. 79-91.

Sebastian, John T. "The Idea of Public Poetry in Lydgatean Religious Verse." In *Medieval Poetics and Social Practice: Reflections on Penn Szitty's Work*, ed. Seeta Chaganti (New York: Fordham University Press, 2012), pp. 95-108.

Sebastian, John T. "Chaucer and the Theory Wars: Attack of the New Historicists? The Psychoanalysts Strike Back? Or A New Hope?". *Literature Compass* 3:4 (2006): 767-777.
<www.literature-compass.com>

Sebastian, John T. "Teaching Undergraduates How to Read Arthurian Texts." *Arthuriana* 15:4 (2005): 6-13.

Encyclopedia articles

"Albas," "Andreas Capellanus," "Arthurian Legend," "Beiris de Romans," "Frigg/Freya" and "Saga Literature" in *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Love, Courtship, and Sexuality Through History, Volume 2: The Medieval Era*, ed. William Burns, (Westport: Greenwood Press, 2008), pp. 11-12, 15-16, 18-19, 26-27, 78-79, and 207-208.

Reviews

Brett D. Hirsch and Christopher Wortham, eds., "*This Earthly Stage*": *World and Stage in Late Medieval and Early Modern England*, in *The Medieval Review* 13.07.16 (2013), <<http://www.hti.umich.edu/t/tmr/>>.

Penny Granger, *The N-Town Play: Drama and Liturgy in Medieval East Anglia*, in *The Medieval Review* 12.09.19 (2012), <<http://www.hti.umich.edu/t/tmr/>>.

Theodore K. Lerud, *Memory, Images, and the English Corpus Christi Drama*, in *Speculum* 85:1 (2010): 163-64.

David N. Klausner and Karen Sawyer Marsalek, eds., 'Bring furth the pagants': *Essays in Early English Drama Presented to Alexandra F. Johnston*, in *The University of Toronto Quarterly* 78:1 (2009): 230-31.

Fiona S. Dunlop, *The Late Medieval Interlude: The Drama of Youth and Aristocratic Masculinity*, in *The Medieval Review* 08.06.22 (2008), <<http://www.hti.umich.edu/t/tmr/>>.

Brenda Rickman Vantrease, *The Illuminator* (novel), in *The New Orleans Review* 32:1 (2006): 179-182.

John H. Arnold and Katherine J. Lewis, eds., *A Companion to The Book of Margery Kempe*, in *The Medieval Review* 05.08.16 (2005), <<http://www.hti.umich.edu/t/tmr/>>.

Thorlac Turville-Petre and Hoyt Duggan, eds., *The Piers Plowman Electronic Archive, Volume 2: Cambridge, Trinity College, MS B.15.17 (W), CD ROM*, in *Yearbook of Langland Studies* 15 (2001): 219-227.

Other publications

Sebastian, John T. Interview with John Glassie. *Room 220*. <<http://press-street.com/confounding-or-stimulating-a-lot-of-great-minds-john-glassie-on-athanasius-kircher-at-loyola-april-22/>>. Republished *New Orleans Review*. <<http://www.neworleansreview.org/john-glassie/>>.

Mui, Constance, and John Sebastian. "What We Did Last Summer – Intellectually." *Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education* 39 (2011): 43.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited lectures

Public lectures given annually at the "Salon de Jean"
Sponsored by the Krewe de Jeanne d'Arc, New Orleans, Louisiana, 2010-present

"Lessons from the Past: Everything I Need to Know I Learned from the Vikings"
Loyola University New Orleans, 3rd Annual Last Lecture, April 3, 2011

"Going Viral: Faith, Reason, and Host Desecration in the 15th and 21st Centuries"
Salisbury University, November 19, 2010

"The Croxton *Play of the Sacrament*"
Lehigh University, October 20, 2010

"French Kings and Fairy Queens: Aliens, Outsiders, and Other Others at the Anglo-Norman Court"
The Round Table Club of New Orleans, October 4, 2007

“Women Behaving Badly (That Is, Like Men): Gender and Law in the Old Norse *Saga of the People of Laxardal*”

Focus on Faculty Research in Women’s Studies Forum, Loyola University New Orleans, March 21, 2007

“Saints Lives and Their Lewd Readers: Heresy, Patronage, and the Poetry of John Lydgate (ca. 1370 – ca. 1449)”

Georgetown University, March 30, 2006

“The Myth of *Everyman*: Reflections on Teaching the Quintessential(?) Medieval(?) English(?) Morality(?) Play(?)”

38th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Medieval Institute, Western Michigan University, May 8-11, 2003 (invited paper for the special session “Persistent Myths and Contested Ground” sponsored by the Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society)

Selected conference papers

“Beyond the Pale: The Post-medieval Irish Fortunes of Early English Drama”

38th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Medieval Association, University of Southern Mississippi, October 18-20, 2012

Invited Panelist, “Medieval Drama Studies: Securing the Future – A Round Table Discussion”

2012 International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, July 9-12, 2012

“Medieval Drama as Tudor Entertainment: The Croxton *Play of the Sacrament* in the Age of Heywood”

2012 Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, St. Louis, Missouri, March 22-24, 2012

“Beyond the Pale: Medieval Drama in 18th-century Ireland”

20th Biennial Conference of the Southern African Society of Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Stellenbosch, South Africa, September 2-5, 2010

“*Translator studii*: Nicholas Trivet, Senecan Tragedy, and *Auctoritas* in England and Italy”

17th Biennial Congress of the New Chaucer Society, Siena, Italy, July 15-19, 2010

“Whye ys thy cloathinge nowe so reedd?": *Cruor Christi* in the Chester Ascension Play”

Chester 2010: Drama and Religion, 1555-1575, University of Toronto, May 21-24, 2010

“*Omnis sciencia a domino deo est*: Sins of Intellectual Pride in Early English Drama”

44th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Medieval Institute, Western Michigan University, May 7-10, 2009

“Music and Paleography”

Session in Honor of James J. John III, 44th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Medieval Institute, Western Michigan University, May 7-10, 2009

Panelist, “Teaching Middle English Religious Writing: A Roundtable”

44th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Medieval Institute, Western Michigan University, May 7-10, 2009

“Becoming Sir Launfal”

34th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Medieval Association, “Bodies, Embodiments, Becomings,” St. Louis University, October 2-4, 2008

“Aliens Among Us: Hybrid Identities in Marie’s *Lais*”

2008 Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, Vancouver, British Columbia, April 3-5, 2008

“‘Lyuynge aftur lettrure’: Learning to be Saved in Lancelot and Hilton”

4th International Lancelot Conference, University of Pennsylvania, May 17-19, 2007

“Apocalyptic Beginnings and Indeterminate Verdicts: Judgment in *Wynnere and Wastoure*”

32nd Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Medieval Association, “Beginnings and Endings,” The University of Mississippi, October 12-14, 2006

“Patronage at the Periphery”

15th Biennial Congress of the New Chaucer Society, New York City, July 27-31, 2006

“Women Behaving Badly (That Is, Like Men): Law and Gender in *Laxdæla saga*”

24th Annual International Conference of the Charles Homer Haskins Society for Viking, Anglo-Saxon, Anglo-Norman, and Angevin History, Georgetown University, November 4-6, 2005

“‘Fette out of fygure’: John Lydgate’s Poetics of Figuration”

40th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Medieval Institute, Western Michigan University, May 5-8, 2005

OTHER SCHOLARLY PROJECTS

Director, with Artemis Preeshl, Chester *Ascension* pageant, Chester 2010: Drama and Religion, 1555-1575, full-scale amateur staging of the complete Chester cycle of biblical plays, May 21-24, 2010

Historical Consultant, *Excalibur! The Story of Young King Arthur*, play produced by the Loyola University New Orleans Department of Drama, Spring 2007

Reader, "William Langland's *Piers Plowman* at the Kelly Writers House," PENNsound: Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing at the University of Pennsylvania, 2007, <http://writing.upenn.edu/pennsound/x/Piers-Plowman.html>

ACADEMIC HONORS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Research Grants and Awards

Marquette New Faculty Fellowship, Loyola University New Orleans Committee on Grants and Leaves, 2009 (\$8000.00)

National Humanities Center, Summer Institute in Literary Studies, "Chaucer: Past, Present and Future," 2008 (\$1500.00)

Bobet Fellowship, Loyola University New Orleans, College of Humanities and Natural Sciences, 2007 (\$7000.00)

Visiting Scholarship, Amherst College, 2005 (\$5000.00)

Mellon Graduate Fellow, Cornell University Society for the Humanities, 2004 (\$6500.00)

Mellon Foundation-Institute of Historical Research Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship to England, 2003 (\$3000.00)

William B. Schallek Memorial Graduate Fellowship Award, Richard III Society, American Branch, 2002 (\$1500.00)

Teaching and Advising Awards

Faculty Senate Award for Service, Loyola University New Orleans, 2013

Faculty Senate Award for Teaching, Loyola University New Orleans, 2012

College of Humanities and Natural Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award, Loyola University New Orleans, 2010

University Honors Program Professor of the Year, Loyola University New Orleans, 2009

Faculty Senate Award for Advising, Loyola University New Orleans, 2009

Stephen and Margery Russell Award for Distinguished Teaching, Cornell University, 2003

Clark Distinguished Teaching Award nomination, Cornell University, 2002

Other Awards

Katherine Kraft Medal, Georgetown University, 1998

Phi Beta Kappa

Alpha Sigma Nu (national Jesuit honor society)

Phi Alpha Theta (national history honor society)

TEACHING

Selected courses at Loyola University New Orleans

- ENGL A217 Reading Historically I (occasionally team-taught with Dr. Hillary Eklund)
 ENGL A316 Medieval Literature (previously Medieval Survey)
 ENGL A324 Early Shakespeare
 ENGL A340 Chaucer: *Canterbury Tales* (previously Chaucer I)
 ENGL A341 Chaucer: Dream Visions and *Troilus* (previously Chaucer II)
 ENGL A424 Medieval Drama
 ENGL A490 Great Figures: Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe
 ENGL H295 Dante's "Beautiful Lies": Allegory and Interpretation (Honors)
 ENGL N294 Saints, Poets, and Popes in Medieval Italy (study abroad course)
 ENGL O288 The Vikings: Warrior-Poets (previously U188 and U288, "The World of the Vikings")
 ENGL T121 East of Eden (First-Year Seminar; previously FY43 T121, "Medieval Marvels")
 ENGL T121 Getting Medieval: Uses and Abuses of the Past (First-Year Seminar)
 ENGL T125 Writing about Literature (previously The Emerging Self)
 ENGL U287 Martyrs, Minstrels, Mystics: Medieval Women Writers (previously U187)
 ENGL U297 Heroes and Monsters
 ENGL U299 Arthurian Legend (previously U199; traditional and online versions)
 MUGN H295 The Medieval Imagination: The Age of Cathedrals (taught three-week section on the literature of medieval Paris in this team-taught course)

Co-director and Faculty, "Rome: The Ancient Crossroads of Culture, Literature, and Religion"
 Loyola University New Orleans Summer Study Abroad Program, June, 2011 (inaugural session)

Undergraduate honors theses directed

Natalia Narvaez, English Honors Thesis on women in the poetry of Chaucer, title pending (2014)

Rebecca Hutchinson, English Honors Thesis: "Jacopone da Todi: The Forked-Tongued Demon of Medieval Poetry" (2013)

Theresa Bullington, Medieval Studies Thesis: “*The Decameron: Italian Elitism in Literature*” (2012)

Aubrey Ahmed, English and University Honors Thesis: “Forever Reaching: Sir Gawain and Elusive Courtesy in Medieval Romance” (2012)

Mia Farmer, Medieval Studies Thesis: “Pride as an Obstacle to Identity in *Le Chevalier de la Charette*” (2010)

G. Nicholas Courtney, University Honors Thesis: “‘O tu ch’onori scienza e arte’: Dante’s Elevation of Poetic Discourse in the *Divine Comedy*” (2010)

Frank Rieger, English Honors Thesis: “The Foolish Choice: An Examination of the Theological Implications of Dante and Chaucer’s Choice to Write in the Vernacular, and an Attempt to Articulate a More Satisfying ‘Lapsarian Poetic’” (2009)

Danielle Smith, English Honors Thesis: “Women Gone Wild: Magical Women in Arthurian Legend” (2008)

SELECTED UNIVERSITY SERVICE

University-level service

Standing Committee on the Common Curriculum, 2013-present

Academic Advising Committee, 2013-present

Steering Committee, 2013-present

Summer Orientation Subcommittee, 2013-present

Course Scheduling Subcommittee, 2013-present

First-Year Experience Committee, 2013-present

University Courses and Curriculum Committee, 2013-present

University Campaign Council, 2013-present

Assessment Support Team, 2013-present

Strategic Planning Team, 2013-present

Ignatian Colloquium Mentor, University Honors Program, 2013

Instructional Effectiveness Workgroup of the Student Success Summit, 2013-present

Founding Director, Ignatian Faculty Fellows Program, 2012-present

Mission and Identity Committee of the Board of Trustees, 2012-present

Mission and Ministry Faculty/Staff Advisory Committee, Chair, 2012

First in the Pack Mentor, 2012-2013

Medieval Studies Minor Steering Committee, 2004-present

Chair, 2007-2011, 2012-2013

Webmaster, 2006-2009; 2011

Jesuit Social Research Institute Strategic Planning Team, 2010-2011

Deputy Director, University Honors Program, 2007-2010

University Honors Advisory Board, 2006-2010 (*ex officio* 2007-2010)
Chair, Honors Foundation Course Planning Team, Fall 2009
Center for International Education, Study Abroad Approval Committee, 2009-present
Bookstore Advisory Committee, 2009-2011
Search Committee, Vice President of Enrollment Management, 2007-2008
Women's Studies Committee, Associate Member, 2006-2007; Full Member, 2007-2008,
2012-present
Women's Studies Curriculum Subcommittee, 2006-2008, 2012-present

College-level service

College Planning Team, 2013-present
Search Committee, Dean of the College of Humanities and Natural Sciences, 2012-2013
College of Humanities and Natural Sciences Salary Oversight and Review Committee, 2010-
2013
College of Humanities and Natural Sciences Curriculum Committee, Fall 2007, 2009-2012
Chair, 2010-2011
College of Humanities and Natural Sciences Strategic Planning Committee, Spring 2007

Department-level service

Freshman Program Planning Committee, 2014-present
Department of English Curriculum Committee, 2012-2013
Faculty mentor to Dr. Timothy Welsh, 2011-present
Literature Concentration Revision Committee, 2010-2011 (Chair)
Search Committee, Assistant Professor of Renaissance Literature, 2008-2009
Departmental Liaison to the Library, 2006-2012

Other service

Arranged guest performances and guest lectures by:

Emma Lipton, University of Missouri, Columbia: "Legal Affect and Civic Drama in
Medieval York" (March 15, 2013)

Kate Crassons, Lehigh University: "The Claims of Poverty: Literature and Ideology in Late
Medieval England" (November 11, 2010)

T. Ross Leasure, Department of English, Salisbury University: "Milton's Micro-Epic: On the
'Nativity' of *Paradise Lost*" (November 19, 2008)

Baba Brinkman (with Sara Butler), the "Chaucer Rapper," Biever Lecture (November 12,
2008)

Amanda Gailey, Department of English, University of Georgia: "Walt Whitman and Emily
Dickinson in a Digital Environment" (November 6, 2008)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Ph.D. Thesis Examiner for Ailish McKeown, University of Sydney

Peer Reviewer for articles submitted to *Literature Compass* and *postmedieval*

Program Committee, 38th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Medieval Association,
University of Southern Mississippi, October 18-20, 2012

Organizer, Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Consortium of Medieval and Renaissance Scholars,
Loyola University New Orleans, 2007

Conference Coordinator, Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, Georgetown
University, 1999

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Medieval Academy of America
Southeastern Medieval Association
New Chaucer Society
Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society
International *Piers Plowman* Society