**Who We Are**

IRINA DUMITRESCU writes and studies literature. She is the author of *The Experience of Education in Anglo-Saxon Literature* (Cambridge University Press, 2018), and the editor of *Rumba Under Fire: The Arts of Survival from West Point to Delhi* (punctum, 2016) and, with Eric Weiskott, *The Shapes of Early English Poetry: Style, Form, History* (Medieval Institute Publications, 2019). She is currently thinking about charisma, imperfection, and language learning. You can find her essays at irinadumitrescu.com.

ANNA WILSON is an Assistant Professor at Harvard University in one part of her reading life. She does not share her other name in non-fandom spaces because she doesn’t want her students to be able to find her deeply earnest love stories about robots.

SUZANNE CONKLIN AKBARI is Director of the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto, but would rather be working on her new project on medieval ideas of periodization, “The Shape of Time,” and/or lying on the beach in North Truro. Her books include *Seeing Through the Veil: Optical Theory and Medieval Allegory*

**Image:** Wall of glass bottles, City Museum, St. Louis.  
**Photo:** Kaitlin Heller.

JESSICA HAMMER is the Thomas and Lydia Moran Assistant Professor of Learning Science at Carnegie Mellon University, where she studies how playful experiences can change players’ lives. Her work has been supported by the NSF, Amazon, the Heinz Foundation, Google, and other organizations. In 2018 she won Carnegie Mellon’s Teaching Innovation Award for her work on peer feedback. She is also an award-winning game designer.

LOCHIN BROUILLARD is a doctoral candidate at the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto. She started off her undergraduate degree telling her friends she wouldn’t take any courses in medieval history. Now her dissertation focuses on familial conversions and spiritual kinship in medieval saints’ Lives. She has been published in venues such as the *Journal of Medieval Monastic Studies*. Her research is in many ways guided by what she enjoys reading.

CHRIS PIUMA is a poet, musician, book designer, former academic, and more. He now spends most of his time on the Megaphonic podcast network. With Suzanne Conklin Akbari, he hosts *The Spouter-Inn; or, A Conversation with Great Books*, available at megaphonic.fm/spouter or through any reputable podcast app.
STEPHANIE BAHR is Assistant Professor of Literature at Hamilton College. Her work on Titus Andronicus and Reformation interpretive violence has appeared in Shakespeare Quarterly, and her work on rape and reading in The Faerie Queene is forthcoming in Studies in Philology. Her book project examines the interrelations of Reformation hermeneutics, sectarian violence, and Renaissance literature. Inspired partly by her own idiosyncratic reading experience, Bahr is fascinated by how people past and present interact with texts. In the classroom, she seeks to inspire a similar fascination by introducing students to codicology, paleography, and even basic book-binding.

ALEXANDRA ATIYA is a PhD student at the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto. Her research focuses on late medieval English drama and she is interested in the relationship between text and performance. She received her MA from CMS in 2015 and her BA in History from Harvard in 2007. Prior to starting the PhD, Alexandra wrote fiction and poetry and contributed finance and arts journalism to various publications. She is currently working on a novel and co-authoring a graphic novel with Salman Toor, the artist whose painting forms the frontispiece of her essay.

JONATHAN HSY teaches at George Washington University, and he enjoys reading, writing, and scheming with collaborators. He is co-director (with Candace Barrington) of Global Chaucers and co-editor of its special issue of Literature Compass (2018), co-editor (with Mary-Kate Hurley and A.B. Kraebel) of the “Thinking Across Tongues” special issue of postmedieval (2017), co-editor (with Tory V. Pearman and Joshua R. Eyler) of Bloomsbury’s forthcoming
A Cultural History of Disability in the Middle Ages, and co-facilitator (with Julie Orlemanski) of an ongoing crowdsourced bibliography on race and medieval studies. He is also competing a short book on race and global medievalism, and a longer book on disabled medieval authors and their modern-day disabled audiences.

KIRSTY SCHUT defended her doctoral dissertation at the University of Toronto’s Centre for Medieval Studies in March 2019. She holds an MA from the same institution and a Bachelor of Humanities from Carleton University, and — relevant to her essay in this collection — she studied Literary Arts at Canterbury High School in Ottawa. She has taught medieval history at the University of Toronto and Carleton University. Her research deals with late medieval intellectual history, concentrating on the fourteenth-century Dominican theologian John of Naples, and her publications include articles in Recherches de Théologie et Philosophie Médiévales and Archivum Fratrum Praedicatorum. For the last six years, she has shared an apartment in Toronto’s Greektown with the excellent Emma Meadley Dunphy and gone contra dancing at every opportunity.

KAITLIN HELLER has held a lot of jobs that require reading, including a postdoc at Syracuse University, an editorial position at Del Rey Books, and a brief stint as a shelf reader in Widener Library. Heller stopped watching Game of Thrones several years ago but did finally finish A Dance with Dragons. Anne, if you’re reading this: I thought it was good.

JENNIFER JORDAN is currently a doctoral student of Medieval History at SUNY Stony Brook. She will defend her dissertation, “'In her own dialect': Women, Gender,
and Borders in Norman Sicily and Southern Italy,” which examines women’s movement, exchange, and identity, next year. She has published on pedagogy in TEAMS and has contributed performances to the Performing Medieval Narrative Today database (mednar.org). Outside of her academic work, she is the co-author with Sophie Goldstein of the award-winning webcomic Darwin Carmichael Is Going to Hell, and of the forthcoming An Embarrassment of Witches from Top Shelf Comics.

BRANTLEY BRYANT is Professor of English at Sonoma State University. He has published on Middle English literature and politics, Middle English literature and ecocriticism, and on adaptations of the medieval in popular culture.
How We Read