

SARA S. POOR
Curriculum Vitae

Department of German
Princeton University
203 East Pyne
Princeton, NJ 08544
(609) 258-7980
FAX (609) 258-5597
spoor@princeton.edu

EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor of German Literature, Princeton University
2006 -

Assistant Professor of German Literature, Princeton University
2002 - 2006

Assistant Professor of German Studies and Gender Studies, Stanford University
1996 - 2002

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow/Visiting Assistant Professor, Penn Humanities Forum, University of Pennsylvania
1999 - 2000

Lektorin für amerikanische Sprache, Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg
1995 - 1996

Instructor of German and Literature, Duke University
1987 - 1995

EDUCATION

Duke University: Ph.D., Literature Program, 1994

Dissertation: "Medieval Incarnations of Self: Subjectivity and Authority in the Writings of Mechthild von Magdeburg," Advisor, Ann Marie Rasmussen

Cornell University: B.A., Comparative Literature, 1985, *Summa cum laude*

Honors Thesis: "Literature as Social Metaphor in the Fiction of Josephine Herbst," Advisor, Ina Ezergailis

ACADEMIC HONORS and AWARDS

DAAD/GSA Best Article Prize, 2019 (for an article published in 2017-2018, *German Studies Review*)

National Humanities Center Research Fellowship, 2017-2018 (funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Research Triangle Foundation)

Erasmus Mundus Visiting Scholar Fellowship, GLITEMA (German Literature in the European Middle Ages), (Porto, Bremen, Palermo), 2014
Behrman Fellowship, Princeton Humanities Council, 2006-2008
Princeton University Charles Osgood Bicentennial Preceptorship, 2005-2008
University of Pennsylvania Mellon Post-doctoral Fellowship, 1999-2000
Stanford Humanities Center Fellowship, 1999-2000 (declined)
Bunting Institute (Radcliffe) Fellowship, 1999-2000 (declined)
DAAD Research Fellowship for Recent Ph.D.'s, June - October 1995
Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, 1992-1993.
International Research Grant, Center for International Studies, Duke University 1992
Duke/Berlin Exchange Fellowship, 1989-1990
Cornell University, *Summa cum laude* and Distinction in all Subjects, 1985

PUBLICATIONS

book: *Mechthild of Magdeburg and Her Book: Gender and the Making of Textual Authority* (Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004)

Winner of 2006 Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship Prize for the best first book in medieval feminist studies.

Winner of 2008 Medieval Academy of America John Nicholas Brown Prize for the best first book on a medieval subject.

book project (under review, Oxford UP): [working title]: *The Literary Agency of Medieval Women: Kunigund Niklasin (d. 1457) and the Library of St Catherine's in Nuremberg*

edited books:

Gender Bonds, Gender Binds: Women, Men, and Family in Middle High German Literature (principle editor, with Alison Beringer and Olga Trokhimenko) (Berlin/New York: De Gruyter, 2021; in paperback, 2022).

Mysticism and Reform, 1400-1750 (with Nigel Smith, Princeton University) (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2015).

Women and Medieval Epic: Gender, Genre, and the Limits of Epic Masculinity (with Jana Schulman, Western Michigan University) (New York, NY: Palgrave MacMillan, 2007)

edited journal: *Medieval Feminist Forum*, Issues 38 and 39 (Winter 2004, Summer 2005)

articles:

(forthcoming):

“Imagining the Origins of a Clever Woman: The «Sultanstochter» and the Path to Learning in the Late Medieval Devotional Book,” in *Mendicant Gender Discourse(s) - Comparative Studies, Reti Medievali* 41 (2021).

(published):

“The Abbess’s Worldly ,Sabbatical’: Medieval Crossover and the St. Catherine Miracle Tales,” in *Von Kulturen und Künsten: Lektüren am Schnittpunkt von Anthropologie, Religionssoziologie und Poetologie*, eds. Ulrich Hoffmann and Susanne Spreckelmeier (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2023), 63-75.

“‘Fake News’, the ‘Romance’ of Charlemagne, and the Troubled Queen in *Morant und Galie*,” in *Mediävistische Perspektiven im 21. Jahrhundert. Festschrift für Ingrid Bennewitz zum 65. Geburtstag*, ed., Andrea Schindler with assistance from Detlef Goller und Sabrina Hufnagel (Wiesbaden 2021), 55-65.

“Vertical German Studies: The Significance of the Past for a Concept of World Literature,” contribution to Forum on “World Literature: Against Isolationist Readings,” *German Quarterly* 94.3 (Summer 2021): 373-75.

“Peddling Devotion: Mothers and Daughters in Conversation Through Books,” in *Gender Bonds, Gender Binds: Women, Men, and Family in Middle High German Literature*, eds. Sara S. Poor, Alison L. Beringer, and Olga V. Trokhimenko (Berlin/NY: De Gruyter, 2021), 25–46.

“The Fuss about Fiction: A View from Medieval German Studies” in *New Literary History* 51.1 (2020): 243–47.

“Mechthild von Magdeburg and the Mystical Poetry of *The Flowing Light of the Godhead*” in *A Companion to World Literature*, vol. 2, eds. Ken Seigneurie and Christine Chism (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2020), 837–48.

“The Curious Multilingual Pre-History of French and German Monolingualism” *German Studies Review* 41.3 (2018) 465–85.

Winner of DAAD/GSA Best Article Prize, 2019 (for an article published in GSR 2017-2018)

“The Countess, the Abbess, and Their Books: Manuscript Circulation in a Late Medieval German Family,” in *Nuns’ Literacies in Medieval Europe: The Antwerp Dialogue*, ed. Virginia Blanton, Veronica O’Mara, and Patricia Stoop (Turnhout: Brepols, 2017), 341–65. [appeared January, 2018]

“The Transcultural Multilingualism of the Strasbourg Oaths and Its Modern Legacy,” in *Transkulturalität und Translation: Deutsche Literatur des Mittelalters im europäischen Kontext* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2017), 205–15.

“Re-thinking Female Authorship: Anna Eybin’s Table of Contents,” *Journal of Medieval Religious Culture* (peer reviewed special issue edited by Patricia Stoops), 42.2 (2016), 201–223.

“‘Life Lessons’ in Anna Eybin’s Book of Saints (Ca. 1465-1482).” In *Taxonomies of Knowledge:*

Information and Order in Medieval Manuscripts, eds. Emily Steiner and Lynn Ransom. Lawrence J. Schoenberg Studies in Manuscript Culture, 136–53. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Libraries, 2015.

“Women Teaching Men in the Medieval Devotional Imagination,” in *Partners in Spirit: Women, Men, and Religious Life in Germany 1100–1500*, eds. Fiona Griffiths and Julie Hotchin (Turnhout: Brepols, 2014), 339–57.

“Why Surface Reading is not Enough: Morolf, the Skin of the Jew, and German Medieval Studies” Special Issue of *Exemplaria: Medieval, Early Modern, Theory* 26.2–3 (Summer/Fall 2014): 148–62.

“Transmission and Impact: Mechthild of Magdeburg’s *Das fließende Licht der Gottheit*” in *A Companion to Mysticism and Devotion in Northern Germany (1200-1500)*, eds. Elizabeth Andersen, Henrike Lähnemann, and Anne Simon (Leiden: Brill, 2013), 73-101.

“Stimmen schreibender Frauen in der Mystik des 15. Jahrhunderts.: Der Fall Anna Eybins,” *Zeitschrift für Literaturwissenschaft und Linguistik* 43.171 (2013): 104-21.

“Transmission,” *Cambridge Companion to Christian Mysticism*, ed. Amy Hollywood and Patricia Z. Beckman (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012), 240-51.

“Christine Ebner,” “Margaret Ebner,” “Gertrude the Great,” “Mechthild of Hackeborn,” and “Mechthild of Magdeburg,” in *Oxford Dictionary of the Middle Ages*, ed. Robert E. Bjork (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010) vol. 2, p. 531; vol. 2, p. 531; vol. 2, p. 716; vol. 3, p. 1109; vol. 3, p. 1109 respectively.

“Standing Still: The Associate Professor Survey,” co-authored with Kathleen Woodward and Rosemarie Scullion, *Profession 2009*: 313-50; first published on-line in April 2009, http://www.mla.org/assocprof_survey.

“Mechthild of Magdeburg” and “Elsbeth Stagel,” *Women and Gender in Medieval Europe: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Margaret Schaus (New York and London: Routledge, 2006) pp. 552-53 and p. 782 respectively; updated for the Routledge Medieval Encyclopedia Online, 2019

“Early Mystical Writings” in *Camden House History of German Literature*, vol 2: The High Middle Ages, ed. Will Hasty (Rochester, NY: Camden House, 2006), 185-200.

“St. Katharine, St. Alexius und ‘der scholer van parijß’: Aesthetische Form und Gender als Ordnungsprinzipien im Codex 824 der University of Pennsylvania,” in *Ordnung und Unordnung in der Literatur des deutschen Mittelalters*, ed. Wolfgang Harms, C. Stephen Jaeger, and Horst Wenzel (Stuttgart: Hirzel Verlag, 2003), 193-205.

“Mechthild von Magdeburg, Gender, and the ‘Unlearned Tongue,’” *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 31.2 (2001): 213-50; reprinted in *The Vulgar Tongue*, ed. Fiona Somerset and Nicholas Watson (University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2003), 57-80.

“Gender Studies and Medieval Women in German,” *College Literature* 28 (2001): 118-29.

“Marriage” and “Women,” *Encyclopedia of Medieval Germany*, ed. John Jeep. New York: Garland Press, 2001. 501-502, 830-32.

“Cloaking the Body in Text: The Question of Female Authorship in the Writings of Mechthild von Magdeburg” *Exemplaria* 12.2 (2000): 417-53.

“Historicizing Canonicity: Tradition and the Invisible Talent of Mechthild von Magdeburg” *Women in German Yearbook* 15 (2000): 49-72.

“Gender und Autorität in der Konstruktion einer schriftlichen Tradition” in *Autorität der/in Sprache, Literatur, Neuen Medien. Vorträge des Bonner Germanistentags 1997* (Bielefeld: Aisthesis Verlag, 1999), Vol.2, 532-52.

“Mittelalterbilder im Film,” *Mitteilungen des Deutschen Germanistenverbands* 45 (1998): 68-82.

“How do you do? Or How to be a Feminist Medievalist on the Job Market Today,” *Medieval Feminist Newsletter* 18 (Fall 1994): 6-9.

reviews (selection):

Gender, Reading and Truth in the Twelfth Century: The Woman in the Mirror. Morgan Powell. Arc Humanities Press, 2020. *Speculum* 99.1 (2024): 269-70.

Ulrich Fuetrer, *Iban*. German Romance VII. Ed. and trans. Joseph M. Sullivan. D.S. Brewer, 2022. *Arthuriana* 33.2 (2023): 182-83.

Von der Schrift zum Buch - vom Ich zum Autor. Zur Text- und Autorkonstitution in Überlieferung und Rezeption des "Fließenden Lichts der Gottheit" Mechthilds von Magdeburg. Balázs J. Nemes. Tübingen: Francke, 2010. *Monatshefte* 105.4 (2014): 703-705.

Sanctity and Pornography in Medieval Culture: On the Verge. Bill Burgwinkle and Cary Howie. Manchester and New York: Manchester University Press, 2010. *Modern Philology* 111.1 (2013): E12-E14, Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/670292>.

Courtly Love, the Love of Courtliness, and the History of Sexuality. James A. Schultz. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006. *Encomia* 28 (2006): 72-74 (published April 2008).

Convent Chronicles: Women Writing About Women and Reform in the Late Middle Ages. Anne Winston-Allen. University Park, Pa.: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2004. *Journal of Religion* 86 (October 2006): 680-81.

Eloquent Virgins: From Thecla to Joan of Arc. Maud Burnett McNerney. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2003. *Medieval Feminist Forum* 39 (Summer 2005): 60-62.

God and the Goddesses: Vision, Poetry, and Belief in the Middle Ages. Barbara Newman. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 73.2 (2005): 563-66.

The Soul as Virgin Wife: Mechthild von Magdeburg, Marguerite Porete and Meister Eckhart. Amy Hollywood. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1995. *Medieval Feminist Newsletter* 23 (Spring 1997): 59-62.

translations:

Anonymous. "The Sultan's Daughter in the Flower Garden." Trans. Sara S. Poor. *Global Medieval Sourcebook*. <http://sourcebook.stanford.edu/text/sultans-daughter-flower-garden>. Retrieved on July 12, 2021.

"An Answer to Two Opera Quotations (1983/84)" in *Difference and Orientation: An Alexander Kluge Reader*, ed., Richard Langston (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2019), 229-47; republication of parts 1 and 3 from Alexander Kluge, "Kluge on Opera, Film and Feelings," trans. Sara S. Poor and Miriam Hansen, *New German Critique* 49 (Winter 1990): 79-138.

Karsten Witte, "'Light Sorrow': Siegfried Kracauer as Literary Critic," *New German Critique* 54 (Fall 1991): 77-94.

(with Miriam Hansen), "Kluge on Opera, Film and Feelings," *New German Critique* 49 (Winter 1990): 79-138.

Alexander Kluge and Oskar Negt, "Happiness and the Work of Relationality," (excerpt from *Geschichte und Eigensinn*), *Polygraph* 2/3 (Spring 1989): 186-192.

miscellaneous publications:

"Sparrows in the Yarrow," *The Broadwing* 65.8 (August 2020): 2.

LECTURES and CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Last Ten Years:

"How to Mean What You Pray: Translating the Hours for a Laywoman in Princeton MS 67," Modern Languages Association, January 2024.

"Female Agency in Medieval Narrative, or, The Art of Self Destruction," paper presented at the GSA Seminar "Playing in the Dark: Our Relationship to the Canon's Sinistry," German Studies Association, October 7, 2023.

“Reading St. Catherine: Kunigund Niklasin’s Reboot of the Catherine Miracles in SBB, Msc Hist 154,” Frauen lasen. Anders?/ Women read. Differently? Freiburg im Breisgau, March 10, 2023. (invited).

“Various Questions re: Handwriting in the Manuscript Books of St Catherine’s Convent in Nuremberg”; Presentation at Princeton Paleography Lab, November 4, 2022.

Two invited lectures for Princeton Journeys, Danube Cruise and Oberammergau Passion Play trip, July 7-17, 2022

- 1) “Medieval Tales of Woe on the Danube, ”
- 2) “The Passion Play in its Medieval and Modern Contexts”

“Response: Charly Coleman ‘Mysticism, Enlightenment, and Revolution: The French Case’”; Comparative Mysticism Conference (virtual), Princeton University, May 21, 2022. (invited).

“Kunigund Niklasin’s Book of St. Catherine: Bamberg, Staatsbibliothek, Msc Hist. 154,” International Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, MI, May 12, 2021.

Wrap-up Roundtable Participant, Fordham Medieval Studies Conference “Medieval French Without Borders” March 21, 2021 (virtual)

“Two Teachers of Practical Mysticism Through Legends: Anna Eybin (d. 1485) and Kunigund Niklasin (d. 1457),” Mystik und Legende. Mediologische Perspektiven (workshop), Univ. of Cal, Berkeley, Feb. 3-4, 2020

“Telling Tales of Clever Women: Writing, Agency, and the Devotional Book in Late Medieval Germany,” Presentation of book project to Princeton Medieval Studies Colloquium, Princeton University, Dec. 3, 2019.

“Imagining the Origins of a Clever Woman: The “Sultanstochter” and the Path to Learning in the Late Medieval Devotional Book,” German Studies Association Annual Meeting, Portland, OR, Oct. 3-6, 2019

“Clever Women Who Toe the Line: Agency, Complicity, and the “Sultan’s Daughter,” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 9, 2019.

“Managing Miniatures: Gender and the Production of an Illuminated Bible in Late Medieval Nuremberg” Modern Languages Association Convention, Chicago, IL, January 4, 2019; and also at TMRP workshop, Princeton University, February 21, 2019.

“Peddling Devotion: Mothers and Daughters in Conversation Through Books” Triangle Medieval Studies Seminar, March 24, 2018.

“Observant Reform, Women Writers, the “Book Mistress” of St. Catherine’s in Nuremberg” (invited keynote lecture) 18th Annual North Carolina Colloquium in Medieval and Early Modern

Studies: “Forms of Dissent in the Medieval and Early Modern World,” Duke University, Durham, NC, March 9-10, 2018.

“Tracking Female Agency: Kunigund Niklasin (d. 1457) and the Books of St. Catherine’s in Nuremberg” (invited lecture), Northwestern University Program in Medieval Studies, Evanston, IL, Feb. 8, 2018.

Roundtable organizer and participant: “Roundtable Review: Europe, A Literary History, 1348-1418) by David Wallace,” GSA Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, Oct. 7, 2017.

“Reformation, Secularization, and the Survival of Medieval Vernacular Books,” for GSA Seminar: “The Future of the Past: New Approaches to Germanic Studies before 1750,” GSA Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, Oct. 6-8, 2017.

Roundtable participant: “Thirty Years Feasting and Fasting: A Roundtable on Caroline Bynum’s *Holy Feast Holy Fast* (1987-2017), International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 12, 2017.

Faculty Roundtable participant: “Theft: Methods and Theories We Don’t Really Know,” Interuniversity Doctoral Consortium Annual Medieval Studies Symposium, Columbia University, April 21, 2017

“From Author to Textual Construct: Changing Approaches to Female Mystics in the German Literary Tradition” (invited, keynote lecture), Fordham Medievales Annual Conference, New York, NY, March 25, 2017.

“Charlemagne’s Contacts with Islam in the High Medieval Literary Imagination,” Medieval Academy of America Annual Meeting, Boston, MA February, 26, 2016, and as invited lecture, University of Vienna, January 30, 2017.

“Some Ruminations on the Question: “Was the Medieval Always Already Multilingual?” for Seminar: “The Rise and Fall of Monolingualism,” GSA Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, October 1-4, 2015

“Peddling Religion: Laywomen and the Art of Devotion” (keynote lecture), University of Michigan, Early Modern Graduate Colloquium “Mediating the Sacred and the Secular”, February 20-21, 2015.

“Books by Nuns (Sisterbooks?) as Sites of Cultural Memory: Anna Eybin’s Compilation of Saints Lives (1465-1482),” MLA Annual Convention, Vancouver, BC January 9, 2015.

“The ‘Romance’ of Charlemagne in Late Medieval Germany: The Trouble with the Queen in Part II of the *Karlmeinet* Compilation” (invited lecture), Montclair State University, Dec. 4, 2014.

“Making Charlemagne a Courtly Lover in Late Medieval Cologne: The Trouble with the Queen in Part II of the *Karlmeinet* Compilation” (invited lecture), The Transformation of the Carolingian World (workshop), Princeton University/Institute for Advanced Study, Nov. 22, 2014.

“Re-thinking Female Authorship: Anna Eybin’s Table of Contents,” (invited lecture) Dutch Studies Colloquium: Medieval Female Writers in Germanic Regions, University of Pennsylvania, April 4, 2014.

“A Discussion of *Promised Bodies* with Patricia Dailey, Amy Hollywood, and Sara Poor” (Book discussion) Book Culture bookstore, New York, NY, February 27, 2014.

“Schreibende Nonnen, heilige Ehefrauen und die Produktion von Büchern im späten Mittelalter,” (invited lecture), German Literature of the European Middle Ages Intensive Program, Palermo, Italy, February 17, 2014.

COURSES TAUGHT

graduate:

The Long and the Short of It: Romance Sexuality and Power in Pre-Modernity (co-taught with Prof. Nigel Smith)

Fifteenth-Century Book Culture of the German Speaking World (co-taught with Scheide Librarian, Dr. Eric White)

Gender, Sanctity, and Popular Piety in the Middle Ages

Gender, Narration, and the German Literary Tradition

Reading Medieval Books

Medieval Knowing

Margery Kempe’s German Sisters

Gender, Writing, and Mystical Authorship in the Middle Ages

Cross-Dressing and Courtship in Medieval Texts

Introduction to Middle High German Literature

History of the German Language: Texts and Contexts

undergraduate:

German Literature Before Germany

Medieval Gender Politics: Wicked Queens, Holy Women, Warrior Saints

Freshman Seminar: The Arthurian Legend in Literature and Film

Before Gender: Cross-Dressing and Sex in Medieval Romance

Girl Power Weimar Style in Germany’s Roaring Twenties

No Pain, No Gain: Passion and Oppression in the Middle Ages and Beyond

Women in Warzones: Gender and Power in Medieval Epic

King Arthur of the Germans (in German)

Fairy Tales: The Grimm Brothers and Beyond (in German)

Medieval Women (in German)

MED 227: The World of the Middle Ages

GER 208: Culture and Politics of the Twentieth Century, 1945-present

GER 107: Advanced German

Graduate Advising

Dissertations

Completed (director):

Hannah Hunter-Parker (German Department) "Old Books, New Times: Medieval Manuscripts and German Literature, 1750-1850" Defense, Aug. 22, 2019; Assistant Professor, Amherst College

Jonathan S. Martin (German Department) "The Romance of Love and Law: Marriage in Twelfth-century German Romance" Defense, Jan. 16, 2018; Assistant Professor, Illinois State University

Alana J. King (German Department) "Mysticism and Confessional Conflict in Post-Reformation Germany: The Mystical Theology of Valentin Weigel (1533-1588), Defense, Dec. 12, 2013; Senior Planner, VCCP (Advertising Firm in UK)

As Second or Outside Reader:

As second reader: Dennis Schaefer, Department of German

As third reader: Nikianna Dinenis, Department of History

As third reader: Courtney Barter-Colcord, Department of History

As outside reader: Ailie Posillico, Theology, Villanova University

As outside reader: Cortney Berg, Art History, CUNY

Undergraduate Advising

Thesis (Grace Rosenberg, 2022-2023; Leland Ko, 2019-2020; Mason Cox, 2019-2020 second reader; William Keiser, 2018-2019; Jackson Knight, 2016-2017; Helena Ord/Comp Lit 2015-2016; Andrew Meyers/Comp Lit 2015-2016; Gerardo Veltri 2014-2015, Chantal Yuen, 2014-2015 second reader, Lauren Schwartz, 2013-2014 second reader; Victoria Lebsack, 2012-2013 – winner of Best Thesis prize for German; Nicole Hopkins, 2010-2011; Bora Plaku, 2008-2009, Brendan Colgan, 2008-2009, Kenneth Fockele, 2005-2006 – winner of Best Thesis Prizes for German and for Medieval Studies; Benjamin Prescott, 2004-2005)

Junior Papers (John Ehling, Spring 2023; Adam Beard, Spring 2020; Ethan Glattfelder [FIT] Spring 2020; Janice Cheon, Spring 2019; Thomas Jankovic, Fall 2018; Brett Simpson [English dept] Spring 2015; Alex Quetell Fall 2015; Chantal Yuen Spring 2014; Ellie Albarran Fall 2014; Victoria Lebsack, Fall 2011; Matt Walsh, Fall 2010; Rebecca Parks; Spring 2010; Bora Plaku, Fall 2007; Elissa Frankle, Fall 2006; Maggie Dillon, Spring 2005; Ken Fockele, Spring 2005; Jennifer Greenlief, Fall 2003)