

Sarah Barringer

English Department | University of Iowa
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Education

PhD English Student | University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA Anticipated: May 2027
Thesis: How to be Both: Transmasculine Narratives in Medieval Literature
Advisor: Dr. Jonathan Wilcox

M.A. English | University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA December 2023
Comps Areas: Queer Theory, Monster Theory, Medieval Literature

Certificate in College Teaching May 2025
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Certificate in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies May 2024
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

B.A. Historical Fiction Writing | The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH May 2015
Minor: Creative Writing

Employment

Graduate Instructor August 2021 –
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Research Assistant for Interpretation of Literature Summer 2026
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

English Program Associate Fall 2025
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Writing Tutor January 2022 – May 2024, August 2025 – May 2026
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Rhetoric Co-Leader Fall 2022
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Graduate Teaching Assistant August 2020 – May 2021
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Editor May 2019 –
Freelance

Teacher
English First

May 2019 – Dec 2021

Advanced Tutor
Tutor.com

September 2019 – September 2020

Scholarly Publications

“The Fluid and Female Body of Bisclavret.” *Marie de Trans: Transanimality, Transformations, and Queer Reception in the Lais of Marie de France*. Eds. Wally M. Cornell and Sara Petrosillo. Book proposal accepted in the *Premodern Transgressive Literatures* series at *Medieval Institute Publications*.

“How to be Both: Transmasculinity in *Le Roman de Silence*.” Under consideration by *postmedieval*.

“Translation: Yde et Olive II.” Under consideration by *Medieval Feminist Forum*.

“Perfect Chastity: Transmasculinity in *The Life of St. Eugenia*.” Under consideration by *Journal of English and Germanic Philology*.

Public-Facing Publications

“Grendel and Indigenous Readings.” *Arthuriana, So What?* ed. Arielle McKee, accepted for Fall 2026.

“*Beowulf* and the Far Right.” *Arthuriana, So What?* ed. Arielle McKee, no. 2, June 2025, <https://www.arthuriana.com/tsw/beowulf-and-the-far-right-pedagogical>.

“My Journey in Alternative Grading: From Curiosity to Clarity.” *Faculty Focus*, ed. Matt Nieman, June 2025, <https://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/educational-assessment/my-journey-in-alternative-grading-from-curiosity-to-clarity/>.

“Alternative Grading in ICON: Strategies to Approach Alternative Grading.” *Office of Teaching, Learning, and Technology*, eds. Katherine Beydler, Holly Soboroff, Vicky Maloy, June 2025, <https://teach.its.uiowa.edu/alternativegrading>.

“Christianity has Long Revered Saints who would be Called ‘Transgender’ Today,” *The Conversation*, ed. Kalpana Jain, May 2025, <https://theconversation.com/christianity-has-long-revered-saints-who-would-be-called-transgender-today-254769>.

“Trans People Affirmed their Gender Without Medical Help in Medieval Europe – History Shows how Identity Transcends Medicine and Law.” *The Conversation*, ed. Vivian Lam, Feb 2025, <https://theconversation.com/trans-people-affirmed-their-gender-without-medical-help-in>

medieval-europe-history-shows-how-identity-transcends-medicine-and-law-248559.

“Born this Way.” *Tell Magazine*, ed. Aimen Hameed, Andrés Restrepo Sanchez, Brittany Bahl, and Jordan Ismaiel, University of Iowa, Oct 2023,
<https://gwsstellmagazine.sites.uiowa.edu/news/2023/10/born-way>.

“Failure.” *Rhetoric Notes*, ed. Jennifer Janecek, University of Iowa, no. 6, Dec 2021.

Teaching Experience

Graduate Instructor | University of Iowa

ENGL 1200: Interpretation of Literature: Shakespeare’s *The Lion King* Fall 2026
I designed this course to explore Shakespeare’s continued relevance through his widespread influence and modern adaptations, framed through *The Lion King*. The course is about interpretation, reading, and writing.

ENGL 1200: Interpretation of Literature: Gender (Honors) Spring 2026
I designed this course to help students think and talk about difficult concepts around gender, and transness in particular. Students explore the interplay between literary representations and the lived experiences of gender.

ENGL 1200: Interpretation of Literature: Medieval Monsters Spring-Fall 2025
I designed this course to highlight monstrosity in medieval literature. Rather than provide concrete definitions, students cultivate a nuanced understanding of monstrosity to see that it’s more than just black and white thinking and explore how the idea of monstrosity is used to oppress minorities.

ENGL 1200: Interpretation of Literature: Medieval Fantasies Spring 2024
I designed this course for students to examine how the medieval period proves William Faulkner’s assertion that “The Past is never dead. It’s not even past.” Students read medieval literature to provide a foundation for discussing gender, sexuality, religion, and class in the past and now.

ENGL 1200: Interpretation of Literature: Adaptations Fall 2023
I designed this course about how adaptations make new meaning of old stories. Students explore the impact of genre, become aware of themselves as readers, and discuss larger cultural contexts.

RHET 1030: Rhetoric Fall 2021 – Spring 2023
I designed this course to teach undergraduate students the essential skills of advanced learning and higher education. Students learn to think logically, discover wrong or weak arguments, build a good case on a controversial topic, improve their writing, and overcome fear of public speaking.

Research Assistant for Interpretation of Literature | University of Iowa

As a research assistant, I organized and supplemented resources for instructors of interpretation of literature. In conjunction with another graduate student, I designed a skill-based syllabus for instructors that focuses on building students’ reading and writing skills through scaffolded

assignments, activities, and in-class workshops. Alongside the syllabus, we designed and wrote assignment sheets, lesson plans, and lectures for the entire semester.

Graduate Teaching Assistant | University of Iowa

ENGL 2010: Foundations of the English Major Fall 2020 – Spring 2021

This course offers a rigorous introduction to English literature by emphasizing: (1) close reading skills, (2) critical writing skills, and (3) a comprehensive knowledge of literary history. Students read and write about key genres, drawing on texts that span the major periods of English studies.

ENGL 2030: Literary Reading Attendance Fall 2020

This course introduces students to creative and scholarly readings that are a feature of the Writing University and local literary scene. Students develop knowledge through focused attendance at live readings.

Certificates

Building University of Iowa Leadership for Diversity	University of Iowa 2024
LGBTQ+ Safe Zone	University of Iowa 2024
Engaging Across Cultures Professional Development Certificate	University of Iowa 2023
Scholar, CIRTL for integrating teaching into research	University of Iowa 2021
TEFL Certificate, The Language House	Prague, Czech Republic 2019

Awards & Grants

Marcus Bach Fellowship 2027
\$11,500 stipend + tuition scholarship, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Iowa

Gerber Award for Excellence in Teaching GEL 2026
\$1,500 award, English Department, University of Iowa

Valerie Lagorio Scholarship 2025
\$1,000 award, English Department, University of Iowa

Graduate College Summer Fellowship 2025
\$5,500 summer stipend + tuition scholarship, Graduate College, University of Iowa

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award 2024
\$1,000 award, Council on Teaching, University of Iowa

Graduate College Summer Fellowship 2024
\$5,500 summer stipend + tuition scholarship, Graduate College, University of Iowa

Post-Comprehensive Research Fellowship 2024
\$11,000 stipend + tuition scholarship, Graduate College, University of Iowa

Edwin Ford Piper Memorial Scholarship 2024-2025
\$1,000 award for language learning, English Department, University of Iowa

Graduate Teaching Fellow 2023-2024
\$1,500 award + cohort meetings, Center for Teaching, University of Iowa

Doug Trank Memorial Award for Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring 2023
Rhetoric Department, University of Iowa

Provost Scholarship 2011 – 2015
Tuition scholarship, The Ohio State University

Service

Mentor | English Department May 2025 – December 2025
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Judge | Office of Undergraduate Research November 2025
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

President | Textbook Committee August 2024 –
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Judge | Scholastic Art & Writing Awards December 2023
Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, Iowa City, IA

Associate Editor | Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies 2022
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Treasurer | Craft, Critique, Culture Conference May 2023 – May 2024
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

President | Craft, Critique, Culture Conference May 2022 – May 2023
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Speaking Engagements

Alternative Assessment on ICON
Center for Teaching, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA September 2025

Graduate Student Experiences with Equitable Grading
Center for Teaching, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA April 2024

Emerald Colored Glasses: An Environmental Vision for Craft, Critique, and Culture
Colloquium, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA April 2023

Queer Failure and Making Something Useless
Gender, Sexuality, and Literature: Searching for Queer Stories
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

September 2022

Conference Presentations

Presider, *Queer Medieval: From Archive to Adaptation to Historicization*
International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI May 2026

Critical Approaches to Medieval French Literature (A Roundtable)
International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI May 2026

Whiteness and Sexuality in St. Eugenia
American Contemporary Literature Association, Online May 2025

Transmasculine Sexuality in the Old English Life of St. Eugenia
International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI May 2025

Presider, *Performing Le Roman de Silence*
International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI May 2025

Genderqueer Masculinity in Le Roman de Silence
International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI April 2024

Queer Assemblages in The Romance of Silence
Craft, Critique, Culture Conference, Iowa City, IA April 2023

Woman? Man? Knight?: The Queer Needs of the Community in The Romance of Silence
MadLit Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI April 2023

Despondent Dragons and Murderous Maids: Hippocrate's Daughter and the Queer Deconstruction of Chivalric Archetypes
Medieval & Early Modern Studies Summer Festival, University of Kent, England June 2022

Community, Monsters, and Failure: The Margins in Margery Kempe
Craft, Critique, Culture Conference, Iowa City, IA April 2022

The Textual Community of Margery Kempe
Newberry Conference, Newberry Library, Chicago January 2022

The Deviant Christianity of the Goat-Man in The Travels of Sir John Mandeville
LAMPS Liminality Conference, University of Edinburgh, Scotland July 2021

The Deviant Christianity of the Goat-Man in The Travels of Sir John Mandeville
White Rose Medieval Conference, University of York, England July 2021

The Deviant Christianity of the Goat-Man in The Travels of Sir John Mandeville
Medieval & Early Modern Studies Summer Festival, University of Kent, England

July 2021