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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2025–	Chair, Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, National Tsing Hua University
2019–	Full Professor, Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, National Tsing Hua University
2012–2019	Associate Professor, Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, National Tsing Hua University
2008–2012	Assistant Professor, Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, National Tsing Hua University
2008	National Science Council Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, National Tsing Hua University
2007	Touro National Heritage Trust Fellow, John Carter Brown Library
2001–2007	Assistant Professor, Department of English, St. John’s University
2000–2001	FT Assistant Instructor, Department of English, Rutgers University
1992–1999	Teaching Fellow, Harvard University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tutor in the Undergraduate Honors Program • Department of English and American Literature and Language • Literature and Arts, Core Program

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in English and American Literature and Language, Harvard University, 2000
 B.A. in English, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 1991

LANGUAGES French, Latin, Spanish, Chinese

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

- “Princes and Paradise: Rabban Sauma in the Western Mediterranean.” In *Navigating the Mediterranean through the Chinese Lens: Transcultural Narratives of the Sea between the Lands*, edited by Renata Vinci, 69–78. Florence, Italy: Firenze University Press, 2025.

- “‘Make or Mar’: History and Fiction in *Wolf Hall*.” *Wenshan Review of Literature and Culture* 12, no. 1 (December 2018): 1–29.
- “The Material Culture of Princely Power and the Art of the Exotic East: The Miniatures of MS Français 2810 of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France.” *Sun Yat-Sen Journal of Humanities* 43 (July 2017): 25–43.
- “Lollardy and Political Community: Vernacular Literacy, Popular Preaching, and the Transformative Influence of Lay Power.” *Wenshan Review of Literature and Culture* 7, no. 2 (June 2014): 279–311.
- “Globalizing Imperium: Thirteenth-Century Perspectives on the Mongols.” *Literature Compass* 11, no. 7 (2014): 472–83.
- “Robert Browning and the Subject of History in ‘My Last Duchess.’” *Fiction and Drama* 23, no. 1 (December 2013): 102–24.
- “‘Atheism’ in Late Medieval Travel Writings.” *Bridging the Medieval-Modern Divide: Medieval Themes in the World of the Reformation*. Ed. James Muldoon. Ashgate, 2013. 65–85.
- “Polyandry and the *Travels of Marco Polo*: Beyond the Ethnography of the Patriarchal Household.” *Feminist Studies in English Literature* 20, no. 3 (December 2012): 217–45.
- “*The Itinerary of Benjamin of Tudela*, Lost Israelites, and Vanishing Indians: Trans-Atlantic English Reception of the Medieval Past in the Seventeenth Century.” *EurAmerica* 40, no. 1 (2010): 103–31.
- “Poverty as the Politics of Transcendence in *Piers Plowman*.” *NTU Studies in Language and Literature* 22 (2009): 31–56.
- “The Politics of Consuming Worldly Goods: Negotiating Christian Discipline and Feudal Power in *Piers Plowman*.” *Traditio* 59 (2004): 339–68.
- “Hunger, Need, and the Politics of Poverty in *Piers Plowman*.” *Yearbook of Langland Studies* 16 (2002): 131–68.
- “*Invisible Man*, Oral Culture, and Postmodernism.” *EurAmerica* 30, no. 1 (2000): 1–34.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND SEMINARS

- The Mediterranean through Chinese Eyes: Transcultural Encounters and Representations in Chinese Sources, University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy, 16–17 May 2025: “Princely Power and Empire in Rabban Sauma’s Account of the Western Mediterranean in the *History of Mar Yahballaha and Rabban Sauma*”
- Plenary Session. Spaces of Familiarity, Spaces of Difference in Mediterranean: AFOMEDI 2024 Biennial International Conference, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan, 19 March 2024: “Rabban Sauma and the Mirror of Princes in the Mongol Empire”
- Keynote Speech. Seventeenth International Conference of the Taiwan Association of Classical, Medieval and Renaissance Studies (TACMRS): Harmony and Chaos: The Dialectics of Order and Disorder, Chinese Cultural University, Taipei, Taiwan, 21 October 2023: “Lessons of Divine Authority: Order and Disorder in the *Relatio* of Odoric of Pordenone”

- UCLA Program for Experimental Critical Theory, UCLA, Los Angeles, USA, 22 May 2023: “The Body of Kublai Khan: Marco Polo and the Making of History”
- Medieval Colloquium, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, 16 February 2023: “Marco Polo: Biography and Beyond”
- Distinguished Visiting Scholar Public Lecture. Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, UCLA, Los Angeles, USA, 25 October 2018: “Marco Polo, Immigrant Historian of Mongol China”
- English Department Lecture. Department of English, UCLA, Los Angeles, USA, 23 October 2018: “Marco Polo as ‘Author’: A Comparative Look at Authorship and Authority”
- CMRS/LAMAR Graduate Seminar (Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies / Late Antique, Medieval, and Renaissance), UCLA, Los Angeles, USA, 22 October 2018: “Marco Polo, an Authoritative Historian of China?”
- Robert Penn Warren Center and the Department of French and Italian, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, USA, 14 April 2015: “Queens, Domesticity, and the Politics of the Mongol Imperial Court: The European Traveler and Mongol Views of Gender Relations in the Thirteenth Century”
- Touro Synagogue, Newport, Rhode Island, 1 December 2007: “Lost Israelites, Vanishing Indians, and *The Itinerary of Benjamin of Tudela*: Reading a Medieval Hebrew Travel Account in the Seventeenth-Century English Trans-Atlantic”

AWARDS AND GRANTS

U.S. and abroad

2018	Distinguished Visiting Scholar, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, UCLA, Los Angeles, USA
2007	Touro National Heritage Trust Fellowship, John Carter Brown Library, Providence, Rhode Island
2004	Mayers Fellowship, Huntington Library, San Marino, California
2003	Summer Support Grant for Research, St. John’s University
2002	NEH Summer Institute, “Space and Society in the Past,” Pennsylvania State University
1996–97	Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, Harvard University
1991–97	The English Prize Fellowship, Harvard University
1996	Mellon Grant, Harvard University
1995	Mellon Foundation Fellowship, Harvard University
1994	Mellon Foundation Fellowship, Harvard University
1990	Hilldale Undergraduate Fellowship, University of Wisconsin–Madison

Taiwan

MOST (Ministry of Science and Technology) Research Grants

2021–22	Project title: <i>Translatio</i> : Writing Historical Process and Identity in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Era
2020–21	Project title: The Body and the Historical Formation of the West: Identity and Community in Late Medieval and Early Modern Literature

2019–20	Project title: Multilingualism and the Mongol Empire: A Multicultural Approach to European Travel Accounts of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Century
2016–19	Project title: Empire before Modern Western Hegemony: Conceptualizing Empire in the European Middle Ages
2015–16	Project title: The Medieval Past and Vernacular Writings of the English Reformations: Conceptualizing History and Change in Tudor England in the Sixteenth Century
2013–15	Project title: Between Subject and Ruler: The Medieval Mirror of Princes in Historical Contexts
2012–13	Project title: Empirical Knowledge and Franciscan Travel Narratives in the Thirteenth Century
2011–12	Project title: Encountering the Other: Identity and Community in Late Medieval and Early Modern Travel Writings
2010–11	Project title: The Formation of Political Community in Lollard Writings
2009–10	Project title: Writing Truth: Representation and Reality in Medieval European Historical Literature

MOST Short-Term Grant for Research Abroad

2015	Project title: The Traveler and the Domestic Household: Gender and Orientalism in Thirteenth-Century European Travel Writings
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CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- New Media and Representations of Intercultural Relations in the Production of Knowledge, Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan, 17 August 2025: “Marco Polo and Media Matter from China to the European Mediterranean”
- The Mediterranean through Chinese Eyes: Transcultural Encounters and Representations in Chinese Sources, University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy, 16–17 May 2025: “Princely Power and Empire in Rabban Sauma’s Account of the Western Mediterranean in the *History of Mar Yahballaha and Rabban Sauma*”
- Asian Federation of Mediterranean Studies Institute IV International Conference: Spaces of Familiarity, Spaces of Difference in the Mediterranean, Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan, 19 March 2024, Plenary session: “Rabban Sauma and the Mirror of Princes in the Mongol Empire”
- Fifteenth International Conference of the Taiwan Association of Classical, Medieval and Renaissance Studies: Cultures of Travel: Tourism, Pilgrimage, Migration, National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei, Taiwan, 22 October 2021: “Magic and the Popularization of the East in the *Travels of Sir John Mandeville*”
- International Medieval Congress 2019, University of Leeds, Leeds, England, 1 July 2019: “The Material Culture of Princely Power and the Art of the Exotic East”

- Fifty-Third International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA, 11 May 2018: “Thirteenth-Century European Travelers’ Encounter of the Unknown in the East”
- Fifty-First Annual Conference of the Medieval Association of the Pacific (MAP), Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, USA, 16 March 2017, Plenary session: “Presenting Marco Polo in Medieval Studies and Sinology: A Perspective from Taiwan on the Concept of the Medieval”
- Symposium on MOST Research Projects: Foreign Literature 2012–2014, National Chung Hsing University, Taichung, Taiwan, 25 November 2016: “Material Culture as Noble Privilege and Exotica: MS Français 2810 of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France”
- Twenty-Fourth Annual English and American Literature Association (EALA) Conference, National Chiao Tung University, Hsinchu, Taiwan, 29 October 2016: “History and Representation in Shakespeare’s *1 Henry IV*”
- Tenth International Conference of the Taiwan Association of Classical, Medieval and Renaissance Studies: Encounters: Friends, Foes, and Companions, National Pingtung University, Pingtung, Taiwan, 22 October 2016: “History and Representation in Shakespeare’s *1 Henry IV*”
- Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association (PCA/ACA) 2014 National Conference, Chicago, USA, 17 April 2014: “Magic and the Popularization of the East in the *Travels of Sir John Mandeville*”
- Forty-Eighth International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 12 May 2013: “The Mongols and the Imperial State: Historical China and Medieval European Travelers’ Vision of Polity”
- Thirty-Fourth Annual Medieval and Renaissance Forum, Plymouth State University, Plymouth, New Hampshire, USA, 19 April 2013: “‘Atheism’ and the Exploration of Medieval European Travelers”
- Symposium on NSC Research Projects: Foreign Literature 2010–2011, National Cheng Chi University, Taipei, Taiwan, 23 March 2013: “Lollardy and the Politics of Literate Practice: Community, the Vernacular, and Empowerment”
- Twentieth Annual English and American Literature Association Conference, Fujen Catholic University, New Taipei, Taiwan, 24 November 2012: “Spectacle as Tyranny in Robert Browning’s ‘My Last Duchess’”
- Feminisms and Queer Sexualities: Intersections in Text and Context, Twentieth Anniversary International Conference for the Korean Association for Feminist Studies in English Literature, Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea, 8 June 2012: “The Sexuality of the Other: Polyandry in Medieval and Modern Western Ethnographical Accounts”
- Forty-Seventh International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA, 11 May 2012: “The Promise of Empire: Kublai Khan and His Court in *The Travels of Marco Polo*”
- Nineteenth Annual English and American Literature Association Conference, National Donghwa University, Hualien, Taiwan, 12 November 2011: “Chaucer and Trauma: Motherhood, Tyranny, and the Clerk’s Tale”

- Forty-Sixth International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA, 12 May 2011: “Gender in Late Medieval to Early Modern Advice to Princes”
- Eighth Biennial International Australian and New Zealand Association for Medieval and Early Modern Studies Conference, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, 4 February, 2011: “Beyond the West: ‘Atheism’ in Late Medieval to Early Modern Travel Writings”
- 2011 MLA Convention in Los Angeles, USA, 8 January 2011: “Mongols on the Move: Two Histories of World Domination”
- International Medieval Congress 2010, University of Leeds, Leeds, England, 13 July 2010: “European Traveller Accounts beyond the West”
- Forty-Fourth International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA, 7 May 2009: “Patriarchy and the Ceremonial of Exploration: From Sexual Order to Political Community in Medieval Writings”
- Third International Conference of the Taiwan Association of Classical, Medieval and Renaissance Studies: Loci of Light and Darkness, Fugen Catholic University, New Taipei, Taiwan, 25 April 2009: “Femininity and Light in *Piers Plowman C-Text*”
- Fellows’ Luncheon, John Carter Brown Library, Providence, Rhode Island, USA, 28 November 2007: “Lost Israelites, Vanishing Indians, and *The Itinerary of Benjamin of Tidelá*: Reading a Medieval Hebrew Travel Account in the Seventeenth-Century English Trans-Atlantic”
- Forty-First International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA, 5 May 2006: “Mongols, the Natural Order, and the Medieval European Theory of Empire”
- 2005 MLA Convention in Washington, D.C., USA, 30 December 2005: “Medieval Travel Writing as Ethnography: Tibetan Polyandry and the *Travels of Marco Polo*”
- Fortieth International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA, 6 May 2005: “Anthropological Categorizations of Religion in the Literature of Encounter between East and West”
- Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies: Science, Literature, and the Arts in the Medieval and Early Modern World, SUNY – Binghamton, Binghamton, New York, USA, 23 October 2004: “The Humanity of the Other in the Early Modern New World”
- Thirty-Ninth International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA, 6 May 2004: “The Figure of the Jewish Traveler”
- Seventy-Ninth Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, Seattle, Washington, USA, 2 April 2004: “Empirical Truth in Medieval Travel Writings”
- Thirty-Eighth International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 8 May 2003: “Conceptualizing the Theocratic West in Medieval Travel Writings”

- Twenty-Fourth Medieval Forum, Plymouth State College, Plymouth, New Hampshire, USA, 11 April 2003: “The Political Education of the Nation-State: Lollard Poor Preachers and Their Discourse of Power”
- Twenty-Third Medieval Forum, Plymouth State College, Plymouth, New Hampshire, USA, 20 April 2002: “The Religious Community and the International Order in Medieval Travel Writings”
- Convivium: Poverty and Wealth in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, Siena College, Loudonville, New York, USA, 12 October 2001: “Need, Hunger, and the Politics of Poverty in *Piers Plowman*”
- Association of New Zealand and Australian Medieval and Early Modern Scholars (ANZAMEMS) III Conference, University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia, USA, 7 July 2001: “Hunger and the Politics of Poverty in *Piers Plowman*”
- Thirty-Fifth International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA, 5 May 2000: “The Poor and the Politics of Poverty in *Piers Plowman*”
- Medieval Colloquium, Department of English and American Literature and Language, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, 30 September 1999: “The Case against ‘Wastors’: The Theocratic Critique of Consumption in *Piers Plowman*”
- Twentieth Medieval Forum, Plymouth State College, Plymouth, New Hampshire, USA, 16 April 1999: “The Poverty of Politics and the Politics of Poverty: Langland and the Poor”
- Medieval Colloquium, Department of English and American Literature and Language: Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, 2 April 1998: “The Profession of Need: Poverty and Politics in *Piers Plowman*”
- Harvard-Yale Graduate Students Conference, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA, Spring 1994: “Narrative Voice(s) and Literary Authority in the *Book of Margery Kempe*”
- Conference of Hilldale Undergraduate Fellows, sponsored by the Honors Program, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA, Fall 1990: “Editing Thomas Hoccleve’s *Regement of Princes*.” This was a presentation of my summer project for the Hilldale Undergraduate Fellowship, in which I explored approaches to textual criticism and applied them to the preparation of an edition of Hoccleve’s *Regement of Princes*, a fifteenth-century political poem.

SERVICE

Profession

- Director, 10th Board of Directors, Taiwan Association of Classical, Medieval and Renaissance Studies (TACMRS), 2025–26

National Tsing Hua University

- University Housing Committee, 2016–17

College of Humanities and Social Science

- Faculty Evaluation Committee, 2020–22, Fall 2013
- Advisers’ Planning Committee, 2020–22
- Committee on Rights to Education for Expecting Mothers, 2020–22
- College Affairs Committee, 2017–19
- College Curriculum Committee, 2016–17

Department of Foreign Languages and Literature

- Chair, 2025–
- Literature coordinator, 2024–25
- Curriculum committee, 2024–25, 2011–12, 2015–19
- Library representative, 2024–25, 2009–12
- Hiring Committee, 2017–18, 2019–22, 2023–24, Fall 2013
- Student Recruitment Committee, 2016–20
- Undergraduate and Graduate Adviser, 2011–12, 2019–21
- Literature Group Coordinator, 2016–17
- Organizer for guest talks and conferences for the literature group, 2015–16
- Student Affairs Committee, 2011–12, 2014–15

MEDIA MENTION

- Quoted in Deutsche Welle International (DW) online article published 18 March 2024: Cristina Burack, “Marco Polo: The Travel Writer Who Shocked Medieval Europe.” URL: <https://www.dw.com/en/marco-polo-the-travel-writer-who-shocked-medieval-europe/a-68540522> (Interview took place on phone 14 March 2024 with Cristina Burack of Deutsche Welle.)