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Reader in German

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About

I see myself as a medievalist with an extension into the sixteenth century, and as someone with a particular passion for teaching these still deeply relevant periods to modern undergraduates.

Qualifications

I did my first degree at Birmingham (French and German) and my doctorate at Oxford, and have spent my entire career in the Birmingham German Department.

Teaching

As the Department's specialist in medieval and early modern literature, I teach a number of courses in these fields at second- and final-year level. My second-year course, entitled 'Knights, Maidens and Priests', focuses on a diverse range of short medieval and sixteenth-century texts, whereas my long established final-year course, 'Epic and Romance', currently deals with the *Nibelungenlied*, Gottfried von Strassburg's *Tristan*, and works by Hartmann von Aue. I also contribute to the first- and second-year core courses in German literature, supervise postgraduate research into the medieval and early modern periods, and do a wide range of language teaching.

Postgraduate supervision

I am keen to supervise postgraduates working on medieval or sixteeth-century German culture. I currently have two doctoral candidates, one working on the *Schachbuch* of Heinrich von Beringen and its relationship to the relevant Latin tradition, and the other (co-supervised with Nicholas Martin) on Kafka and Thomas Mann's reception of Hartmann von Aue's *Gregorius*. In recent years I have supervised or co-supervised theses on such diverse themes as Utz Eckstein's Reformation treatises, Albrecht Dürer's scientific writings, Max Mell and Reinhold Schneider's reception of the *Nibelungenlied*, and the important fifteenth-century German manuscript British Library Add. 24946.

Research

Much of my research activity is devoted to three sometimes related interests: allegorical and symbolic uses of animals in medieval literature; late medieval didactic literature (in Latin and German), and its methods of conveying religious and ethical ideas to an increasingly wide audience; and the ways in which certain authors of the High Middle Ages adapted their French sources. I find myself also developing an increasing interest in the Swiss Reformation. I am currently working on a set of studies of medieval animal imagery, on the various versions of the late-medieval theological compendium known as the *Lumen anime*, and on the Zurich reformer Huldrych Zwingli.

Publications

Books

- The Shorter Writings of Ulrich Putsch: 'Diarium', 'Oraciones super missam', 'Manuale simplicium sacerdotum', Oxford: Lang, 2013, 226 pp.
- (with Joel Love), Dialogue and Disputation in the Zurich Reformation. Utz Eckstein's 'Concilium' and 'Rychsztag: Edition, Translation, and Study (Oxford: Lang, 2013), 497 pp.
- The Light of the Soul. Lumen anime 'C' and Ulrich Putsch's 'Liecht der sel': Parallel Edition with Introduction and Indices, Oxford: Lang, 2007, 487 pp.
- (with Werner Williams-Krapp) 'Etymachie-Traktat'. Ein Todsündentiertraktat in der katechetisch-erbaulichen Sammelhandschrift Augsburg, Staats- und Stadtbibliothek 2o Cod. 160. Farbmikrofiche-Edition mit Einführungen (Codices Illuminati Medii Aevi, 36), Munich: Lengenfelder, 1995, 50 pp. + 3 microfiches
- The Latin and German 'Etymachia'. Textual History, Edition, Commentary (Münchener Texte und Untersuchungen, 102), Tübingen: Niemeyer, 1994, x + 466 pp.

Edited books

- (with Joanne Sayner) The Text and its Context. Studies in Modern German Literature and Society Presented to Ronald Speirs on the Occasion of his Sixty-Fifth Birthday, Oxford: Lang, 2008, 356 pp.

Journal articles and chapters in edited books

- 'Monsters, Pictures and Translations. Some Observations on the Reception of Virgil in the Sixteenth Century, in Katie Fleming and Anne Simon (eds), The Reception of Classical Antiquity in German Literature (London German Studies, 14), Munich: iudicium, 2013, pp. 36-63
- '"Das es teutsche zung vernimpt". Zur Übersetzungsliteratur Tirols um 1400', in German Life and Letters 66 (2013), pp. 233-53
- 'Der Pfau bei Konrad von Megenberg – und anderswo', in Edith Feistner (ed.), Konrad von Megenberg: Ein spätmittelalterlicher Enzyklopädist im europäischen Kontext (Jahrbuch der Oswald von Wolkenstein–Gesellschaft 18, 2010–11), Wiesbaden: Reichert, 2011, pp. 175-88
- (with Linda Archibald and Will Hasty) 'German Studies: Medieval Literature', in The Year's Work in Modern Language Studies 67 (2005; published 2007), pp.546-90
- 'Animals and Exile in the Ecbasis cuiusdam captivi', in Sieglinde Hartmann (ed.), Fauna and Flora in the Middle Ages. Studies of the Medieval Environment and its Impact on the Human Mind. Papers Delivered at the International Medieval Congress, Leeds, in 2000, 2001,and 2003 (Beihefte zur Mediaevistik, 8), Frankfurt: Lang, 2007, pp.53-65
- 'The Camel: Perspectives and Meanings in Medieval Literature', in Hartmann (as above), pp. 113-31

- (with Linda Archibald and Will Hasty) ‘German Studies: Medieval Literature’, in The Year’s Work in Modern Language Studies 66 (2004; published 2006), pp.499-543
- ‘Didactic Poetry’, in Will Hasty (ed.), German Literature of the High Middle Ages (Camden House History of German Literature, 3), New York: Camden House, 2006, pp.123-40
- (with Richard Newhauser) ‘Visuality and Moral Culture in the Late Middle Ages: The Emblematic Conflictus and Its Literary Representatives’, in Richard Newhauser (ed.), In the Garden of Evil. The Vices and Culture in the Middle Ages (Papers in Mediaeval Studies, 18), Toronto: Pontifical Institute for Mediaeval Studies, 2005, pp.234-76
- (with Linda Archibald and Will Hasty) ‘German Studies: Medieval Literature’, in The Year’s Work in Modern Language Studies 65 (2003; published 2005), pp.492-533
- ‘German Studies: Medieval Literature’, in The Year’s Work in Modern Language Studies 64 (2002; published 2004), pp.576-620
- ‘God, Religion, and Ambiguity in Tristan’, in Will Hasty (ed.), A Companion to Gottfried von Strassburg’s ‘Tristan’, Columbia SC: Camden House, 2003, pp.113-36
- ‘German Studies: Medieval Literature’, in The Year’s Work in Modern Language Studies 63 (2001; published 2003), pp.614-57
- ‘Tiersymbolik. IV: In der Geschichte des Christentums’, in Theologische Realenzyklopädie 32 (2002), pp.542-53
- ‘German Studies: Medieval Literature’, in The Year’s Work in Modern Language Studies 62 (2000; published 2002), pp.596-636
- ‘Animal, Vegetable, Mineral. Some Observations on the Presentation and Function of Natural Phenomena in Willehalm and in the Old French Aliscans’, in Martin H. Jones and Timothy McFarland (eds), Wolfram’s ‘Willehalm’ : Fifteen Essays, Columbia SC: Camden House, 2002, pp.211-29
- ‘The Teaching of Medieval German Literature at American Universities: A Survey’, in Forum for Modern Language Studies 37 (2001), pp.429-40
- ‘Willehalm and Puzzat. Guillelme and Baucent: The Hero and His Horse in Wolfram's Willehalm and in the Bataille d'Aliscans’, in Michael Butler and Robert Evans (eds), The Challenge of German Culture. Essays Presented to Wilfried van der Will, Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2000, pp.13-24
- ‘"Noch im Untergang triumphiert die Liebe" – or does it? Günter de Bruyn’s Nacherzählung of the Medieval Tristan Legend’, in Dennis Tate (ed.), Günter de Bruyn in Perspective (German Monitor, vol.44), Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1999, pp.53-64
- ‘gar süezen smac daz pantir hât. Der Panther und sein Atem in der deutschsprachigen Literatur des Mittelalters’, in Alan Robertshaw and Gerhard Wolf (eds), Natur und Kultur in der deutschen Literatur des Mittelalters. Colloquium Exeter 1997, Tübingen: Niemeyer, 1999, pp. 65-75
- ‘The Presentation of Clerical Characters in Hartmann’s Gregorius and in the Vie du pape Saint Grégoire, in Medium Aevum 64 (1995), pp.189-204
- ‘Teaching Böll's Katharina Blum’, in German Teaching 12 (1995), pp.29-36
- ‘Die verlorene Ehre der Katharina Blum: The Problem of Violence’, in Michael Butler (ed.), The Narrative Fiction of Heinrich Böll, Cambridge: C.U.P., 1994, pp.198-218
- ‘Animal Symbolism in Late Medieval Germany: The Etymachia Treatise’, in Paul Michel (ed.), Tiersymbolik (Schriften zur Symbolforschung, vol.7), Bern: Lang, 1991, pp.111-31

Online article

- Contribution on the camel to the online lexicon ***animaliter – Tiere in der Literatur des Mittelalters (http://www.encyclopaedia-animalium.germanistik.uni-mainz.de/Tierlexikon%20Textdateien/Probeartikel%20Kamel.pdf)*** (edited by Sabine Obermaier), (2010)

Shorter encyclopaedia entries

- ‘Breve Chronicon monasterii Stamsensis’, ‘Kleine Stamser Chronik’ and ‘Johannes Spies’, in Graeme Dunphy (ed.), *Encyclopaedia of the Medieval Chronicle.* Leiden: Brill, 2010, pp. 213, 968 and 1382
- ‘Sebastian Brant, The Ship of Fools’, ‘The Nibelungenlied’ and ‘Wolfram von Eschenbach: Parzival’, in Olive Classe (ed.), Encyclopaedia of Literary Translation into English,Chicago; Fitzroy Dearborn, 2001, pp.178f., 999f. and 1502f.
- ‘Sebastian Brant’ and "Oswald von Wolkenstein’, in Matthias Konzett (ed.), Encyclopaedia of German Literature, Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2000, pp.139f. and 781-3
- ‘Sebastian Brant: Das Narrenschiff’, in Lesley Henderson (ed.), Reference Guide to World Literature, London: St James’ Press, 1995, p.166

Reviews

- Sabine Obermaier (ed.), ‘Tiere und Fabelwesen im Mittelalter’, in *Arbitrium* 1/2011, pp. 15–18
- Brian Murdoch, ‘The Apocryphal Adam and Eve in Medieval Europe: Vernacular Translations and Adaptations of the ‘*Vita Adae et Evae*’, in Modern Language Review 106 (2011), p.194f.
- Anke Holdenried, The Sybil and her Scribes: Manuscripts and Interpretation of the Latin ‘Sibylla Tiburtina’ c. 1050-1500, in Medium Aevum 76 (2007), p. 313f.
- David A. Wells, The ‘Central Franconian Rhyming Bible’. An Early-Twelfth-Century German Verse Homiliary. A Thematic and Exegetical Commentary with the Text and a Translation into English, in Medium Aevum 74 (2005), p.153f.
- Falk Eisermann, ‘Stimulus amoris’. Inhalt, lateinische Überlieferung, deutsche Übersetzungen, Rezeption, in Medium Aevum 74 (2005), p.157f.
- Petra Busch, Die Vogelparlamente und Vogelsprachen in der deutschen Literatur des späten Mittelalters und der frühen Neuzeit, in Arbitrium 2/2002, pp. 170-2
- A.E.Wright, ‘Hie lert uns der meister’. Latin Commentary and the German Fable 1350-1500, in Arbitrium 1/2002, pp.27-30
- Christian Kiening, Schwierige Modernität. Der ‘Ackermann’ des Johannes von Tepl und die Ambiguität historischen Wandels, in Modern Language Review 96 (2001), p.252f.
- Gerold Hayer, Konrad von Megenberg, ‘Das Buch der Natur’: Untersuchungen zu seiner Text- und Überlieferungsgeschichte; also Norbert H. Ott and Ulrike Bodemann (eds), Katalog der deutschsprachigen illustrierten Handschriften des Mittelalters III,1, in Medium Aevum 69 (2000), pp.166-8
- Albrecht Classen (ed.), Medieval German Voices in the 21st Century, in New Comparison 30 (2000), pp.142-4
- Gabriele Baptist-Hlawatsch (ed.), Ulrich von Pottenstein, ‘Dekalog Auslegung: Das erste Gebot’, in Medium Aevum 67 (1997), p.165f.
- Arno Borst, Das Buch der Naturgeschichte. Plinius und seine Leser im Zeitalter des Pergaments, in Arbitrium 1/1997, pp.21-4
- Walter Haug and Burghart Wachinger (ed.), Kleinstformen der Literatur, in Medium Aevum 65 (1996), p.340f.
- Klaus Grubmüller (ed.), Nürnberger Prosa-Äsop, in Medium Aevum 65 (1996), pp.171-3
- Gerd Dicke, Heinrich Steinhöwels ‘Esopus’ und seine Fortsetzer. Studien zu einem Bucherfolg der Frühdruckszeit, in Medium Aevum 65 (1995), p.351f.
- Brigitte Weiske, ‘Gesta Romanorum’ , in Medium Aevum 65 (1995), pp.168-70
- Rolf Bergmann and Kurt Gärtner (eds), Methoden und Probleme der Edition mittelalterlicher deutscher Texte, in Medium Aevum 64 (1995), p.154f.
- John von Cleve, Sebastian Brant’s ‘The Ship of Fools’ in Critical Perspective, in Journal of European Studies 24 (1994), p.88f.
- Herfried Vögel, Naturkundliches im ‘Reinfried von Braunschweig’, in Medium Aevum 62 (1993), p.160f.
- Walter Haug and Burghart Wachinger (ed.), Exempel und Exempelsammlungen , in Medium Aevum 62 (1993), p.112f.

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