

Dr. Jason Jacobs

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Professional Experience

2023 — Associate Professor of Literature and Chair, Department of English Literature and Cultural Studies, Roger Williams University
2024 — co-Editor-in-Chief, *postmedieval: a journal of medieval cultural studies*
2021— 2023 Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Roger Williams University
2015—2021 Associate Dean of General Education, Roger Williams University
2014 — 2023 Associate Professor of Foreign Languages, Department of Modern Languages, Philosophy, and Classics, Roger Williams University
2008-2014 Assistant Professor of Foreign Languages, RWU

Education

Ph.D. in Literature, University of California, Santa Cruz, 2006
M.A. in Literature, University of California, Santa Cruz, 2002
B.A. in Literature, New College of Florida, 1997

Grants

- Co-PI, National Endowment for the Humanities: \$149,000 grant for *Advancing a Public Humanities and Arts Collaborative and Associated Curriculum*, award date January 10, 2023.
- Co-PI, Davis Educational Foundation: \$207,049 grant for *Advancing a Community Engaged Core Curriculum*, award date May 11, 2020. Extended with permission of the Davis Foundation due to COVID 19.

Publications

- "Willingly and with Pleasure: Desiring Politics in the *Couronnement de Louis*." *Exemplaria* (2025). Forthcoming.
- "Marie's Lesbian Infrastructure." *Le Cygne*. Vol. 11. Special Issue on Lauren Groff's *Matrix*, ed. Jason Jacobs and A. E. Whitacre. (2025). Forthcoming.
- "Gut Feelings: on the *chansons de geste*'s visceral aesthetic." *postmedieval: a journal of medieval cultural studies* 14.1 (2023).
- "An Excess of Love." *QED: A Journal in GLBTQ Worldmaking* 7.1 (2020).
- "Raising Gays: On *Glee*, Queer Kids, and the Limits of the Family." *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 20.3 (2014).
- "Galiziella's Escape: Interconfessional Erotics and Love Between Knights in the *Aspremont* Tradition." *California Italian Studies* 4.2 (2013).
- "An Inheritance of Violence: Patrimony, Vassal Service, and Conquest in the *Charroi de Nîmes*." *Exemplaria* 24.4 (2012).
- "Ports of Call: Boccaccio's *Alatiel* in the Medieval Mediterranean" co-authored with Sharon Kinoshita. *The Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 37.1 (2007).

Book Reviews

- David Hadbawnik, ed. *Postmodern Poetry and Queer Medievalisms: Time Mechanics*. *The Medieval Review* (online).
- Michael A. H. Newth, trans., *Heroines of the French Epic: A Second Selection of Chansons de Geste*. *H-France* 15.23 (February 2015).
- Luke Sunderland, *Old French Narrative Cycles: Heroism between Ethics and Morality*. *Romanic Review* 104.3-4 (2013).

- Madeleine Tyssens, "*La Tierce geste qui molt fist a prisier*": études sur le cycle des Narbonnais. *The Medieval Review* (online).
- Margaret Jewett Burland, *Strange Words: Retelling and Reception in the Medieval Roland Textual Tradition*. *Modern Philology* 109.2 (2011).

Invited Talks

- "Gut Feelings: Bodies, Affect, and the Prehistory of the Self," Renaissance and Early Modern Studies Speaker Series, Brown University, October 2015.

Conference Presentations

- "The Ethics and Aesthetics of Evocation," Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Panel on The Medieval Today and Tomorrow: Lives that Matter and the Question of Relevance, New Orleans, LA, January 2025.
- "Esthétique de l'évocation: affect, réception, violence," *Guerres d'émotion : La Chanson de geste et les affects*, Société Rencesvals pour l'étude des épopées romanes (section française)/École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, Lyon, November 2024.
- "Défense de mal traduire: (Mis)recognizing and Translating Medieval Love Language," 59th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Panel on Taboos in Translation, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2024.
- "A Love by Any Other Name," Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Panel on Translating the Romance Epic, Philadelphia, PA, January 2024.
- "Marie's Lesbian Infrastructure," 58th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Panel on Multidisciplinary Marie de France, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2023.
- "Belle, irritante, et difficile," Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Panel on Bad Literature, Seattle, WA, January 2020.
- "The *chanson de geste* Heard from Below," In *Medias Res: Convention, Conclusion, and the Performance of the Text, c. 1050-1500*, The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities, Oxford University, UK, March 2019.
- "The Epic, Otherwise," 54th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Panel on Defamiliarizing Epic, MI, May 2019.
- Sexual Acts in the Epic Genre Roundtable, 53th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2018.
- "Centering Humanities Skills in the General Education Curriculum: The Roger Seminar," Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Panel on Blurring Boundaries: Designing an Interdisciplinary Humanities Curriculum, New York, NY, January 2018.
- "Digital *Mouvance* and Interpretive Reading of the Romance Epic," Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Panel on Digital Humanities and the Romance Epic, Austin, TX, January 2016.
- "Damaged Corps and Fragmented Corpus: The Death of Vivien from *La Chanson de Guillaume* to *Aliscans*," XXe Congrès International de la Société Rencesvals pour l'étude des épopées romanes, Rome, July 2015.
- "Damaged Corp(u)s: The Death of Vivien from *La Chanson de Guillaume* to *Aliscans*," 50th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2015.
- "Taking Things out of Context: Andrea da Barberino After the Epic," 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2014.
- "Gut Feelings," Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Panel on Voice and Silence organized by the Division on Medieval French Literature, Chicago, IL, January 2014.
- "'L'en soloit dire que g'estoie vos druz': On Loving Service in the Middle Ages," Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Panel on Queer Philology organized by the Division on Gay and Lesbian Studies, Chicago, IL, January 2014.
- "Andrea da Barberino is Late," 48th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2013. (Also organized panel: "French Cultural Traditions in Italy: the Era of Andrea da Barberino.")
- "Via Boccaccio: From the Monumental Author to Textual Agency," "Boccaccio at 700" Conference, Binghamton, NY, April 2013.

- “Warrior Women and Love between Men in the *Aspremont* Tradition,” 47th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2012.
- Organizer and respondent, Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Panel on Epic Sex: Power, Desire, and Love in the Medieval Epic for the Société Rencesvals Am- Can Branch, Seattle, WA, January 2012.
- “Seducing the Enemy: Sexuality, Conversion, and Models of Generation in Several *Aspremont* Narratives,” The Medieval Academy of America 86th Annual Meeting, Scottsdale, AZ, April 2011.
- “No Patrimony: Land, Lineage, and *Aymeri de Narbonne*,” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Panel on Narrating Epic Lives organized by the Société Rencesvals American-Canadian Branch, Los Angeles, CA, January 2011.
- “‘En ton service vueil ma jovente user’: Displacing Feudal Reciprocity in the *Couronnement de Louis*,” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Panel on Current Research Trends in Epic Studies organized by the Société Rencesvals American- Canadian Branch, Philadelphia, PA, December 2009.
- “Adapting *Aspremont*,” “Romancing the Text: Translation in the Renaissance” Conference, Barnard College, New York, NY, December 2009.
- “Sixteen Guillaumes: Medieval Textuality and the Historical Referent,” 41st International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2006.
- “Ports of Call: Boccaccio’s Alatiel in the Medieval Mediterranean” with Sharon Kinoshita, California Interdisciplinary Consortium for Italian Studies Conference “Italy and the Mediterranean,” Los Angeles, CA, February 2006.
- “Soliciting Consent: Epic Poetry and Popular Performance in an Italian *Song of Roland*,” “The Gramsci Discourse” Conference, Santa Cruz, May 2005.
- “Feudalism on the Market: the *Charroi de Nîmes*,” 40th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2005.
- “‘Per diversi accidenti . . . in diversi luoghi’: Boccaccio’s Alatiel,” 36th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2001.
- “The ‘Real’ Slim Shady and the Subject of Homophobia,” “Queer/Popular/Culture” Conference, Santa Cruz, March 2001.
- “Gender and Conversion in the Twelfth-Century *Chanson de geste*,” 34th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 1999.
- “‘Women’ in Love: Identity, Sex, Sexuality, and *The Faerie Queene*’s Britomart,” “Queer Theories, Early and Late” Conference, Santa Cruz, October 1997.

Administrative Experience

- Served as Dean for a General Education curriculum operating as an autonomous unit alongside other Schools and Colleges (direct report to Provost); responsible for planning and scheduling, staffing and faculty review, curricular reform, and student advising for a set of requirements including courses in writing and math, outcomes-based interdisciplinary courses, a general education/liberal arts mandatory minor, and a senior capstone seminar.
- Served as Dean for Interdisciplinary Programs housed within University Studies (East Asian Studies, Gender & Sexuality Studies, Latin American & Latino Studies, Public Health, Sustainability Studies, and Urban Studies). Responsible for planning and scheduling, staffing, and advising.
- Oversaw team of Faculty Directors including Director of the University Honors Program, Director of the Co-Lab for Public Arts and Humanities, and Faculty Advisor for Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships. Responsible to budgets, planning, curriculum, grant writing.
- Served as Dean of record for all undeclared undergraduate students. Responsible for recruitment, orientation and course registration, advising.
- Led first-year academic programs, including first-year seminar and living-learning communities. Recruited and trained faculty in first-year academic and college transition best practices.
- Organized and delivered academic experiences during orientation, including interactive presentations on academic exploration and the career relevance of liberal arts skills plus “your first RWU class” sessions related to first-year common reading/experience.

- Worked with Enrollment Management and Admissions on strategic marketing of liberal arts general education; presented to students and parents at recruitment and yield events on general education, first-year programs, entering as an undeclared student, and liberal arts skills for careers.
- Organized and delivered faculty development opportunities including an annual day-long Core Pedagogical Summit for all (90+) faculty teaching in general education; ongoing training for faculty participating in first-year seminar program; training for Living-Learning Community faculty and Resident Assistants; New Faculty Orientation; and other ad-hoc trainings as requested.
- Member of faculty teams pursuing application-based/funded opportunities for development in innovative pedagogy. Examples include Institute for Project- Based Learning at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and an Endeavor Grant for Reacting to the Past Consortium conference at Barnard College.
- Provost's delegate/managing member of the Provost's Foundation to Promote Scholarship and Teaching, vetting proposals for faculty research support including upward of \$150,000 funding and 40 teaching releases annually.

Professional Society Memberships

- Modern Language Association
- Medieval Academy of America
- LGBT Caucus of the MLA
- Société Rencesvals for the Study of the Romance Epic

Languages

- English (native)
- French (near-native)
- Italian (fluent)
- Dutch (reading, basic speaking)
- Spanish (reading, basic speaking)
- Old French, early Italian, early Dutch (reading)