

**AMBER DUNAI**  
Texas A&M University – Central Texas  
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## **EDUCATION**

<b>Ph.D. English</b> Texas A&M University, College Station, TX	2015
<b>M.A. Linguistics</b> University of North Texas, Denton, TX	2008
<b>B.A. English</b> Texas A&M University, College Station, TX Phi Beta Kappa, <i>magna cum laude</i>	2005

## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND EMPLOYMENT**

Associate Professor of English and Linguistics Department of Humanities, Texas A&M University – Central Texas Killeen, TX	2021-present
Assistant Professor of English and Linguistics Department of Humanities, Texas A&M University – Central Texas Killeen, TX	2015-2021
Graduate Assistant Department of English, Texas A&M University College Station, TX	2010-2015
Instructor, Duke Talent Identification Program Texas A&M University, College Station, TX	Summer 2013
Adjunct Faculty Department of Linguistics & Technical Communication, University of North Texas Denton, TX	2009-2010
Teaching Assistant Department of Linguistics & Technical Communication, University of North Texas Denton, TX	2007-2008

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Articles, Chapters, and Notes*

- “Bong Joon-ho’s *The Host* as Cinematic *Beowulf*.” *Literature/Film Quarterly*, vol. 50, no. 4, 2022.
- “Tolkien, *Beowulf*, and Faërie: Adaptations for Readers Aged ‘Six to Sixty.’” *Beowulf as Children’s Literature*, edited by Bruce Gilchrist and Britt Mize, University of Toronto Press, 2021, pp. 85-110.
- “*Wið* or *mid*? A Glimpse into Treebeard’s Diachronic Perspective.” *Tolkien Studies*, vol. 18, 2021, pp. 235-243.
- “*Ofermod* and Aristocratic Chivalry in J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings*.” *Journal of Tolkien Research*, vol. 8, no. 1, 2019, Article 1.
- “The Process of Salvation in *Pearl* and *The Great Divorce*.” *Mythlore*, vol. 37, no. 1, Fall/Winter 2018, pp. 5-22.
- (with Donnalee Dox) “Sacred Feeling: A Dramaturgy of Medieval Religious Emotion.” *Performance Matters*, vol. 3, no. 1, 2017, pp. 7-18.
- “‘Ane Doolie Sessoun’ and ‘Ane Cairfull Dyte’: Cresseid and the Narrator in Henryson’s *Testament of Cresseid*.” *Chaucer Review*, vol. 50, no. 3-4, 2015, pp. 420-441.

### *Editions*

- (with Amy Earhart, et al., eds.) “Alex Haley’s Malcolm X: ‘The Malcolm X I Knew’ and Notecards from *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*.” *Scholarly Editing*, vol. 35, 2014.

### *Other Publications*

- “Adapting Ambiguity in David Lowery’s *The Green Knight*,” *Adaptation*, vol. 15, no. 3, 2022, pp. 456-59.
- “Balade of Complaint, A.” In *The Chaucer Encyclopedia*, 4 volumes, edited by Richard Newhauser et al., Wiley-Blackwell, 2023.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS AND SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

- “Place as Process in *Troilus & Criseyde* and *A Ghost Story*.” Association of Adaptation Studies Annual Conference, Birmingham, UK (June 2023).
- “Knowing Audiences at Play: Cinematic Adaptation of Cotton Nero A.x.” 58th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Virtual Presentation (May 2023).
- “Found Adaptations, Fandom, and the Canonization of Saint Ripley.” 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM (February 2023).

“Tolkien, *Cleanness*, and *Patience*: In Search of a Missing(?) Affinity.” Southeastern Medieval Association Conference, Spartanburg, SC (November 2021).

“Women’s Presence and Power in Children’s Versions of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.” 56th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Virtual Presentation (May 2021).

- Originally appeared on the program for the 55<sup>th</sup> congress in 2020, which was canceled due to COVID-19.

“No More Valiant Than I Am a Man’: Talking about Heroism in Tolkien’s Middle-earth.” 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference, Virtual Presentation (February 2021).

“Environmental Disasters and Unlikely Heroes: Bong Joon-ho’s *The Host* as *Beowulf* for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” Texas Medieval Association Conference XXX, Virtual Presentation (October 2020).

“Maldon in Middle-earth? Looking for *Ofermod* in *The Lord of the Rings*.” 40th Annual Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM (February 2019).

“Problems of Narration and Interpretation in Chaucer’s *Clerk’s Tale*.” Texas Medieval Association Conference XXVIII, Lubbock, TX (October 2018).

“He hadde assayed hire ynogh bifore’: Griselda’s *Patience* Revisited.” 53rd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (May 2018).

“Narrative Authority in William Morris’s Medievalist Visions.” Texas Medieval Association Conference XXVII, Waco, TX (September 2017).

“A Vision Rather Than a Dream’: Adaptation of Structure and Self in *News from Nowhere*.” 52nd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (May 2017).

“Tolkien through a Political Lens: Rediscovery and Literary Instruction.” 38th Annual Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM (February 2017).

“*Reordberend*, Poetic Formulae, and the Weight of Words.” Texas Medieval Association Conference XXVI, College Station, TX (September 2016).

“Arguing with Lady Love: Mechthild von Magdeburg’s Courtly Mysticism.” Texas Medieval Association Conference XXV, San Marcos, TX (October 2015).

“*Beowulf* Reimagined: Coming of Age in Tolkien’s *Sellic Spell*.” 50th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (May 2015).

“Directed Devotion in Nicholas Love’s *Mirror of the Blessed Life of Jesus Christ*.” Making Sense: Handwriting and Print Symposium, College Station, TX (October 2014).

“Wise beyond Their Years: *Pearl*, *The Great Divorce*, and the Dream Vision Tradition.” 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (May 2014).

“‘Ane Doolie Sessoun’ and ‘Ane Cairfull Dyte’: The Narrator as Pupil in Robert Henryson’s *Testament of Cresseid*.” Texas Medieval Association Conference XXII, Houston, TX (October 2012).

### **Roundtables**

Panelist in the session “Adapting for Children.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Virtual Presentation (January 2023).

Panelist in the session “How to Win Students and Influence Colleagues: Innovative Teaching in the Medieval and Early Modern Classroom.” Texas Medieval Association Conference XXIX, San Marcos, TX (October 2019).

Panelist in the session “Is there a class in this text? Teaching the *Gawain*-poet” (paper titled “An Intertextual Approach to Courtliness and the Divine in *Pearl*”). 54th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (May 2019).

Panelist in the session “Ballad of the Lone Medievalist, or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Job.” 51st International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (May 2016).

### **Invited Talks**

“Tolkien, *Beowulf*, and Faerie: Adaptations for Readers Aged ‘Six to Sixty.’” Texas A&M University, *Beowulf* for Younger Readers Symposium. College Station, TX (September 2016).

### **Campus Talks**

“*Ofermod* and Aristocratic Chivalry in J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings*.” Texas A&M University – Central Texas, 2020 Faculty Senate Summit. Online Presentation (April 2020).

“Tolkien, *Beowulf*, and Faerie: Adaptations for Readers Aged ‘Six to Sixty.’” Texas A&M University – Central Texas, Tea and Crumpets Faculty Lecture Series. Killeen, Texas (March 2018).

“Dreams and Visions in Medieval Literature.” Texas A&M University, Dissertation Fellowship Series. College Station, Texas (April 2015).

## **UNIVERSITY COURSES TAUGHT**

*Texas A&M University – Central Texas (2015-present)*

- ENGL 3303: Western Literature I
- ENGL 3306: Readings in Adolescent Lit.
- ENGL 3320: Advanced Grammars
- ENGL 3339: Literature & Film
- ENGL 3350: Children's Literature
- ENGL 3356: Literary Authors
  - Topics Offered: J.R.R. Tolkien, Tolkien & Popular Culture
- ENGL 3357: Literary Themes
  - Topics Offered: Medieval Lit. for Children, Medievalism in Film
- ENGL 3370: Introduction to Linguistics
- ENGL 3372: Sociolinguistics
- ENGL 3374: Psycholinguistics
- ENGL 3376: Discourse Analysis
- ENGL 4300: Shakespeare
- ENGL 4317: Literary Themes
  - Topics Offered: Tolkien and Medieval Literature, Utopian and Dystopian Literature
- ENGL 4318: Literary Period
  - Topics Offered: Medievalism on Screen
- ENGL 4378: History of the English Language
- ENGL 4388: English Problems
  - Topics Offered: History of the English Language, Language and Gender, Shakespeare & Film
- ENGL 5300: Shakespeare
- ENGL 5320: Studies in English Language
  - Topics Offered: Discourse Analysis, Language & Literature, Sociolinguistics
- ENGL 5321: Psycholinguistics
- ENGL 5350: Studies in Literature Before 1500
  - Topics Offered: Chaucer, *Pearl* Poet
- ENGL 5352: Chaucer
- ENGL 5374: Research & Analysis in English Studies
- ENGL 5388: Special Problems
  - Topics Offered: Inklings and War, Politics of Literature: Tolkien (cross-listed POLI 4350/5365 and team-taught with Dr. Jeffrey Dixon)

***Texas A&M University – College Station (2010-2015)***

- ENGL 104: Composition and Rhetoric
- ENGL 203: Writing About Literature
- ENGL 210/301: Technical Communication
- ENGL 310: History of the English Language
- ENGL 415: Studies in a Major Author
  - Spring & Summer 2012: J.R.R. Tolkien

***University of North Texas (2009-2010)***

- LING 3060: Principles of Language Study
- LING 4030: Acquisition of English as a Second Language

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

### Professional Leadership

Vice President 2023-present  
International *Pearl*-Poet Society

Area Chair, Medievalisms 2022-present  
Southwest Popular/American Culture Association

### Editorial Positions

Book Review Editor for *Medieval Perspectives* 2018-present

### Conference Sessions Moderated and/or Organized

Moderator, “Acceptance and Resistance: Emotional Tension in the *Pearl*-poet.” 56th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Virtual Conference (May 2021).

- Originally appeared on the program for the 55<sup>th</sup> congress in 2020, which was canceled due to COVID-19.

Co-organizer and Moderator, “Politics in the Fiction of J.R.R. Tolkien.” 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference, Virtual Conference (February 2021).

Co-organizer, “How to Win Students and Influence Colleagues: Innovative Teaching in the Medieval and Early Modern Classroom.” Texas Medieval Association Conference XXIX, San Marcos, TX (October 2019).

Moderator, “Middle English Drama.” 54th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (May 2019).

Co-organizer and Moderator, “The Politics of Middle Earth.” 40th Annual Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM (February 2019).

Moderator, “National Medievalism.” 53rd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (May 2018).

Moderator, “Middle English Devotional Literature.” 52nd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (May 2017).

Co-organizer, “Managing Middle Earth.” 38th Annual Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM (February 2017).

Moderator, “In-formation: Order and the Natural World in Old and Middle English Texts.” Texas Medieval Association Conference XXVI, College Station, TX (September 2016).

Organizer and Moderator, “Disciplines and Technologies, Medieval and Modern.” Texas Medieval Association Conference XXIV, Denton, TX (October 2014).

Moderator, "Manuscript and Microchip." Presents of the Past Colloquium, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX (April 2014).

**AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS**

- International *Pearl*-Poet Society
- Margery Kempe Society
- New Chaucer Society
- Southeastern Medieval Association
- Southwest Popular/American Culture Association
- Texas Medieval Association