

DEREK WITTEN

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. English | Medieval Literature | Duke University | GPA 4.0 2020–2025

Dissertation: The Sign of Labour: Symbol, Craft, and Theology in Middle English Literature, 1340–1450

M.A. in Theological Studies | Regent College | GPA 3.87 2013–17

Thesis: “Participation and Particularity in Dante’s *Commedia*”

B.A. English (Hons.) | Trinity Western University | GPA 3.83 2008–13

Thesis: “Intrusions of Grace: Flannery O’Connor’s Incarnational Fiction”

CERTIFICATES

Duke University: Certificate in College Teaching (all requirements complete) (2022–TBD)

Duke University: Writing in the Disciplines (1/3 requirements complete) (2023–TBD)

TEACHING

As Instructor of Record

ENGL 290, Shakespeare and Film, Duke University (scheduled) 2025 (spring)

ENGL 331, Late Medieval Literature and Culture, Duke University 2023 (fall)

WRTG 101, Nature Writing, Duke University 2023 (spring)

As Primary Instructor (Under Indirect Supervision of Dir. of Grad. Studies)

ENGL 996, Practicum in Teaching College English, Duke University 2024–25

As Teaching Assistant / Apprentice

ENGL 204 / LING 204, History of English Language (medieval to contemporary) 2024 (fall)

- Grading, field trip organization (for manuscript viewings)

ENGL 289, America Dreams American Movies, Duke University 2024 (spring)

- Grading, test design, film group supervision

ENGL 338, Shakespeare on Love, Duke University 2022 (fall)

- Grading, group supervision, lecture and discussion lead on King Lear and philosophy

ENGL 338, John Milton: Poetry, Theology, Politics, Duke University 2021 (fall)

- Grading, co-teaching, lecture and discussion lead on Book IV, *Paradise Lost*

ENGL 235, Shakespeare & Contemporaries, Duke University 2021 (spring)

- Grading, lecture and discussion lead on reading Macbeth within its political context

- INDS 570, Theology of Love and Longing, Regent College (marking assistant) **2019 (sum)**
- A themed survey lit / theology course with focus on Dante, T.S. Eliot, W.B. Yeats, C.S. Lewis, and Seamus Heaney
- HIST 501 & 502, History of Christianity, Regent College **2014–15**
- Graded papers; taught two weekly tutorials of 6–7 students on key primary texts from the history of Christianity. Occasional lecture hall teaching spots.
 - Completed an accompanying, credited class, “Christian Pedagogy,” involving weekly meetings on class design and strategy, professor observation and critique of my teaching, and in-depth written reflection.
- INDS 571, Dickens and the Divine, Regent College **2024 (spring)**
- INDS 572, TS Eliot: Poet, Critic, Christian, Regent College **2022 (fall)**
- As Private Tutor for Winnifred Tang and Associates and TutorBright** **2013–17**
- Tutored students from grades 6 to 12 in composition, grammar, and literature.
 - Trained in pedagogical techniques for students with dyslexia; implemented these skills in a multi-year tutoring program for a high school student with dyslexia.

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED ACADEMIC

- “The Double Possibility of Labour in the York Corpus Christi Plays” (dissertation chapter currently under revision)
- ["Dante's Construction of the Creative Reader in the *Commedia's* Passages of Direct Address"](#) in *Dante Studies*. Vol. 141 (Summer 2024).
- "*King Lear's* Edgar and Early Modern Renderings of Peter" in *Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England*. (Vol. 36, Dec. 2023).
- "Two Stigmatas in Ron Hansen's *Mariette in Ecstasy*" in *Christianity and Literature*. Vol. 71.3, (Sep. 2022).

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- “Perceiving the Transcendence of the Mundane: A Comparison of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and John Ames from the Novel *Gilead*” in *Christian Humanism and Moral Formation in "A World Come of Age."* Cambridge Scholars Publishing, (Jan 2016).

REVIEWS

- Review of J.R.R. *Tolkien and the Arts*, ed. Melody Green, *VII*, (Vol. 39, 2023).
- [Review of *Amateur Scientist's Notebook*](#), by Jesse DeLong, *Carolina Quarterly*, (Jan. 2022).
- Review of *Angels and Saints*, by Eliot Weinberger, *Carolina Quarterly*, Vol. 70.3, (Spring/Summer 2021).
- Review of *The Parcel*, by Anosh Irani, *Foment Literary Journal*, Issue 5, (2017).
- Review of *Your Heart is a Muscle the Size of a Fist*, by Sunil Yapa, *Foment Literary Journal*, Issue 4, (2016).
- Review of *Under the Keel*, by Michael Crummey, *Foment Literary Journal*, Issue 2, (2014).
- [Review of *Dark Diversions*](#), by John Ralston Saul, *Ottawa International Writer's Festival*, (2013).

CREATIVE

“Chadwin El-ahrairah,” a short story in *Nashwaak Review* (forthcoming).

“Night in the Rockies,” song lyrics for Justin Milad and the Missed Opportunities’ 2024 album, *The Most Likes I Ever Got*.

“[Old Wooden Saint](#),” a short story in *Dappled Things* (Vol. 17, Issue 4, 2022).

“[Assiniboine River Horseshoe](#),” a poem in *Image* online (as Mitchell Prize longlister, 2022).

“Silent Earth,” a poem in *CruX Quarterly Journal*, (Vol. 56, No. 2, 2020).

“Sound Ladder,” *Driftwood Poetry*, (Vol. 3, 2018).

“Wing Light,” featured poem in Dal Schindell Gallery at Regent College, (2017).

“Cultivation,” “Prairie Storm,” “Moment,” “Cedar’s Foot,” *Driftwood Poetry* (Vol. 1, 2016).

“Acreage,” a poem in *CruX Quarterly Journal*, (Summer 2015 Vol. 51, No. 2.).

“De Courcy Islands,” a poem in [spaces] *Literary Journal*, (2011).

“Blue Spruce,” a poem in [spaces] *Literary Journal*, (2010).

JOURNALISTIC (selected)

“[From Church Parking Lot to Groundbreaking Housing Community](#),” feature article in *Regent World*, vol. 30.1 (Spring 2018).

“Stanley Hauerwas Gives a Preview of his 2018 Laing Lectures,” interview for Regent College News and Updates (March 2018).

“An Hour with NT Wright,” interview in *Mars Hill*, (Fall 2010).

“The ‘King of Techno’ Was a Rocky Boy,” feature article in the *Mountaineer*, (July, 2010).

“May Long Weekend Madness: Sustainable Resource Development Hopes to Educate West Country Campers,” feature article with aerial photos in the *Mountaineer* [Third Place for Environmental Writing: Alberta Weekly Newspaper Association Better Newspaper’s Competition] (May, 2010)

PRESENTATIONS

ACADEMIC

“The Sign of Labour: Craft and Eucharist in the York “Offering of the Magi” and “Mortificacio Christi” Pageants.” (Under consideration). Sewanee Medieval Colloquium, Feb 2025.

“The Theology of Craft in *Piers Plowman*.” Piers Plowman Society Conference, London, July 2023.

“Translating Charity in *Piers Plowman*.” International Medieval Congress, Leeds, July 2023.

“Milton's Materialism and his 'Sweet New Speech.'” Sixteenth Century Conference, Minneapolis, Oct. 2022.

“'Lettore in Scrittore': Dante's Construction of the Believing Author in His Passages of Direct Address.” Modern Languages Association Convention, Washington D.C, 2022. Online.

“Nicholas Love's Subversive Pauline Exegesis: Lay-Affirming Epistemology in *The Myrrour of the Blessed Life of Jesus Christ*,” at the International Medieval Congress, Leeds, UK, 2021. Online.

“The Siren, Beatrice, and the I AM: Dante’s Theological Justification for the Exaltation of Individuality in Pre-Renaissance Italy,” at St. Louis University Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, MO, 2018.

“Dante’s Human Guidance Towards the Beatific Vision,” at Regent College Academic Symposium, 2015.

“Perceiving the Transcendence of the Mundane: A Comparison of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and John Ames from the Novel *Gilead*,” at the 17th Bonhoeffer Society Lectures at Regent College and Vancouver School of Theology, May 2014.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Panelist for Men’s Ministry quarterly pancake breakfast, All Saints Anglican Church **2024**
– Introduced the history and practice of Medieval spiritual direction.

“[Dante’s Way of Images](#),” guest speaker at St. John’s Vancouver Anglican Church **2018**
Learner’s Exchange

Featured poet: Regent College Arts Chapel. Read and discussed a poem entitled “Axe Head” **2017**

Delegate: Faith in Canada 150 Millennial Summit (inter-religious dialogue conference) **2017**

HONOURS AND AWARDS

- Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (Finalist) **2024**
- Course Evaluation Instructor Honour: Top 5% (For Engl 331) **2024**
 - Measured against all Duke undergraduate humanities instructors
- Duke International Dissertation Travel Award (\$3,500) **2023**
 - Conducted archival research in Bodleian, British, and York Minster libraries
- Duke International Conference Funding **2023**
- Duke Conference Funding **2021, 22**
- Honourable Mention: J.F. Powers Prize for Short Fiction for "Old Wooden Saint" **2022**
- Longlist: Mitchell Prize in poetry for "[Assiniboine River Horseshoe](#)" (\$20,000 for winner) **2021**
- Conway Holy Land Travel Bursary (\$5000) **2014**
 - Traveled to Israel and Palestine to research the role of Christian communities in pursuing peace
- President’s Scholarship (IWU’s highest academic scholarship) **2008–12**
- Alberta Weekly Newspaper Association Better Newspaper’s Competition: Third Place for Environmental Writing **2010**

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL

Durham Tech Educational Programming for First Generation Students **2023 (sum)**

Provost’s Intern

- Prepared research documents for the implementation of a peer mentorship program at Durham Tech Community College.
- Produced a survey designed to data on current first generation students.
- Researched potential funders and drafted three letters of inquiry for future use.

Regent College Communications and Public Engagement Dept. **2016–2020**

Senior Writer and Editor

- Wrote news items, conducted and published interviews, produced and edited copy for the school’s web and print materials.
- Contributed creative content for advertisements, both web and print.

- Completed four issues of Regent’s popular-theology magazine, [Regent World](#)—planning, editing, writing for, publishing each issue as well as overseeing visual design and optimization for the web (SEO).
- Supervised assistant staff in production of web content and social media.

Regent College

2016

Editor in Chief, Etcetera Campus Newspaper

- Published weekly school newspaper, managing all aspects of its production.
- Recruited and managed a team of volunteer writers.
- Designed visual layout on Adobe InDesign.

Parliament of Canada

2013

Communications and Parliamentary Assistant for Member of Parliament Joan Crockatt

- Wrote and edited speeches and Member’s statements delivered in settings including community gatherings, political conferences, and the House of Commons.
- Designed and maintained the official M.P. website.
- Handled case files, helping constituents with immigration issues, employment insurance, old-age security, and communications with appropriate departments.
- Managed the Member’s mail, email, and telephone correspondence.

Parliament of Canada

2012

Communications Intern for Member of Parliament John Weston ([M.P. Weston’s recommendation letter](#))

- Wrote and edited speeches and newspaper articles for the Member.
- Led a team of volunteers in managing the Member’s correspondence to constituents.

The Mountaineer Publishing Company

2010, 11 (Sums)

Journalistic Reporter (Intern)

- Wrote and photographed stories for several sections: police, court, sports, and town council.
- Published in-depth feature stories, interviewing notable citizens and investigating memorable happenings in the community.
- Contributed bi-weekly opinion column.

Mars’ Hill Newspaper

2010–11

Academy Section Editor

- Managed 3-page section of university newspaper devoted to accessible academic writing.
- Supervised, guided, and edited a team of 10–15 writers.
- Frequently authored editorial pieces on relevant academic topics.

[Spaces] Literary Journal

2010–11

Associate Editor

- Assisted in planning, writing, and vetting (poetry and fiction) for the yearly journal.

SERVICE

- Small Group Co-Leader: All Saints Anglican Church 2022–24
- Christian Scholarship Fellow at Duke’s Center for Christianity and Scholarship 2022–23
 - Working group of doctoral students and professors dedicated to sharing work, peer review, and discussion surrounding the relationship of faith and scholarship.
- Duke English PhD Incoming Student Mentor 2022, 2023
- Co-Resident at Grandview Calvary Baptist Church’s [Co:Here Housing Community](#) 2018–2020
 - Lived in community designed to address housing inequality in Vancouver. Provided support for neighbours at risk of homelessness or in recovery from addiction.
- Co-founder, author, editor at Driftwood Poetry Journal 2016–2018
- Youth Leader: St. John’s Vancouver Anglican Church 2015–17; 18–20
- Co-Founder and Leader: East Vancouver Shakespeare Club 2015–16 (sums)

LANGUAGES

Middle English: advanced reading

Latin: advanced reading

Italian: advanced reading; limited speaking

Spanish: limited reading; limited speaking

Koine Greek: limited reading

REFERENCES

Sarah Beckwith, Katherine Everett Gilbert Distinguished Professor of English

Phone: 919 451 0332

Email: ott@duke.edu

David Aers, James B. Duke Distinguished Professor of English

Phone: 919 403 0267

Email: aers@duke.edu

Tom Ferraro, Professor of English at Duke University

Phone: 919 724 2604

Email: ferraro@duke.edu