

**Curriculum Vitae**  
**SANDRA BALLIF STRAUBHAAR**

Department of Germanic Studies  
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University of Texas at Austin  
Austin, Texas 78712

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**Education**

- 1982      **Ph.D.**, German Studies and Humanities Special Programs, Stanford University  
Dissertation: *Critical Notes on the Old Icelandic Skáldkonur*  
Director: Theodore M. Andersson
- 1977-1978      Coursework in Old Norse language and literature and Modern Icelandic language and literature, Háskóli Íslands (University of Iceland), Reykjavík, Iceland
- 1976      Coursework in medieval history and art, University of Oslo, Norway
- 1974-1975      **M. A.**, German, Stanford University
- 1968-1972      **B.A.**, magna cum laude, Brigham Young University (German and English)

**Academic Employment**

- 2013-present      **Distinguished Senior Lecturer**, Department of Germanic Studies, University of Texas at Austin
- 2007-2013      **Senior Lecturer**, Department of Germanic Studies, University of Texas at Austin
- 1998-2007      **Lecturer**, Department of Germanic Studies, University of Texas at Austin
- 1994-1998      **Assistant Professor** of Nordic Studies, Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures, Brigham Young University
- 1987-1989      **Assistant Professor**, American Thought and Language Department (Freshman English Writing Program), Michigan State University
- 1989      **Lecturer** in North American Folklore, Department of Letters, University of São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
- 1985-1987      **Assistant Professor**, Linguistics and Languages Department, Michigan

State University (first-year German)

1985-1986 **Lecturer**, Lansing Community College, Lansing, Michigan  
(conversational German)

**Publications: Books**

2019 *Ballads of the North, Medieval to Modern: Essays in Memory of Larry Syndergaard*, ed. Sandra Ballif Straubhaar and Richard Firth Greene. Kalamazoo: Western Michigan University Press, May 2019.

2011 *Old Norse Women's Poetry: The Voices of Female Skalds*. Library of Medieval Women. Woodbridge, Suffolk, U.K.: Boydell and Brewer, March 2011. 158 pp.

**Publications: Contributions to Volumes**

2020 “Góðra vina fundur: Thoughts on J. R. R. Tolkien, E. V. Gordon, and Songbooks.” In: *Vikings, Elves, Knights and Ogres: Essays in Honor of Shaun F. D. Hughes*, ed. Eric Carlson, Dorsey Armstrong, and Arielle McKee. Kalamazoo: Western Michigan University Press, May 2020.

2019 “Ok flýgr þat jafnan: Icelandic Figurations of Böðvarr bjarki’s Monster.” In: *Paranormal Encounters in Iceland 1150-1400*, ed. Ármann Jakobsson and Miriam Mayburd. Kalamazoo: Western Michigan University Press, July 2019.

2019 “Hervör, Hervard, Hervik: The Metamorphosis of a Shieldmaiden.” In: *Ballads of the North, Medieval to Modern: Essays in Memory of Larry Syndergaard*, ed. Sandra Ballif Straubhaar and Richard Firth Greene. Kalamazoo: Western Michigan University Press, May 2019.

2018 “The Rare and Elusive ‘Green, Great Dragon.’” In: *A Wilderness of Dragons: Festschrift in Honor of Verlyn Flieger*, ed. John Rateliff. Wayzata, Minnesota: Gabbro Head Press, November 2018.

2013 “Holberg’s Apology for Zenobia of Palmyra and Catherine I.” Originally appearing in *Scandinavica*, 36:2 (1997), reprinted in 2013 by Norvik Press (Norwich, U.K.) in an anthology on Ludvig Holberg.

2012 “Iarpskammr: Tribal Taxonomy and Transgressive Exogamy in the Fornaldar Sögur.” *Fornaldarsögur norðurlanda IV: Uppruni og þróun*, ed. Ármann Jakobsson, Annette Lassen and Agneta Ney. Reykjavík: Háskólaútgáfan, 2012.

2005 “An Extraordinary Sense of Powerful Restlessness: Nora Kershaw Chadwick, 1891-1972.” In: *Women Medievalists in the Academy*, ed. Jane

- Chance. Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 2005, 366-379.
- 2004 “Myth, Late Roman History, and Multiculturalism in Tolkien’s Middle-earth.” In: *Tolkien and the Invention of Myth*, ed. Jane Chance. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2004, 101-117.
- 2002 “Ambiguously Gendered, Not Only Grammatically: The Skalds Jörunn, Auðr and Steinunn.” In: *Cold Counsel: Women of Old Norse Literature and Myth*. Ed. Karen Swenson and Sarah M. Anderson. New York: Routledge, 2002, 261-71.
- 2002 “Birgitta Birgersdotter (St. Birgitta of Sweden).” In: *Women Writing Latin*. Ed. Laurie Churchill and Jane Jeffrey. New York: Routledge, 2002, II, 309-318.
- 1987 “The Forgotten *Skáldkonur* and Their Place in Early Scandinavian Culture.” In: *Creativity, Influence, Imagination: The Worlds of Medieval Women*. Ed. Judith Rice Rothschild. Morgantown, West Virginia: University of West Virginia Press, 1987, 14-23.
- 1978 “An Arthurian Remnant in an Appalachian Nonsense Ballad.” *Ballads and Ballad Research: Selected Papers of the International Conference on Nordic and Anglo-American Ballad Research, University of Washington, Seattle, May 2-6, 1977*. Ed. Patricia L. Conroy. Seattle, Washington: University of Washington Press, 1978, 185-92.

**Publications: Articles**

- 2020 (With Douglas Simms, Collin Brown, and Marc Pierce.) “The Ordering of the Futhark.” *Amsterdamer Beiträge zur älteren Germanistik* 80:3 (2020). Amsterdam: Brill/Rodopi, October 2020.
- 2017 (With Katherine Arens.) “E. T. A. Hoffmann’s ‘Falun’: Baltic Providences and Martyrdoms.” *Colloquia Germanica* 47:4. Tübingen: Narr Francke Attempto Verlag, January 2018, 329-350.
- 2006 “Mord och Hor’: Skewing the Canon?” *B.A.S.I.S.: Ballads and Songs – International Studies* 2. Trier: Wissenschaftlicher Verlag, 2006, 150-155.
- 2005 “Wrapped in a Blue Mantle: Fashions for Icelandic Slayers?” *Medieval Clothing and Textiles* 1:1. Woodbridge, Suffolk: The Boydell Press, 2005, 53-65.
- 2005 “Gilraen’s *Linnod*: Function, Genre, Prototypes.” *Tolkien Studies* 2. Morgantown: West Virginia University Press, 2005, 235-244.
- 2003 “A Birth Certificate for Sweden, Packaged for Postmoderns: Jan Guillou’s

- Templar Trilogy.” *The Year’s Work in Medievalism* 17. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2003, 64-75.
- 2004 “Nasty, Brutish and Large: Cultural Difference and Otherness in the Figuration of the Trollwomen of the *Fornaldar sögur*.” *Scandinavian Studies* 73:2. Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University Press, 2001, 105-124.
- 1999 “Gustav Storm’s *Heimskringla* as a Norwegian Nationalist Genesis Narrative.” *Tijdschrift voor Skandinavistiek*, 20:2. Fall 1999, 101-126.
- 1997 “Holberg’s Apology for Zenobia of Palmyra and Catherine I.” *Scandinavica*, 36:2. Norwich, East Anglia: Page Bros., 1997, 169-188.

**Publications: Encyclopedia Entries**

- 2007 Eight entries (Easterlings; Gondor; Goths; Huns; Jordanes; Middle-earth: Men; Roman History; Saracens and Moors) for *J. R. R. Tolkien Encyclopedia*, ed. Michael Drout. New York: Routledge, 2007.
- 2004 Three entries (Jóreiðr, Jórunn, Steinunn) for *Women in the Middle Ages: An Encyclopedia*. Ed. Katharina Wilson and Nadia Margolis. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 2004, I: 493-5, II: 870-1.
- 2002 Six biographical entries (Brunhilde, Eyvindr Finnsson skáldaspillir, Egill Skallagrímsson, Harald (Bluetooth) Gormsson, Einarr Skúlason and Sturla Þórðarson) for *Medieval Europe and the Rise of Christendom, 500-1300*. Ed. Jana K. Schulman. Westport CT: Greenwood Press, 2002.
- 1993 “Skáldkonur.” *Medieval Scandinavia: An Encyclopedia*. Ed. Philip Pulsiano, et al. New York: Garland, 1993, 594-96.
- 1991 “Jórunn skáldmær,” “Steinunn Refsdóttir,” and “Jóreiðr í Miðjumdal.” *An Encyclopedia of Continental Women Writers*. Ed. Katharina Wilson. New York: Garland, 1991, 1158-59, 1190-91, 837-38.

**Publications: Book Reviews**

- 2017 Franz Rickaby, Gretchen Dykstra and James P. Leary (eds.), *Pinery Boys: Songs and Songcatching in the Lumberjack Era* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2017). *Yearbook of German-American Studies* 52 (2017).
- 2010 Cornelia Funke, *Reckless: Steinernes Fleisch* (Hamburg: Cecilie Dressler Verlag, 2010). *Marvels and Tales* 25:2 (2011), 397-9.
- 2008 Sarah Higley, *Hildegard of Bingen's Unknown Language: An Edition, Translation and Discussion* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007).

- Medieval Feminist Forum* 44.2 (Winter 2008), 158-161.
- 2007 Thor Ewing, *Viking Clothing* (Stroud, Gloucestershire: Tempus, 2006). *Medieval Clothing and Textiles* 3 (2007), 201-2.
- 2007 Mark T. Hooker, *A Tolkien Mathomium* (Durham, North Carolina: Llyfrawr, 2006). *Tolkien Studies* 4 (2007), 311-314.
- 2006 David Salo, *A Gateway to Sindarin* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2004). *Tolkien Studies* 3 (2006), 166-173.
- 2005 Alan Keele, *In Search of the Supernal: Pre-Existence, Eternal Marriage, and Apotheosis in German Literary, Operatic, and Cinematic Texts* (Münster: Agenda Verlag, 2003). *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, 38:2 (Summer 2005), 200-202.
- 2004 Brian Murdoch and Malcolm Read, eds. *Early Germanic Literature and Culture*. Camden House History of German Literature, Vol. 1 (Rochester: Camden House, 2004). *Colloquia Germanica* 37: 3-4 (2005), 333-4.
- 1998 Jenny Jochens, *Old Norse Images of Women* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1996). *German Quarterly*, 71:3 (fall 1998), 299.
- 1999 Hilda R. E. Davidson, *Roles of the Northern Goddess* (London: Routledge, 1998). *Scandinavian Studies*, 71:3 (fall 1999), 360-62.
- 1993 Lena Rangström, ed. *Riddarlek och tornerspel: Sverige-Europa (Tournaments and the Dream of Chivalry)* (Stockholm: Livrustkammaren, 1992). *Scandinavian Studies*, 65:4 (fall 1993), 585-86.
- 1993 Ingi Sigurðsson, ed. *Upplýsingin á Íslandi (The Enlightenment in Iceland)* (Reykjavík: Hið íslenska bókmenntafélag, 1990). *Scandinavian Studies*, 65:1 (winter 1993), 130-33.

### Academic Presentations

- 2020 “Evaluating Theories on the Ordering of the Runic Alphabet.” With Collin Brown and Marc Pierce. Session: New Research in Germanic Philology and Linguistics. Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Seattle, Washington, January 2020.
- 2018 “Scarlet Blue: Peasantish Clothing in Nordic Ballads.” Special Session: Discussion, Interpretation, and Study of Textile Arts, Fabrics, and Fashion (DISTAFF).  
Also: “Lovelorn Skalds,” for roundtable on “What is Courtly Love?” sponsored by Center for Medieval Studies, Fordham University. 53<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, U.S.A., May 2018.

- 2016 “Teaching Older Germanic Languages in Texas.” With Marc Pierce. Special Session: Teaching Medieval Languages Today: Strategies and Innovations (A Roundtable). 51<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, U.S.A., May 2016.
- 2015 “St. Birgitta Takes Off Her Gloves.” Sponsored Session: Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies (East Norse Texts: From Runes to Reformation). 50<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, U.S.A., May 2015.
- 2014 “Peter Nevins’s Neo-Broadside Block Prints for Anais Mitchell’s Child Ballad CD.” Sponsored Session (Kommission für Volksdichtung). 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, U.S.A., May 2014.
- 2014 “Horror Vacui: Postmodern Attempts at 'Viking Music'.” Yale Conference on Baltic and Scandinavian Studies, New Haven, Connecticut, March 2014.
- 2013 “‘Ok flýgr þat jafnan’: Just What Did Böðvarr Bjarki Kill?” Special Session: Encounters with the Paranormal in Medieval Iceland II: Myth and Language. 48th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, U.S.A., May 2013.
- 2013 “Symbols and Sigils in the Icelandic *Galdrabækur*.” Text, Context, and Non-Text: Grimoires in Central Europe, Austin, Texas, U.S.A., April 2013.
- 2012 “Jews, Gypsies, School Wives and Green-Clad Neighbors: Sir Hugh's Murderesses in the ‘Difficult Middle’ in Child 155, ‘Sir Hugh of Lincoln.’” Sponsored Session (Kommission für Volksdichtung). 47th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, U.S.A., May 2012.
- 2011 “To Kiss or Not to Kiss: The Polysemic *Finngálkn* in the Legendary Sagas.” Sponsored Session (Monsters: The Experimental Association for the Research of Cryptozoology through Scholarly Theory and Practical Application [MEARCSTAPA]). 46th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, U.S.A., May 2011.
- 2010 “Hervör, Hervard, Hervík: Metamorphosis of a Shieldmaiden.” Sponsored Session (Kommission für Volksdichtung). 45th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, U.S.A., May 2010.
- 2009 “Iarpskammr: Tribal Taxonomy and Transgressive Exogamy in the Fornaldar Sögur.” Invited paper for Fornaldarsögur norðurlanda IV: Uppruni og þróun, Reykjavík, Iceland, August 2009.
- 2009 “Jómsvíkingar and Varangian Guardsmen, from Brisbane to Perth.” Sponsored Session (*Studies in Medievalism*). 44th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, U.S.A., May 2009.

- 2008 "I Have Stabbed My Brother to Death: The Nordic Fratricide Ballads and National Romanticism." Sponsored Session (Kommission für Volksdichtung). 43rd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, U.S.A., May 2008.
- 2007 "Trolls and Fishing-Grounds: Ketill Salmon's Family and Their Relatives-in-Law." Sponsored Session (University of Wisconsin, Department of Comparative Literature): Monstrous Spaces: Habitats and Roaming Grounds of Monsters in Medieval Literature. 42<sup>nd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, U.S.A., May 2007.
- 2006 "A Relic from Most Ancient Times: The Continuing Appeal of 'Draumkvedet.'" Sponsored Session (Kommission für Volksdichtung): Medievalism, Medieval Sources, and the Ballad. 41<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 2006.
- 2005 "Bravehearts and Lovelorn Shieldmaidens: Tolkien's Debt to 'Miss Jane Porter.'" Special Session: UnTolkien II, 40th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 2005.
- 2004 "From Atli to Aguirre: Remarks on Fashion and Weapon Size." Special Session: Old Norse Death and Dying, 39th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 2004.
- 2003 "'Mord och Hor': Skewing the Canon?" Thirty-Third International Ballad Conference, Kommission für Volksdichtung, Austin, Texas, 27 June 2003.
- 2003 "Wrapped in a Blue Mantle: Fashions for Icelandic Slayers?" Special Session: Dress and Textiles, 38th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 2003.
- 2003 "Coincident Serendipity: Jan Guillou's Templars and Current Swedish Neo-Medievalism." 93rd Annual Meeting, Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies, Minneapolis, Minnesota, April 2003.
- 2002 "A Birth Certificate for Sweden, Packaged for Postmoderns: Jan Guillou's Templar Trilogy." Postmodern Medievalisms: The Seventeenth Annual International Meeting of the Conference on Medievalism, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa, 18-19 October 2002.
- 2001 "Tolkien and the (Post-)Classical: Late Roman Imperial Prototypes for Valacar and Vidumavi." Special Session: Tolkien and the Classical, 37th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 2002.
- 2001 "Dainty Feet in Scarlet Hose: Using Undset, via Ullmann, in Teaching the Ballad Tradition." Special Session: Women in Scandinavian Culture, 36<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 2001.

- 2001 “Vänner, Fränder & Fagra Ungersvenner: Ballads for the Masses.” 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting, Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies, Chicago, Illinois, 27 April 2001.
- 2000 “The Old Norse *Fides, Spes, Caritas* Text and Hrotsvit’s *Sapientia*: Grisly Farce in the Service of Faith.” *Hrotsvit 2000* Conference, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, California, 11 February 2000.
- 2000 “Microcosm vs. Macrocosm: *Mariu saga egipzku* as an Early Template for Old Norse Narrative Style.” Mid-American Medieval Association (MAMA), Tulsa, Oklahoma, 26 February 2000.
- 2000 “Sigrdrífa/Brynhildr As Wise Woman.” Special Session: Representations of the Wise Woman in the Middle Ages, 35th Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 4 May 2000.
- 1999 “Sometimes She Said More Than Her Prayers: St. Birgitta’s Authoritative Voice.” 89th Annual Meeting, Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, Seattle, Washington, 30 April 1999.
- 1998 “Cultural Difference and Otherness in the Figuration of the Trollwomen of the *Fornaldar sögur*.” Second International Crossroads in Cultural Studies Conference, Tampere, Finland, 29 June 1998.
- 1998 “Staging Hrotsvit in the Classroom: An Approach to *Dulcitius*.” Sponsored Session: NEH Summer Institute on Medieval Women, 33<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 10 May 1998.
- 1998 “The Varangian Guard in the Nordic Imaginary.” 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, 1 May 1998.
- 1997 “Zille Hansdotter Revisited: Holberg’s Apology for Zenobia and Catherine I.” 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, 26 April 1997.
- 1996 “Can Melkorka, as Spivakian ‘Subaltern,’ Speak?” Sponsored Session: Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, 31<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 9 May 1996.
- 1996 “Deconstruction from Within: Jostein Gaarder and Flann O’Brien.” 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, 3 May 1996.



- 1996 “Sea-Changed Iconography: Tony Kushner’s Use and Abuse of Mormon Images and Traditions in *Angels in America*.” Association for Mormon Letters, Westminster College, Salt Lake City, Utah, 13 January 1996.
- 1995 “Gustav Storm’s 1899 *Heimskringla* as a Norwegian Nationalist Genesis Narrative.” 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington, 29 April 1995.
- 1994 “Roland Lives in Paraíba: Medieval Material in the *Cordel* Tradition.” Conference on Latin American Popular Culture, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, October 1994.
- 1994 “Thistill, Mistill, Kistill: Varying Uses of Ritual Echoic Vocabulary.” Special Session: Magic Language in Old Norse Literature, 29<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 7 May 1994.
- 1991 “Garrison Keillor Meets Multiculturalism.” *The Cultural Heritage of the Midwest: A Symposium*. Michigan State University, Lansing, Michigan, 16 May 1991.
- 1990 “Nasty, Brutish and Large: The Trollwomen of the *Fornaldar sögur*.” 25<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 1990.
- 1989 “*Laxdæla saga*: A Stranger in its Own Land.” Special Session: The Foreign Element in Old Norse Literature, 24<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 6 May 1989.
- 1987 “My Foemen Laid Me in This Mound: Hervör’s Vengeance.” 22<sup>nd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 9 May 1987.
- 1986 “Speculations on the Career of Jórunn skáldmær.” 21<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 9 May 1986.
- 1985 “Bróka-Auðr: A Sympathetic Portrayal of Female Social Deviance.” 20<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 9 May 1985.

### Academic Honors and Teaching Awards

- 2010            Featured Instructor, Texas Language Center website, University of Texas at Austin
- 2007            Visiting Scholar, Nordisk Institut, Aarhus Universitet, Århus, Denmark

- 2002 Wakonse Fellow, Wakonse-South (Wakonse Conferences on College Teaching)
- 1997 Participant in N.E.H. Summer Institute, "The Literary Traditions of Medieval Women," under the direction of Dr. Jane Chance, at Rice University, Houston, Texas
- 1977-1978 Fulbright Foundation / Icelandic Government Grant, University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland
- 1976 Grant from City of Oslo for study at the University of Oslo, Norway

### **Languages**

Norwegian: Speaking, reading, writing  
 Icelandic: Reading, speaking, writing  
 German: Reading, writing, speaking  
 Portuguese: Speaking, reading  
 Swedish and Danish: Reading  
 Latin: Reading  
 Older Germanic languages (various)

### **Service for Department of Germanic Studies – Committees, 2019-20:**

Undergraduate Advisor for GSD  
 Faculty Teaching Award Nomination Committee  
 TracDat / Assessment (GSD)  
 Undergraduate Course and Program Committee  
 Committee on Undergraduate Scholarships

### **Service for Department of Germanic Studies -- Guest Lectures:**

October 2014: In-department Proseminar presentation, "Cultural and Textual Studies: The Middle Ages and Beyond"

October 2012: In-department Proseminar presentation, "Medieval Studies: Thoughts on Canonicity, the Strategic Employment of Theory, and the Academic Lifetime"

April 2011: Lecture on Icelandic folklore ("Skugga-Baldur") for Stine Skou Nielsen's Contemporary Scandinavian Stories class

March 2010: "Hervör, Hervard, Hervik: The Metamorphosis of a Shieldmaiden," for Germanic Studies Faculty Lecture Series

February 2010 (and one earlier occasion): Guest Lecture, “Teaching Strategies for a Large Class,” for Zsuzsanna Abrams' FL Teaching Methods class at UT

December 2008 (and at least one other occasion): Guest Lecture, “Henrik Ibsen's Use of Folklore Motifs,” for John Hoberman's Henrik Ibsen class at UT

Fall 2008 and Spring 2010: Guest Lectures, “Hans Christian Andersen's ‘The Tinder Box’ and its Folklore Analogues,” for Stine Skou Nielsen's Hans Christian Andersen class at UT

February 2008: Department lecture, “Postmodern Neo-Medievalism”

**Service: University of Texas**

- March 2010                      Maymester Committee, for approval of Maymester proposals
- 1998-present                Women’s Studies affiliate
- 1999-present                Religious Studies affiliate
- April 2004                    Participant, Professionalism Workshop for Medievalists, organized by Susanne Hafner
- 1999-circa 2007            Swedish Studies Endowment Committee

**Service: University of Texas -- Guest Lectures:**

- March 2018                    “Introduction to Scandinavian Languages” (with Rikke Platz Cortsen and Patricia Smyth Johansson) at “Explore UT”
- March 2006                    Lecture, “Northern Gods and Heroes: Tales from the Codex Regius” at “Explore UT”
- March 2003                    Lecture, “Tolkien and Nordic Mythology,” at “Explore UT”
- March 1999                    Lecturer (“Women of the Viking Age”) and translator at “UT-Interactive”

**Member of Dissertation Committee**

- 2018                      Collin Brown: “Conversion, Heresy and Witchcraft: Theological Narrative in Scandinavian Missionary Writings”

- 2017 Jason Roberts: “The Intellectual and Cultural History and Genre of the Grimoire and its Role in the Discourse of Heresy”
- 2016 Holly Brining: “Circuses, Flea Markets, and Idyllic Villages: Identity and Intercultural Communication in the Works of Rafik Schami”
- 2015 Yekaterina Cotey: “Childhood Folklore: the Role of the Changeling Narrative in 19th century English and Russian Literature”
- 2013 Anja Möhring: “Argument Marking with Prepositions in German: A Constructional Approach to *Auf*”
- 2011 Guido Halder: “A Frame-Semantic Approach to Selectional Restrictions in German Support-Verb Constructions: The case of [*in X geraten*]”
- 2009 Ingrid Lelos: “The Spirit in the Flesh: The Translation of German Pietist Imagery into Anglo-American Genres”
- 2009 Jennifer Marie Powers: “Re-appropriating the Catholic Imaginary: Discourse Strategies and the Struggle for Modernization in Late Nineteenth-Century Religious Fiction”
- 2008 Kari Erica Lie: “Virtual Communication: An Investigation of Foreign Language Interaction in a Distance Education Course in Norwegian”
- 2007 Kristin Lynn Cole: “Rum, Ram, Ruf and Rym: Middle English Alliterative Meters”
- 2007 Jayson Galler: “Logic and Argumentation in *The Book of Concord*”

#### **M.A. Theses Supervised**

- 2006 Nathan Hill: “Hrotsvit's Agenda: Dramatic Dichotomies and Subversive Submission in the Plays of Hrotsvit of Gandersheim”
- 2005 Tracye Keen: “In Search of a Political Voice: Exploring the Historical and Cultural Significance of the Female Whetter Figure in Icelandic Family Sagas”

#### **M.A. Second Reader**

- 2017 Jacob Robert Reis: “Oath Formulas in the *Poetic Edda*”
- 2014 Matthew Anderson: “John Bauer's Illustrations for *Bland tomtar och troll*”
- 2006 Patrick Schultz: “From Antiquity to the Neogrammarian Hypothesis: Developments in the Systematization of Historical and Comparative

## Linguistics”

**Senior Honors and/or Plan II Theses Supervised**

- 2017 Anna-Katrin A. Hall: “Turkish Immigrant Integration in the Netherlands” (Capstone Thesis, GSD Major)
- 2017 Jeremy Coltharp: “Æsir and Vanir: A Comparison” (Capstone Thesis, GSD Major)
- 2017 Joshua Bednörz: “The Rage of the Wolf: An Examination of Anti-Polonistic Trends in German Folklore” (Honors Thesis, Germanic Studies)
- 2016 Quinn Powell Gifford: “The Fairy Tale Reimagined: Addressing the Diversity Gap” (Humanities Thesis Program”
- 2016 Elizabeth S. McLean, “The Female Body in Fairy Tale” (Plan II)
- 2014 Patrick Harris: “Pietism and Purgatory in the Tales of Hans Christian Andersen”
- 2013 Allegra Geller: “James I / VI and the North Berwick Witches” (History Capstone)
- 2012 Laura Walters: “Suffering and Rewards for Female Characters in *Grimms' Fairy Tales*”
- 2012 Allegra Geller: “Erotic Anthropomorphism in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century European Folktale Illustrations: A Post-Modern Freudian Perspective”
- 2012 Aditi Ghatak-Roy: “The Implications of Nazi Medical Ethics”
- 2011 Amanda Jones: “The Fantasy Impulse: The Relationship Between Myth and Modern Fantasy Literature”
- 2006 Amy Hubbell: “Kissing Frogs and Other Practical Lessons: The Instructive Role of Fairy Tales”

**Service: International**

December 2007: “Postmodern Neo-Medievalism,” delivered at Nordisk Institut, Aarhus Universitet, Århus, Denmark

October 2007: Guest lecture on *Völsunga saga* for Rolf Stavnem’s Norse mythology course, Aarhus Universitet, Århus, Denmark

September 2007: Guest Lecture on women skalds for Pernille Hermann's saga course, Aarhus Universitet, Århus, Denmark

**Service: Professional**

2011-2013 Elected Member, Delegate Assembly, Modern Language Association

**Service: Community Outreach**

September 2008: Lecture on the Younger Futhark runic alphabet for "Viking Invasion" re-enactment group, San Marcos, Texas

9 October 2005: Lecture on "Textile Arts of the Viking Age" for Sons of Norway, Austin, Texas

24 September 2002: Lecture on "Ethnic Diversity and Imperial Arrogance: J. R. R. Tolkien and Postcolonial Issues" for Rice University Continuing Education, one of a series on "Behind the Film: The Mythology of J. R. R. Tolkien's Middle-earth"

27-28 April 2002: Lecture on "Stories from Viking-Age Mythology: The Poems of the Codex Regius" for Viking Fest, Georgetown, Texas

6 November 2001: Lecture on "Stories from Viking-Age Mythology: The Poems of the Codex Regius" for Rice University Continuing Education, in connection with the exhibit "Vikings! The North Atlantic Saga" at the Houston Museum of Natural History

22 October 2001: Lecture on "The Novels of Astrid Lindgren" for VASA Austin

8 October 2000: Lecture on "Leif Eiriksson's World" for Norwegian Society of Texas

23 October 2000: Lecture on "Nordic Women of the Iron Age" for VASA Austin

29-30 April 2000: Lecture on "The Viking Achievement" for Viking Fest, Georgetown, Texas

October 1999: Presentation on "Life in the Viking Age" for Norwegian Society of Texas

**Memberships in Professional Organizations**

Modern Language Association (since the 1980s)

Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies (since the 1980s)

## Research Interests

Construction of ethnicity / nationality in northern Europe and elsewhere, early modern to nineteenth century

Scandinavian medievalism, eighteenth-century to current

European and north American medievalism, eighteenth-century to current

St. Birgitta -- Canonization (1391) and near-reversal of same at Council of Constance (1414-1417); her influence on Margery Kempe

Women in the Viking Age

Eddic and skaldic poetry

The Nordic ballad tradition, and its interface with the Anglophone one

J. R. R. Tolkien's use of the Nordic medieval

The Varangian Guard: discrepancies between Scandinavian and non-Scandinavian accounts

Gendered hags and monsters in the late-medieval legendary sagas, particularly *Hrafnistu manna sögur*

Transgressive women in the Icelandic family saga, particularly *Laxdæla saga*

Normative aspects of Nordic children's literature