

Beth Allison Barr, Ph.D.

Resume

Department of History
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Baylor University
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Waco, Texas 76798

Education

Ph.D., Medieval History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2004

Second Field: Religious Studies

Exam Fields: Medieval England, Women in Medieval and Early Modern Europe, and Reformation Europe

Dissertation: "Gendered Lessons: The Pastoral Care of Women in Late Medieval England"

Committee: Judith Bennett (Director), Barbara Harris, Stanley Chojnacki, Cynthia Herrup, E. Jane Burns

M.A., Medieval History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1999

Thesis: "Little to Give: Women's Economic Contributions to Clerical Incomes in Late Medieval Hornsea"

Committee: Judith Bennett (Director), Barbara Harris, and Richard Pfaff

Awarded Best Graduate Student Paper by the Carolinas Symposium on British Studies, 1999

B.A., History, Baylor University, 1996, Minor in Classics

Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Outstanding Student of the College of Arts and Sciences (1995), Outstanding Student of the History Department (1997)

Academic Employment History

Associate Professor, Department of History, Baylor University, Waco, TX, August 2014-present

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Baylor University, Waco, TX, 2008-August 2014

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Religion, Baylor University, Waco, TX, 2006-2008

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, 1998-2000

Graduate Assistantship, Department of Women's Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, 2000-2001

Scholarly Activity

My research focuses on women and gender identity in medieval and early modern English sermons, drawing evidence especially from comparative analyses of biblical women, narrative women, gendered language, and the gendered nature of biblical text included within sermons. I am interested in how the advent of Protestantism affected women in Christianity as well as how and why medieval attitudes towards women in sermons both changed and stayed the same across the Reformation era.

Refereed Publications: Journal Articles, Book Chapters, and Research Books

1. Beth Allison Barr, “‘she hungered right so after God’s word’: Female Piety and the Legacy of the Pastoral Program in the Late Medieval English Sermons of Bodleian Library MS Greaves 54.” *The Journal of Religious History* (March 2015).
2. Beth Allison Barr, “‘he is bodyn modyr, broþyr, & syster vn-to me’: Women and the Bible in Late Medieval and Early Modern English Sermons,” *Church History and Religious Culture* 94:3 (2014), 297-315.
3. Beth Allison Barr, “A ‘sterre of þe see to 3yue lyzt to men’ and ‘myrroure to alle sinful’: A Comparative Analysis of Biblical Women in the English Wycliffite Sermons with John Mirk’s *Festial*.” *Fourteenth Century England, Vol. VIII*, edited by J.S. Hamilton, 147-163. Woodbridge, Suffolk: Boydell Press, 2014.
4. Beth Allison Barr, “Women in Early Baptist Sermons: A Late Medieval Perspective,” *Perspectives in Religious Studies*, 40 (Spring 2014), 87-103.
5. Beth Allison Barr, “The Word that Endureth Forever: A Century of Scholarship on the King James Version.” In *The King James Bible and the World It Made*, edited by David Lyle Jeffrey, 149-175. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2011.
6. Beth Allison Barr, “Three’s a Crowd: Wives, Husbands, and Priests in the Late Medieval Confessional.” In *A Companion to Pastoral Care in the Late Middle Ages (1200-1500)*, edited by R.J. Stansbury, 213-234. Boston: Brill, 2010.
7. Beth Allison Barr, *The Acts of the Apostles: Four Centuries of Baptist Interpretation*, edited by Beth Allison Barr, Mikeal C. Parsons, Bill J. Leonard, and C. Douglas Weaver. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2009.
8. Beth Allison Barr, *The Pastoral Care of Women in Late Medieval England*. Woodbridge, Suffolk: Boydell Press, 2008.
9. Beth Allison Barr, “Gendering Pastoral Care: John Mirk and his Instructions for Parish Priests.” In *Fourteenth Century England, Vol. IV*, edited by J.S. Hamilton, 93-108. Woodbridge, Suffolk: Boydell Press, 2006.

In Progress and Under Review

Research book: *Women in English Sermons, 1380-1640*

Journal article: “Preaching Paul in Late Medieval and Early Modern English Sermons: The Significance for Women”

Journal article: “Feminizing God’s Word? The Gendered Nature of Biblical References in Fifteenth and Sixteenth-Century English Sermons”

Book Reviews, Service Articles, and Encyclopedia Entry

1. Beth Allison Barr. “Baptist Voices.” *Baylor Arts & Sciences Magazine* (Fall 2009): 3-6.

2. Beth Allison Barr, Book Review: Cartwright, Jane. *Feminine Sanctity and Spirituality in Medieval Wales*. Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2008. *Church History* 78 (2009): 892-894.
3. Beth Allison Barr, "The Baptists' Bible: Reclaiming 400 Years of Baptist Voices." *Whitsitt Journal* 15:2 (Fall 2007): 1-4.
4. Beth Allison Barr, Book Review: McSheffrey, Shannon. *Marriage, Sex, and Civic Culture in Late Medieval London*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006. *History: Reviews of New Books* 35:4 (2007):135-150.
5. Beth Allison Barr, "Madness." In *Women and Gender in Medieval Europe: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Margaret Schaus, 503-504. New York: Routledge, 2006.
6. Beth Allison Barr, Book Review: Hunt, Emily J. *Christianity in the Second Century: The Case of Tatian*. New York: Routledge, 2003. *The Journal of Church and State*, 46:3 (Summer 2004): 655-656.
7. Beth Allison Barr, Book Review: Rebenich, Stefan. *Jerome*. New York: Routledge, 2002. *The Journal of Church and State*, 46:3 (Summer 2004): 656-657

Conference Organization and Leadership

1. *Women and the Bible: A Historical Perspective*, ISR Symposium September 2013
 Highlighting research from across ancient, medieval, and modern history, this symposium explored perceptions both of women in the Bible and of religious women themselves. It brought together academics, students, and the pastoral community to discuss biblical perceptions of women. Ben Witherington III, Amos Professor of New Testament for Doctoral Studies, Asbury Theological Seminary, delivered a lecture, along with scholars participating from Baylor, Calvin College, and Wheaton College. Along with developing the framework for the symposium and assisting with planning, organizing, and promoting the conference, I also delivered the lecture, "Weak and Silent Vessels: The Impact of the English Bible on Christian Women." As all of the ISR lectures are recorded, you may view my lecture at this link: <http://www.isreligion.org/tv/conferences.php>.
2. *Texas Medieval Association*, "Coming of Age" XXI, President and Organizer October 2011
 The twenty-first annual meeting of the Texas Medieval Association was held at Baylor University, September 30-October 1, 2011. The general theme, "Coming of Age," recognized the twenty-year history of the association itself, which is a regional affiliate of the Medieval Academy of America. I served as president, coining the theme, planning the conference, inviting the two plenary speakers (John Contreni, Purdue University and Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America, and Martha Newman, Chair of Department of Religious Studies and Associate Professor of History at the University of Texas and Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America), organizing the schedule (24 sessions with 72 papers), attending to most of the details (along with the help of the history administrative assistant Rene' Coker and student worker Bethany Swoveland), and delivering the Presidential address. TEMA XXI drew scholars and graduate students from universities throughout Texas and even scattered throughout the U.S. (we registered around 100). "Why Medieval Studies Matter: The Presidential Address," delivered at the *Texas Medieval Association XXI* conference (October 2011).
3. *The King James Bible and the World It Made*, ISR Conference April 2011

Honoring the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, this conference brought scholars from throughout the US and England to Baylor, including Robert Alter (Berkeley), David Bebbington (University of Stirling), Philip Jenkins (Baylor and Penn State University), Laura Knoppers (Penn State University), Alister McGrath (Kings College, London), Mark Noll (Notre Dame), Lamin Sanneh (Yale), and Gordon Campbell (University of Leicester). I assisted with preliminary planning of the conference and coordination during the conference. I also delivered a paper, “*The King James Bible and the Disappearance of Gender Inclusive Language from English Sermons.*” As all of the ISR lectures are recorded, you may view my lecture at this link: <http://www.isreligion.org/tv/conferences.php>.

Research Grants, Sabbaticals, and Fellowships

The following were competitive nationally

Sabbatical Grant for Researchers, the Louisville Institute, a Lilly Endowment Program. “Weak and Silent Vessels: The Impact of the English Bible on Christian Women,” \$40,000 award, 2013-2014. The Louisville Institute is funded by the Religion Division of Lilly Endowment and based at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary (Louisville, KY). The goal of the Sabbatical Grant for Researchers is to enable “ecclesially-engaged academics and scholarly religious leaders to conduct a major study that can contribute to the vitality of Christianity in North America.” <http://www.louisville-institute.org/grants/programs>.

Finalist for Woodrow Wilson Charlotte Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship in Religion, 2002

Finalist for Fulbright in the United Kingdom, 2001

The following were competitive among Baylor faculty

Baylor University Research Committee (URC) Small-Range Grant, “Medieval Sermons as Evidence for Women’s History: A Microfilm Digitization Project,” \$4150 awarded, Baylor University, 2013-2014

Research Leave, “Writing Women Out of English Sermons, 1350-1650,” Baylor University, Fall 2012

Faculty Fellow, Summer Faculty Institute, Baylor University, 2012

Baylor University Nominee for 2011 NEH Summer Stipend, “Preaching Women in England, 1350-1700”

Summer Sabbatical, “Preaching Women in England, 1350-1700,” Baylor University, 2010

Summer Sabbatical, “Preaching Women in England, 1350-1700,” Baylor University, 2009

The following were competitive among graduate students regionally and nationally

William B. Schalleck Memorial Graduate Fellowship, awarded by the Richard III Society American Branch, 2001

Award for Best Graduate Student Paper, Carolinas Symposium on British Studies, 1999

The following were competitive among UNC-Chapel Hill graduate students

UNC-CH Mowry Research Grant, 2002

UNC-CH Mowry Research Fellowship, 2001

UNC-CH University Center for International Studies Dissertation Summer Fellowship, 2001

UNC-CH Smith Research Grant, 1998

UNC-CH Merit Fellowship, 1997

UNC-CH Outstanding Teaching Assistant Nomination 1997, 2000

Awards and Honors

Residential Scholar, Institute for Studies of Religion, Baylor University, 2009-present

Outstanding Student of the History Department, Baylor University, 1997

Phi Beta Kappa, 1997

Phi Alpha Theta, 1996

Outstanding Student of the College of Arts and Sciences, Baylor University, 1995

National and International Conference Presentations

“Feminizing God’s Word? A Comparison of Biblical References in Fifteenth and Sixteenth-Century English Sermons,” delivered at the 2014 Sixteenth Century Society Conference (October 2014) at New Orleans, Louisiana.

“Feminizing God’s Word? The Gendered Nature of Scripture References in Late Medieval English Sermons,” delivered at the 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies (May 2014) at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

“Mary Magdalene and the Woman of Canaan: The Uses of Biblical Women in Wycliffite Sermons as compared with John Mirk’s Festial,” delivered at the 48th International Congress on Medieval Studies (May 2013) at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

“The Influence of Sermon Literature on the Lives of Medieval Women,” delivered at the North American Conference on British Studies (November 2009).

“Gendering Wycliffe: A Comparison of Gendered Language in Lollard Sermons with John Mirk’s Festial,” delivered at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Leeds, UK (July 2009).

“God’s Brethren: A Medieval Perspective on Gendered Language in Seventeenth-Century Protestant Sermons,” delivered at the American Society of Church History conference (January 2008).

“Three’s a Crowd: Women, Men, and Priests in the Late Medieval Confessional,” delivered at the International Congress on Medieval Studies (May 2007).

“Serious Sin: Women and Mental Anguish in Medieval Exempla,” delivered at the International Congress on Medieval Studies (May 2005).

“The Limits of Pastoral Care: Singlewomen, Wives, and Widows,” delivered at the North American Conference on British Studies (October 2003).

Regional Conference Presentations

“‘Women in God be Men’: the Woman of Canaan and Gender Equality in Late Medieval English Sermons,” delivered at the Texas Medieval Association conference (October 2014).

“Were Women Banned from Singing in the Pre-Reformation English Church? The Evidence of Sermons,” delivered at the Texas Medieval Association conference (September 2013).

“Women be Silent? Preaching Paul in Medieval English Sermons,” delivered at the Southeastern Medieval Conference (October 2012).

“Writing Out Women? The Significance of Gendered Language in English Sermons, 1483-1650,” delivered at the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies (March 2012).

“Did Women Have a Reformation? The Evidence of Sermon Literature,” delivered at the Conference on Faith and History (September 2008).

“Left Behind: Women and the Language of Reformation in Early Modern England,” delivered at the Texas Medieval Association conference (October 2006).

“Laughing at Christ: Gendered Responses to the Eucharist in Late Medieval England,” delivered at the Conference on Faith and History (September 2006).

“Persuasive Piety: The Influence of Sermon Literature on the Life of Margery Kempe,” delivered at the Texas Medieval Association conference (September 2004).

“A Picture is a Thousand Words: Church Carvings and the Pastoral Care of Women in Late Medieval England,” delivered at the Texas Medieval Association conference (September 2003).

“‘And if a woman comes unto you....’: The Pastoral Care of Women in Middle English Clerical Literature,” delivered at the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies (April 2002).

“‘Dear Christian Men and Wymmen’: A Medieval Perspective on the Modern Gender Inclusive Language Debate,” delivered at the Texas Medieval Association conference (October 2002).

“‘Be he husband, Be he wife’: John Mirk and the Pastoral Care of Women in Late Medieval England,” delivered at the Texas Medieval Association conference (September 2000).

“Little to Give: Women’s Economic Contributions to Clerical Incomes in Late Medieval Hornsea,” delivered at the Carolinas Symposium on British Studies conference (October 1999).

Teaching Activity

On the undergraduate level, I teach courses in Historiography (what is history, why history matters, and how to do history), World History, European Women’s History, and Medieval History. On the graduate level, I teach courses combining aspects of Medieval Women’s History, Early Modern Women’s History, Medieval Religion, Early Modern Religion, and Medieval England.

HIS 1305: World History to 1500: From the ‘cradles of civilization’ in Mesopotamia and China to the lords and peasants of medieval Europe, this course examines the history of the ancient and medieval world through the eyes of those who lived it. By using primary source readings and interactive lectures to engage students in meaningful conversations, I strive to help students analyze patterns of continuity and change that developed in each civilization, examine how social and religious constructs affected the lives of women as well as men, and understand the impact of geography and cross-cultural influences on political, economic, and social development.

HIS 2395 (formerly 3395): Historiography: This has become the gateway course for all history majors, as they are required to take it before taking upper level history classes and cannot graduate without it. *Historiography* prepares our students for upper level history courses (by teaching them the basics of research, primary source analysis, archival work, and history paper writing and citation), graduate school, and entry-level jobs (such as in public record offices, government offices, research management in businesses, and fact-checking).

HIS 4334 and 4335 (taught so far as sections of HIS 4340): European Women's History to 1200 and since 1200. As the European Women's history professor, these are my signature courses which I designed from scratch for the department. From ancient Greece through the mid-twentieth century, these courses examine the status and roles of women in European society. Through a mixture of secondary readings and primary sources, the course sequence traces the ideas, customs, and laws that have affected the lives of women as well as the roles that women have performed in their homes and families, temples and churches, economies and political structures. Each class also examines the ways in which women have contributed to European culture and society and the ways in which they have been prevented from realizing their full potential.

HIS 5320: Seminar in European History for Graduate Students. Once I taught it as *History of Medieval Christianity*, which was cross-listed with REL 5332. Once I taught it as *Women and Religion in England, 1350-1650*. I also direct independent reading courses.

Invited Lectures and Professional Development

Baylor University

Guest speaker for Summer Faculty Institute, 29 May 2014 (presentation "Collegiality and Tenure")

Participant Women's Colloquium Fall 2012-present

Invited to deliver a lecture for the Medieval and Renaissance Research Seminar, Spring 2014

Presented Devotional to New Faculty Orientation, August 2013

Participant in Paleography Workshop (sponsored by English and History departments), Spring 2013

Presented to Julie Sweet's *Historiography* undergraduate class, Fall 2012

Presented Guest Lecturers to Jeffrey Hamilton's *Medieval History* class, 2011

Presented to Barry Hankins' *Historiography* graduate seminar, Fall 2010, Fall 2012, and Fall 2013

Presented to History Faculty and Graduate Students in the Research Colloquium Spring 2009

Graduate Student Orientation Speaker, along with Eric Holleyman, Fall 2010 and Fall 2011

Presented Lecture to Graduate Student Housing Community, Spring 2008

Guest speaker for Kappa Kappa Nu, Medieval Honors Society, "Medieval Concept of 'Other'", Fall 2006

The Wider Academy

Invited to provide address for April 2010 Phi Alpha Theta Banquet, Texas A&M-Commerce

Invited to participate in a panel discussion sponsored by the Conference on Faith and History (CFH) at the American Historical Association (January 2010) over *The Pastoral Care of Women in Late Medieval England*

Professional Affiliations

The Medieval Academy of America

The Texas Medieval Association (TEMA), past president (2011)

The Conference on Faith and History (CFH), board member 2014-2018

The International Medieval Sermon Studies Society (IMSSS)

The North American Conference on British Studies (NACBS)

The Society for the Study of the Bible in the Middle Ages (SSBMA)

Service

Professional

Board Member, 2014-2018, Conference on Faith and History
External Reviewer *Sixteenth Century Journal*, Spring 2013-present
President, *Texas Medieval Association*, 2011
External Reviewer *Perspectives in Religious Studies*, 2011-present
External Reviewer *Religion Compass* (Blackwell), May 2010-present
Program Chair for the Conference on Faith and History, Student Conference, Bluffton University, 17-18 September, 2008
Undergraduate Prize Committee for North American Conference on British Studies, 2007

Departmental

Member of Graduate Faculty, 2008-present
Faculty Mentor for Katie Jarvis, Assistant Professor
Advisor for students majoring in History, 2008-present
Speaker at Baylor's Premiere Weekend, History Academic Session, Spring 2013
History Faculty Representative to Prospective History Students and Families, summer 2013 and 2014
Hosted Graduate Student Events at my home, 2012-present
Participated in Fall 2012 Induction Ceremony for Phi Alpha Theta
Participant in campus visits of academic searches (tenure-track and lecturer positions), 2008-present
Participant in the Edmondson Lectures and Dinner, 2008-present
Participant in Baylor's Parent-Teacher Coffee,
Member of a Writing Group, Baylor, 2010-present
Faculty MA Thesis director for Taylor Mazzola (2014): "'Verie Needfull for this Time': Representations of Women in Sixteenth-Century English Prayer Manuals."
Faculty MA Thesis director for Meghan Clark (2013): "*Hysteria, Witchcraft, and Women's Bodies: A Re Examination of Robert Jordan's A Briefe Discourse of a Disease Called the Suffocation of the Mother.*"
Faculty MA Thesis director for Laura Oliver (2012): "*She should have more if she were ruled and guided by them.*" *Elizabeth Woodville and Margery Kempe: Female Agency in Late Medieval England.*"
Faculty MA Thesis director for Sarah Gross (2012): "*Sed rudibus et indoctis*": *Women, Orthodoxy, and the Roseberry Rolle Manuscript.*"
Honors Thesis Committee for Ryan Trobee (2011)
Honors Thesis Committee for Thomas Carlson (2011)
Member of Search Committee, American Women's History, 2010-2011
Honors Thesis Director for Laura Oliver (2010): "*Eleanor Aquitaine and Anne Boleyn: Female Political Power in England.*"
MA Thesis Committee for Courtney Harrold (2009)
Honors Thesis Committee for Alisha Hash (2009)
Member of Graduate Committee, 2010-present
Member of Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2009-2010
Member of Student Scholarships and Awards Committee, 2008-2009
Member of Search Committee, Russian and Eastern European, 2008-2009
Faculty Mentor to two Graduate Teaching Assistants in the English Department, 2007, 2008
Participant in New Faculty Mentoring Meetings, 2008-2009
Participant in New Faculty Orientation, August 2008

University

History department representative *Invitation to Excellence* 22 November 2013
Member of the Members-In-Course Phi Beta Kappa Committee, 2013-present
PhD Dissertation Committee for Bryan Maine, Church History in Religion Department, 2013-present
MA Examining Committee (English) for Devin McCain (8 November 2013)

MA Thesis Committee (English) for Adam Marshall (2012)
MA Thesis Committee (English) for Tanya Baker (2010)
Honors Thesis Committee (English) for Kayla Allen (2010)
MA Thesis Committee (Church-State) for Vance Woods (2009)
MA Thesis Committee (English) for Amanda Keys (2009)
Honors Thesis Committee (English) for Noah Peterson (2009)
Faculty Mentor for Jason Hentschel, 4th year Master of Divinity student at Truett Theological Seminary (2009)
Faculty advisor Baylor Women's League, 2008-2009
Attended Baylor's Graduation (at least one a year), 2008-present
Volunteer for Baylor's Annual Move-In Day, Baylor, 2008, 2009, 2012
Faculty Partner, Kokernot and Collins Residence Hall, Baylor, 2007-2012
Honors Colloquium Instructor, Spring 2006, Spring 2010, and Fall 2011
Participant in Faculty Retreat, Baylor, 2009
Leader of University 1000, Baylor, 2009

Community

Active Volunteer, Mission Waco, 2002-present

(I have been active in many of Mission Waco's programs, but most especially with My Brother's Keeper Homeless Shelter, King's Club Saturday Kids Program, World Cup Café and Fair Trade Market, annual Thanksgiving meal at the Meyer Center, and Christmas Eve Service at My Brother's Keeper. My family has a long history of service with Mission Waco, with my sister and my mother both formerly serving on the board, my mother once as President, and my husband currently serving on the board.)

Church Under the Bridge, Serving Breakfast, 2008, 2011, 2012

Religious

Member, pastor's wife, volunteer youth leader (including Wednesday night small group leader, Biblestudy leader, retreat sponsor), Fellowship Family leader and member, women's Biblestudy leader and member, Fellowship Bible Church, Waco, TX, 2002-present