

# J. Eric Ensley

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Iowa City, IA 52240

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## Employment & Academic Roles

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Curator of Rare Books & Maps Special Collections & Archives University of Iowa	Dec. 2020-Present Iowa City, IA
General Editor BibSite Bibliographic Resource Database Bibliographical Society of America	2021-Present
Adjunct Assistant Professor Department of English University of Iowa	2021-Present

## Education

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Ph.D. in English (with distinction) Yale University Dissertation: "Troubled Signs: Thomas Hoccleve's Objects of Absence"	2020 New Haven, CT
M.S. in Library Science, Specialization in Academic Libraries & Special Collections University of North Carolina	2013 Chapel Hill, NC
M.A. & M.Phil. in English (with distinction) Yale University	2017, 2018 New Haven, CT
M.A. in English (with honors) North Carolina State University	2015 Raleigh, NC
B.A. in Classics & History Columbia College, Columbia University	2007 New York, NY

## Research Interests

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History of the Book; Materiality; Rare Book Librarianship; Manuscript Studies; Early Modern Print Culture; Digital Humanities; Appalachian Studies.

## Publications & Exhibitions

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*Exhibitions:*

Co-Curator with Diane Ray, "Public and Private Life of Cookbooks,"  
Special Collections & Archives, University of Iowa 2021

Curator, "Making the English Book" building-wide exhibition at the Beinecke  
Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Yale University with Raymond Clemens,  
Diane Ducharme, Gina Hurley, and Alex Reider 2016-2017

Curator, "Making the Medieval English Manuscript: the Takamiya Collection at the  
Beinecke Library" digital exhibition with Gina Hurley and Alex Reider 2017

*Accepted Publications:*

"Subalterns in the Hollers: Postcolonial Appalachia and Ron Rash's Fiction" in *Summoning the Dead: Critical Essays on Ron Rash*. eds. Randall Wilhelm and Zackary Vernon. University of South Carolina Press, 2018

*Publications in Progress:*

Editor. with Prof. Ian Cornelius, Loyola University. *Piers Plowman B Text, Takamiya MS 23: A Digital Edition* for the *Piers Plowman Electronic Archive*

Editor, *Fragments of Piers Plowman* for the *Piers Plowman Electronic Archive*

Monograph: *Troubled Signs: Thomas Hoccleve's Absence through Four Objects*, proposal in progress

*Reviews:*

Review of *Fragmentarium* project for *Digital Philology* 9, no. 1 2020

## Courses Taught

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UICB 4920: Early Books in their Social Context, University of Iowa  
Graduate Seminar, Instructor of Record Spring 2022

First Year Seminar: What is a book?, University of Iowa  
Instructor of Record, co-taught with Elizabeth Riordan Fall 2021

English 115: To Hell & Back: the underworld & its denizens, Yale University  
Instructor of Record Spring 2019

English 114: What is a book?, Yale University. Instructor of Record Fall 2018

English 114: What is a book?, Yale University. Instructor of Record Fall 2017

Instructor: Digital Editing and the Medieval Manuscript TEI/XML Workshop 2016-Present

English 101: Academic Writing and Research, NC State Univ. Instructor of Record Spring 2015

English 101: Academic Writing and Research, NC State Univ. Instructor of Record Fall 2014

English 101: Academic Writing and Research, NC State Univ. Co-Instructor Spring 2014

## Previous Academic Positions

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Curatorial Assistant to Raymond Clemens, Curator of Early Books Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University	Jan. 2016-Dec. 2020 New Haven, CT
Medieval Manuscripts Cataloging Assistant Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University	June 2016-Dec. 2020 New Haven, CT
Program Director, Digital Editing & the Medieval Manuscript TEI/XML Workshop Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University	2017-2020 New Haven, CT
Editor, Piers Plowman Electronic Archive	August 2013-Present
Graduate Teaching Fellow, Department of English North Carolina State University	August 2013-May 2015 Raleigh, NC
Graduate Assistant, Piers Plowman Electronic Archive North Carolina State University	August 2013-July 2015 Raleigh, NC
Departmental Research Associate, Kenan Institute for Private Enterprise Kenan-Flagler Business School, University of North Carolina	Nov. 2010-July 2013 Chapel Hill, NC
Graduate Research Associate, Park Library School of Journalism & Mass Communication, University of North Carolina	August 2009-May 2010 Chapel Hill, NC

## Conference Papers & Presentations

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“Sweet Nothings: The Troubling Materiality of the Manuscripts Witnesses to Lydgate’s <i>Subtilties</i> ” at the New Chaucer Society meeting	July, 2022 Durham, UK
“Signed, Sealed, Delivered?: Hoccleve’s Ambiguous Seal Poetics” at the 55 <sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies	May 7, 2021 Kalamazoo, MI
“The Lost Exemplar of Takamiya MS 23”, a joint presentation with Prof. Ian Cornelius of Loyola University at the 54 <sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies	May 10, 2019 Kalamazoo, MI
“Remodeling Langland’s Library: Yale University, Takamiya MS 23” at the Seventh International <i>Piers Plowman Conference</i>	April 5, 2019 Miami, FL
“Textuality, Latinity, and Piers Plowman’s Archival Malady” at the Sixth International <i>Piers Plowman Conference</i>	July 23, 2015 Univ. of Washington

“The <i>Piers Plowman</i> Uncertainty Principle” for the <i>postmedieval</i> sponsored panel on Quantum Medievalisms at the 50 <sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies	May 17, 2015 Kalamazoo, MI
“ <i>Piers Plowman</i> ’s Later Archive: Takamiya MS 23and Devotional Reception” at the 7 <sup>th</sup> Annual Medievalists Conference	Feb. 27, 2015 Univ. of Pennsylvania
“Turning Turk: Materiality, Corporeality, and Cultural Exchange in Lady Mary Wortley Montagu’s <i>Turkish Embassy Letters</i> ” at The Economy of Scales Conference	March 22, 2014 Univ. of Michigan
“Subalterns in the Holler: Post-Colonial Portrayals of Appalachians in Contemporary Fiction” at the Society for the Study of Southern Literature’s Biennial Conference, Other Souths Panel	March 28, 2014 Arlington, VA
“ <i>Translatio</i> and the Changing Role of the Compiler in Chaucer’s <i>Troilus &amp; Criseyde</i> ” at Making Knowledge in Medieval and Early Modern Culture	April 5, 2014 Univ. of North Carolina

### **Invited Guest Lectures, Responses, and Media**

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“The Digital Archive & Materiality” with Matthew Kirschenbaum for the Digital Medievalist’s Coding Codices Podcast	June 4, 2021
Invited panelist for “Adventures in Libraries: the Present and Future of Medieval Manuscript Studies.” Newberry Library	March 18, 2021
“Artists’ Books as Analytical Mode” for the Book Media Working Group at Yale University	Oct. 29, 2020
“Editing Beinecke Library, Takamiya MS 23” for the Textual Editing Working Group at Yale University	Oct. 22, 2020
"Piers Plowman in the Beinecke Library," for the Making the Medieval Manuscript Exhibit at the Beinecke Library.	Nov. 6, 2017 Yale University
"Medieval Manuscripts in the Beinecke Library," a hands-on manuscript workshop with graduate and undergraduate students from Southern Connecticut State University English 385 and English 514.	Nov. 21, 2016 Yale University
Invited Response to Prof. Emily Steiner's "Trevisa's Encyclopedic Style" for the Yale English Department Medieval Colloquium	Oct. 28, 2016 Yale University
Invited Response to Prof. Cord Whitaker's "Chaucer's <i>Miller's Tale</i> and the Spiritual Side of Race" for the Yale English Department Medieval Colloquium	Nov. 12, 2015 Yale University

## **Awards & Funding**

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Robert E. Darling Fellowship, Yale University	2019-2020
Chauncey Brewster Tinker Fellowship, Yale University	2018-2019
William Lyon Phelps Fellowship in English, Yale University	2017-2018
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Yale University Graduate Fellowship	2015-2021
Invited member of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society	2015
University Graduate Teaching Award, North Carolina State University	2014-2015
William T. Buice III Scholarship, Virginia Rare Book School	2014, 2021
Graduate Teaching Assistantship, North Carolina State University	2013-2015
Graduate Research Assistantship, University of North Carolina	2009-2010
Columbia College First-Generation Scholarship Recipient	2003-2007

## **Selected Seminars & Workshops Attended**

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Virginia Rare Book School	Summer 2021
Introduction to Islamic Manuscripts with Kelly Tuttle	Virtual
Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library	Spring 2019
Designing & Curating an Exhibition: A workshop with Professor Daniel Wakelin	New Haven, CT
Virginia Rare Book School	Summer 2016
The Bible & Histories of Reading at the Univ. of Penn. with Prof. Peter Stallybrass	Philadelphia, PA
Virginia Rare Book School	Summer 2014
Advanced Manuscript Studies Seminar at Yale Univ. with Prof. Barbara Shailor	New Haven, CT
Folger Institute Graduate Seminar	Spring 2014
Graduate Seminar in Research Methods with Prof. Denise Albanese	Washington, DC
University of London Rare Book & Paleography Summer School	Summer 2011
The Medieval Book & Latin Paleography with Prof. Michelle Brown	London, UK

## **Academic Service Work**

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First-Generation Student Group, University of Iowa Libraries	2021-Present
Future of Work Committee, University of Iowa Libraries	2021
Yale Department of English Teaching Selection Committee Student Representative	2018-2020

Graduate Student Advisory Committee for the Yale English Department	2018-2020
Presider for "Visual-Textual Encounters," a panel discussion between Professors Jessica Brantley (Yale), Michelle Brown (British Library), & Sonja Drimmer (UMass)	December, 2018 New Haven, CT
Conference Co-Organizer: "Making the English Book." Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Yale University.	2017
Member, English Departmental Lectures Selection Committee	2016-2018
Convener, Yale English Department Medieval Colloquium	2016-2018

## Languages

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Classical & Medieval Latin (Proficient); French (Proficient Reading); Ancient Greek & Koine (Proficient Reading); Spanish (Reading); Russian (Proficient Reading, Intermediate Speaking); German (Reading); Middle English; Old English.

## Technical Skills

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Medieval & Early Modern Paleography; XML; HTML; Full MS Office Suite & SharePoint; Drupal Website Suite; Voyager Cataloging; Omeka; ArchivesSpace; AACR2; MARC; DCRM; AMREMM

## Memberships

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Bibliographical Society of America  
 Modern Language Association  
 International Piers Plowman Society  
 American Library Association  
 Association of College & Research Libraries  
 Rare Books & Manuscripts Section of the ACRL