

# WILLIAM LAYHER

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Madison, WI 53715  
wlayher2@gmail.com

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. Harvard University, 1999  
Germanic Languages and Literatures

Göteborgs Universitet, Sweden, 1997-98  
Fulbright grant for dissertation research  
Member of Research Colloquium in Old Norse literature

B.A. Northwestern University, 1991  
Double-major in German Literature and Theater Arts (scene design)

Certificate in Waldorf Education, Antioch University, 2014

## EMPLOYMENT

Madison Waldorf School, Grade 7 - 8 Teacher (2014 – present)

St. Louis Waldorf School, Grade 4 - 6 Teacher (2011 – 2014)

Washington University in St. Louis, Assistant Professor (2002 – 2011)  
Dept. of Germanic Languages and Literatures

Coordinator of the Medieval Colloquium at Washington University in St. Louis (2010 – 2011)

Honorary Research Fellow in Comparative Literature, Washington University in St. Louis (2011 – )

Brown University, Visiting Lecturer (Spring 2000)  
Department of Germanic Studies

## AREAS OF RESEARCH INTEREST

Medieval German Literature, Mediality and Voice, Gender and Courtly Representation, Medieval Scandinavian Literature (including Icelandic Sagas), Poetics, Monstrosity and Alterity

## LANGUAGES

Modern: German (near-native), Swedish (near-native), Danish, Norwegian, French  
Medieval: Middle High German, Middle Low German, Old Norse, Old Swedish, Latin

## BOOKS

### Monograph

Queenship and Voice in Medieval Northern Europe. New York: Palgrave, 2010.

### Co-Edited Anthologies

Layher, William, and Ingrid Bennewitz, eds. der âventiuren dôn: Klang, Hören und Hörergemeinschaften in der deutschen Literatur des Mittelalters. Wiesbaden: Reichert, 2013.

Layher, William, and Gerhild Williams, eds. Consuming News: Newspapers and Print Culture in Early Modern Germany (1500-1800). Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2009.

## ARTICLES

"Manuscripts of the Eufemiavisor." The Eufemiavisor and Courtly Culture – Time, Texts and Cultural Transfer. Eds: Olle Ferm, Ingela Hedström, Sofia Lodén, Jonatan Pettersson & Mia Åkestam. Stockholm: Kungl. Vitterhetsakademien, 2015 (forthcoming).

"Network or Net? Filtering the Political Voice in the *Revelaciones* of St. Birgitta of Sweden." Applikationen der Netzwerktheorie auf die europäischen Literatur- und Kulturtraditionen des Mittelalters und der Moderne. Eds. B. Hilsmann, Susanne Kramarz-Bein. Münster: LIT Verlag, 2015. 113-138.

"Acoustic Control: Sound, Gender and *Öffentlichkeit* at the Medieval Court." Deutsche Vierteljahrsschrift für Literaturwissenschaft und Geistesgeschichte 86 (2012): 331-64.

"Hörbarkeit im Mittelalter. Ein auditiver Überblick." der âventiuren dôn: Klang, Hören und Hörergemeinschaften in der deutschen Literatur des Mittelalters. Eds. William Layher and Ingrid Bennewitz. Imagines Medii Aevi. Wiesbaden: Reichert, 2013. 9-30.

"Der Klang der Vergangenheit: Historisierende Strophenkunst im 'Laurin' des Dresdner Heldenbuchs." der âventiuren dôn: Klang als Representation in der deutschen Literatur des Mittelalters. Eds. William Layher and Ingrid Bennewitz. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2013. 103-20.

"*Sô sîeze waz der schellen klanc*: Music, Dissonance and the Sweetness of Pain in Gottfried's *Tristan*." Beiträge zur Geschichte der Deutschen Sprache und Literatur 133 (2011): 1-30.

"The Old Swedish *Herra Ivan Leons riddare*." The Arthur of the North: The Arthurian Legend in the Norse and Rus' Realms. Ed. Marianne Kalinke. Vol. 5. Arthurian Literature in the Middle Ages. Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2011. 123-44.

"Heldenschmerz: Ein Blick auf die (Un)verwundbarkeit von Körper und Seele in den deutschen *Heldenbüchern* des Spätmittelalters." Schmerz in der Literatur des Mittelalters und der Frühen Neuzeit. Eds. Hans-Jochen Schiewer, Stefan Seeber and Markus Stock. Göttingen: V & R Unipress, 2010. 191-211.

"'She was completely wicked': Kriemhild as *exemplum* in a 13th-century Sermon. Image - Topos - Problem." Zeitschrift für deutsches Altertum 138 (2009): 344-60.

"Horrors of the East: Printing *Dracole Wayda* in 15th-Century Germany." Consuming News: Newspapers and Print Culture in Early Modern Germany (1500-1800). Eds. Gerhild Williams and William Layher. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2009. 11-32.

"Starkathr's Teeth." JEGP 108 (2009): 1-26.

"Elephants in the Garden. On Wild Beasts and *Wlwalla* in the Old Swedish *Dikten Om Kung Albrecht*." Lärdomber oc Skämtan. Medieval Swedish Literature Reconsidered. Eds. Massimiliano Bampi and Fulvio Ferrari. Vol. 5. Serie 3. Smärre texter och undersökningar. Uppsala: Svenska fornskriftsällskapet, 2008. 81-96.

"The Big Splash: Endrhyme and Innovation in Medieval Scandinavian Poetics." Scandinavian Studies 80 (2008): 407-36.

"Caught Between Worlds: Gendering the Maiden Warrior in Old Norse." Women in Medieval Epic. Eds.

- Sara S. Poor and Jana Schulman. New York: Palgrave, 2006. 267-97.
- “Siegfried the Giant: Heroic Representation and the Amplified Body in the >Heldenbuch< of 1479.” Kulturen des Manuskriptzeitalters. Eds. Art Groos and Hans-Jochen Schiewer. Vol. 1. Transatlantische Studien zu Mittelalter und Früher Zeuzeit. Göttingen: V & R unipress, 2004. 181-215.
- “Looking up at 'Holger Dansk og Burmand' (DgF 30).” The Singer and the Scribe. European Ballad Traditions and European Ballad Cultures. Eds. Philip E. Bennett and Richard Firth Green. Vol. 75. Internationale Forschungen zur allgemeinen und vergleichenden Literaturwissenschaft. Amsterdam, New York: Rodopi, 2004. 89-103.
- “Ein verlorenes Brautwerbungsepos? Wo ist *\*Herzog Friedrich von der Normandie* in der deutschen Literatur einzuordnen?” Ordnung und Unordnung in der Literatur des Mittelalters. Eds. Wolfgang Harms, C. Stephen Jaeger and Horst Wenzel. Stuttgart: S. Hirzel, 2003. 61-80.
- “‘Herzog Friedrich von der Normandie’ (‘Hertig Fredrik af Normandie’).” Die deutsche Literatur des Mittelalters: Verfasserlexikon. Eds. Kurt Ruh, et al. Vol. 11. Berlin, New York: Walter de Gruyter, 2002. 653-56.
- “Meister Rumelant & Co.: German poets (real and imagined) in 13th-century Denmark.” Zeitschrift für Deutsche Philologie (Sonderheft) 119 (2000): 143-66.
- “Killing Erik Glipping, 1286: On the early years of a Danish historical ballad.” Lied und populäre Kultur/ Song and Popular Culture: Jahrbuch des Deutschen Volksliedarchivs 45 (2000): 13-34.
- “Origins of the Old Swedish epic ‘Hertig Fredrik af Normandie’: a Middle Dutch link?” Tijdschrift voor Skandinavistiek 21 (2000): 223-49.

## BOOK REVIEWS

- Reflexionen des Geschichtlichen. Zur literarischen Konstituierung mittelhochdeutscher Heldenepik* by Cordula Kropik. JEGP 109 (2010): 282-86.
- Handschriften und ihre Texte: Dietrichs Flucht und Rabenschlacht im Spannungsfeld von Überlieferung und Textkritik* by Renate Aschenbach. JEGP 105 (2006): 460-62.
- Discerning Spirits: Divine and Demonic Possession in the Middle Ages* by Nancy Caciola. Renaissance Quarterly 57 (2004): 1460-62.
- A Companion to Middle High German Literature to the 14th Century* by Frank Gentry, ed. The Medieval Review January (2004): <http://www.hti.umich.edu/t/tmr>.
- Norse Romance* by Marianne Kalinke, ed. Speculum 76.1 (2001): 180-83.
- König Ermenrikes Dôt: Die Niederdeutsche Flugschrift ‘Dirick van dem Berne’ und ‘Van jungen Baltzer’* by Hilker Weddige. JEGP 98 (1997): 87-89.

## INVITED LECTURES

- “Eufemia, Fiction, and Flores och Blanzeflor.” Keynote for the international symposium “Eufemiavisor and Courtly Culture: Time, Texts and Cultural Transfer.” Stockholm University, Sweden, October 2012.
- “Queenship and Voice in Medieval Northern Europe.” Keynote for the Society for Medieval Germanic Studies, 46<sup>th</sup> annual International Conference on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, May 2011.
- “Music, Sound and Desire in the *Tristan* of Gottfried von Strassburg.” Truman State University, April 2011
- “Music, Dissonance, and the Sweetness of Pain in Gottfried’s *Tristan*.” University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, February 2011.

- "Horrors of the East: Vlad Dracula and the Turkish Threat in 15<sup>th</sup>-century Germany." Washington & Lee University, May 2009.
- "Discourses and Deception in the *Nibelungenlied*." Presentation and Lecture for the course entitled "Living by the Code: Honor, Love, and War in the High Middle Ages." Washington & Lee University, May 2009.
- "Queen Margareta speaks with St. Birgitta: Echoes of *vox reginae* and *vox mysticae* in late-medieval Sweden." Symposium on "New Directions in Gender Studies and Medieval German Studies." Princeton, November 2008.
- "*Ein wunderliche und erschrockenliche hystori*: Printing *Dracula* in 15th-Century Germany." University of Illinois, September 2008.
- "Man – Savage – Monstrous Beast. Humanizing the Other in the Early Modern." Graduate Workshop at the University of Illinois, Rare Book Library, October 2008.
- "*Der aventiuren klang*: Sound als sinntragendes Element im 'Laurin' des Spätmittelalters." Universität München, July 2008.
- "*Dicitur quod Crimhilt omnino mala fuit, sed nichil est*: Zur Kritik der bösen Kriemhild in einer Predigt des 13. Jahrhunderts." Deutsches Seminar / Tübinger Kolloquium Vormoderne, Universität Tübingen, June 2008.
- "Heldenrelikte im Spätmittelalter. Zur Poetik des entschwundenen Körpers." Graduiertenschule für die Geisteswissenschaften / Mittelalterkreis, Universität Würzburg, May 2008.
- "*vom touf unz an sin ende geschach in nie so wê*: Über Schmerzauffassung im Mittelalter und die (Un)verwundbarkeit von Leib und Seele in der deutschen Heldenepik. ['Nibelungenlied' – 'Sigenôt' – 'Eckenlied']." Zentrum für Mittelalterstudien (ZEMAS), Universität Bamberg, November 2007.
- "Schweden unter Margareta von Dänemark (1389): Übergabe von Land und Herrschaft *in manu feminae*." Symposium on "Legitimation der Einzelherrschaft" at the Universität Bamberg, Nov. 2006.
- "*Lât strîten*: Violence and Specular Pleasure in 'Rosengarten'." Lehrstuhl für Deutsche Philologie des Mittelalters, Universität Bamberg, June 2006.
- "CSI: Denmark. A Medievalist Revisits the Most Famous Murder of 1286" Fireside Chat sponsored by ArtSci Council, Eliot House. October, 2004.
- "On Maps, Monsters, and Nordic Mythology." University of Colorado, February 2000.
- "Jag skal førsøge det som fotograf: Ibsen, Realism, and Photography." The American Repertory Theater, Symposium series for Ibsen's *The Wild Duck*, January 1997.

#### CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

- Co-Organizer of "Medieval Court Culture: A Symposium," Washington University in St. Louis, April 2011.
- Organizer and Host of the conference "Klang, Geräusch, Stille und Echo: Zur Akustik des deutschen Mittelalters", Universität Bamberg, July 2008.
- Co-organizer of the International Symposium "Consuming News: Newspapers and Print Culture in Early Modern Europe (1500-1800)," Department of Germanic Languages, Washington University in St. Louis, April 2008.

#### CONFERENCE PAPERS

- "Speaking Like a Bat: Voice, Oblivion and Darkness in *Death and the Plowman*," Symposium on Medieval Court Culture, Washington University, April 2011.
- "Whispers, Murmurs, Silence: Strategies of 'Acoustic Control' in the Courtly Love Lyric," Reading Group in Medieval Court Culture, Washington University, April 2011.

- "Sight, Surveillance and the Control of Courtly Women," Reading Group in Medieval Court Culture, Washington University, March 2011.
- "Over the Line: Laughing about Vlad Dracula in Late-Medieval Germany." 126<sup>th</sup> MLA Convention, Los Angeles, January 2011.
- "Starkathr als Nationalheld im mittelalterlichen Norden: Spiel – Wettkampf – Konkurrenz um eine umstrittene Figur." International Conference on "Spiele und Sport im mittelalterlichen Nordeuropa." Universität Göttingen, October 2010.
- "*Urrâ burrâ*: Punchline and Performance in Neidhart's 'Ich erwinde niemer'." 45<sup>th</sup> annual International Conference on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, May 2010.
- "Oral Tradition and the Teaching of Medieval Texts." Roundtable presentation at the 45<sup>th</sup> annual International Conference on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, May 2010.
- "Elite Readership and Heroic Self-Fashioning in the 1479 'Heldenbuch'." 33<sup>rd</sup> annual German Studies Association conference in Washington D.C., October 2009.
- "Sound as Narcotic in Gottfried's 'Tristan': Ringing Petricrieu's Bell." 124<sup>th</sup> MLA Convention, San Francisco, December 2008.
- "Der Klang der Vergangenheit. Historisierende Strophenkunst im 'Laurin' des Dresdner Heldenbuchs." International Conference on "Klang, Geräusch, Stille und Echo: Zur Akustik des deutschen Mittelalters." Universität Bamberg, July 2008.
- "Horrors of the East: Setting 'Dracole Wayda' to Print in 15<sup>th</sup>-century Germany." 19<sup>th</sup> St. Louis Symposium on German Literature and Culture. Washington University in St. Louis, April 2008.
- "Kriemhilds Kuss. Lippenbekenntnisse einer rächenden Schwester. Nochmals zur Genderdynamik im 'Nibelungenlied'." International conference on "Generations and Gender in Medieval and Early Modern Literature", Universität Bamberg, November 2007
- "Heldenschmerz: Ein Blick auf die (Un)verwundbarkeit von Körper und Seele in den deutschen 'Heldenbüchern' des Spätmittelalters." Third German-American Conference in Medieval German Studies, Freiburg, May 2007.
- "'You Danes Must Do As I Say': Queenship, Voice, and Performance in 13<sup>th</sup>-Century Denmark." 42<sup>nd</sup> annual International Conference on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, May 2007.
- "The Objectified Text: Using *realia* to teach Middle High German." 41<sup>st</sup> annual International Conference on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, May 2006.
- "*Ich kan trowen nicht beten, leue knecht*: The Old Swedish 'Dikten om kung Albrecht' and the Anti-German Backlash of the 14<sup>th</sup> Century." Oswald-von-Wolkenstein Gesellschaft ("Deutsch-skandinavische Literatur- und Kulturbeziehungen im Mittelalter"). Nikolaus-Cusanus-Akademie, Brixen, Tyrol, October 2005.
- "Perverted Paradise: the 'Rosengarten' as *Minneroman*" 40<sup>th</sup> annual International Conference on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, May 2005.
- "In Praise of Esoterica: Material Culture in the Medieval Studies Curriculum." ACTFL (AATG), Chicago, November 2004.
- "Siegfried the Giant: Myths, Bones, and Heroic Relics in Late-Medieval Germany." Mid-American Medieval Association, University of Missouri, Columbia, February 2004.
- "The Fire-Breathing Dietrich von Bern: Fury and Degenerate Heroism in the 'Rosengarten.'" Presented at the 27<sup>th</sup> annual German Studies Association conference in New Orleans, September 2003.
- "Kriemhild: *Omnino mala fuerit*." Presented at the 38<sup>th</sup> annual International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, May 2003.
- "Siegfried the Giant: Myths, Bones, and Heroic Relics in Late-Medieval Germany." Presented at the Zweite Amerikanisch-deutsche Arbeitstagung "Kulturen des Manuskriptzeitalters" in Göttingen, Germany, October 2002.

- "Kriemhild's Kiss." Presented at a panel entitled "Language, Gender, Power" at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual German Studies Association conference in San Diego, October 2002.
- "Caught between worlds: Masculine warrior-women in some Old Norse Heroic Sagas." Presented at the 37<sup>th</sup> annual International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, May 2002.
- "Snapshot of a Nordic Ballad: DgF 30, 'Holger Dansk og Burmand', in Floda Church, Sweden." Presented at the 36<sup>th</sup> annual International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, May 2001.
- "Ein neues Spielmannsepos? Wo ist das Epos 'Herzog Friedrich von der Normandie' einzuordnen?" The Munich-Seattle Medieval Studies Conference "Ordnung und Unordnung" in Ruhpolding, Oberbayern, June 2000.
- "Starkadr's Teeth: Traces of a Monstrous Life." 90<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, May 2000.
- "The Old Swedish 'Hertig Fredrik af Normandie': recovering a lost *Spielmannsepos*." 35<sup>th</sup> annual International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, May 2000.
- "The Name of Starkadr." Ford Foundation Seminar on Germanic Philology, Harvard University, April 2000.
- "Killing Erik Glipping: German poems, Nordic ballads, and the Danish regicide of 1286." 89<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies, University of Washington at Seattle, May 1999.
- "Zum Literaturkontakt zwischen Deutschland und Dänemark im Hochmittelalter an Hand der Gedichte Rumeslants von Sachsen in der Jenaer Liederhandschrift." Göteborgs universitet, May 1998.
- "Tyska 'litteraturexport' inom Norden ca. 1287: nya synpunkter på de fornsvenska Eufemiavisornas tillkomst." Göteborgs universitet, April 1998.
- "Auch ein weill in Dennemarckh gewesen: German poets and poetry in 13<sup>th</sup>-century Denmark." 32<sup>nd</sup> annual International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, May 1997.
- "The Medieval Totentanz: Origins and Repercussions of a Medieval Theme." Graduate Student Conference, Department of German, University of Virginia, April 1995.
- "Caught Between Two Worlds: Old Norse Warrior Women in a Masculine Discourse." Graduate Student Conference, Department of Germanic Studies, Yale University, April 1994.

## CONFERENCE SERVICE

- Chair of Panel on "Late Medieval and Early Modern Literature", 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeastern Medieval Association Meeting on "Bodies, Embodiments, Becomings". St. Louis, October 2008.
- Organizer of the panels "*Gar untiutsch...* Encounters with Non-Germans in the German Middle Ages" and "'Medieval': Finding the End of an Age" at the 2006 German Studies Association conference, Pittsburgh.
- Organizer of the panel "Integrating Medieval Studies into the Undergraduate Curriculum" at the 2004 ACTFL conference, Chicago.
- Organizer of the panels "Taboo, Disease, and Moral Corruption in the Middle Ages" and "German Identity in the Middle Ages" at the 2004 German Studies Association conference, Washington D.C.
- Chair of Panel "Concepts of Good and Evil in Northern Texts" at the Mid American Medieval Association conference, University of Missouri, Columbia.
- Organizer of the panels "Encountering the East in Medieval German Literature" and "Fury in Medieval German Literature" at the 2003 German Studies Association conference, New Orleans.

Commentator for the panel "Early-Modern Laughter Rituals" at the 2002 German Studies Association conference in San Diego.

## **RESEARCH GRANTS**

- "The Cruel Turk? Otherness and Disenchantment in German-language *Turcica* of the 15<sup>th</sup> century." Faculty research grant from the School of Arts & Sciences, Washington University in St. Louis, Summer 2009.
- "Klang, Geräusch, Stille und Echo – Zur Akustik des Deutschen Mittelalters." International symposium on Sound as Representation in Medieval Literature. Supported by a grant from the Zentrum für Mittelalterstudien, Universität Bamberg, July 2008.
- "Deadly Play: Violence and Visual Pleasure in Late-Medieval Germany." Research grant from the Earhart Foundation, Fall 2007.
- "The Heroic Body in Late-Medieval Germany: Image and Ideal." Research grant from the DAAD, Summer 2007.
- "Siegfried the Giant: Deforming the Hero's Body in Late-Medieval Germany." Faculty research grant from the School of Arts & Sciences, Washington University in St. Louis, Summer 2004.

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### **Undergraduate**

Death and Dying in Medieval Europe  
Folk Tale and Fairy Tale: *Märchen* and the Culture of Childhood  
Monsters of the Middle Ages  
The Nightingale and the Falcon: Eros and Violence in the Middle Ages  
A Troubled Legacy: The 'Nibelungenlied' as National Epic  
The Vikings  
Modern German Drama  
German Literature in the Modern Era  
The Medieval Stage

Beginning, Intermediate & Advanced German  
Beginning and Intermediate Swedish

### **Graduate**

Seminar: Gottfried's *Tristan*  
History of the German Language – Sickness and Healing in Early German Literature  
History of the German Language – Beasts and Birds in Early German Literature  
Seminar: *Nibelungenlied*

## **SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Service to the Undergraduate Program**

Director, Göttingen Summer Program in German (through Washington University in St. Louis)  
Faculty liaison for 7-week German program at the Goethe Institut in Göttingen, Germany  
Faculty advisor, Career Center at Washington University in St. Louis  
Faculty advisor for Delta Phi Alpha  
Textbook committee for revised German 210 curriculum  
Departmental Faculty liaison for the 150 Years / Sesquicentennial celebration at Washington University

Faculty sponsor, Middle High German reading group (2002-2003, 2010-2011)  
Faculty recruitment for enrollments in Swedish program  
German Major Advisor (2002-present)  
Honors Thesis Advisor (2004-present)  
Department Representative at Arts & Sciences Major/Minor Fair (2002-2006, 2008, 2009)



**Service to the Graduate Program**

Co-founder, Graduate Reading Group in Middle High German Literature

Graduate Admissions Committee

Ph.D. Dissertation Committee in Comparative Literature

M.A. Thesis Committees

Reader, Qualifying Paper for M.A. Program

Faculty judge, Graduate Student Research Symposium, Washington University

Assisted with pedagogy and departmental-wide TA supervision and observation (2002- present)

**Service to the Profession**

MLA Executive Committee – Division on German Literature to 1700

Editorial Board, *European Journal of Scandinavian Studies*

Presenter, AATG German pedagogy workshop “Soccer at All Levels of German Language Instruction” at Washington University, April 2009.

Article Referee for *Seminar*

Co-founder of YMAGINA (Young Medievalist Germanists in North America) [www.ymagina.org](http://www.ymagina.org)

**MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Modern Language Association, German Studies Association, Medieval Academy, International Courtly Literature Society (German Section), Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies, American Association of Teachers of German (AATG)