NCS PRESIDENT ELECTION 2022

Candidate Statements

Holly A. Crocker (Department of English, University of South Carolina)

My work with NCS reflects my commitment to a Chaucer studies that emerges from the intersection of theory, advocacy, and history. As a member of the program committee for 2012, I organized threads that explored new critical approaches to science and image. In my role as co-chair of the program committee for 2014 (with Glenn Burger), I worked to devise an inclusive program during a period of significant growth for NCS. I collaborated with Stephanie Trigg and Marion Turner to organize a thread on theory for the 2020 (now 2022) congress; and I worked with Patricia Ingham to organize a panel on “Medieval Scholarship in Precarious Times” for the 2021 Virtual Expo. Currently, I am editing a cluster of essays on “Reconsidering the Subject” for Studies in the Age of Chaucer, and I am co-editing a forum on “Gender, Patriarchy, and Liberation: Imani Perry’s Vexy Thing and Medieval Studies” for Exemplaria (with Carissa Harris). My scholarship ranges from medieval to early modern, from popular to philosophical, but it always begins or ends with considerations of Chaucer. My first book, Chaucer’s Visions of Manhood (2007), is a feminist analysis of Chaucerian masculinities; my second book, The Matter of Virtue (2019) studies women’s importance to a rival tradition of virtue ethics in Chaucer; my current book project, The Subject of Feminism in Late Medieval Literature, frames its critique of masculinist subjectivity with analysis of Chaucer’s Knight’s Tale and Clerk’s Tale. I look forward to a field where new voices shape transformative conversations, and as president of NCS, I would work tirelessly to ensure that the society welcomes ideas, questions, and topics from emerging or established scholars, lone medievalists or contingent professors who wonder “Why Chaucer?” in our current moment.

Emily Steiner (Department of English, University of Pennsylvania)

For the last two decades I have been teaching and writing in the English department at the University of Pennsylvania. I care a lot about teaching and am honored to have received the Lindback Teaching Award (2016) and the Medieval Academy CARA Teaching Award (2017). I have published widely on Langland, Chaucer, and Trevisa, law and literature, medieval drama, historical writing, and, most recently, on information culture and the transmission of knowledge. Over the course of my career, I have dedicated myself to building scholarly community as well as to producing scholarship. Mentorship is at the top of my list right now. I am lucky to have had devoted mentors and appreciate the value of mentorship for both individual careers and the health of the field. For the last four years, I have led Networks in the Humanities, a Penn mentorship program for assistant professors funded by a Mellon Diversity Grant. I would like to launch something a little more ambitious for NCS: a mentorship program that would support teachers and researchers in a variety of institutional settings. Collegiality is also a key issue for me in building scholarly community. Although I once thought of myself as a solitary scholar, it turns out that I love collaborative projects. I have co-edited many volumes of essays; at the moment I’m co-editing the Oxford Handbook of Middle English Prose and another volume on the visibility of Jewish scholars in medieval studies. Like Chaucer,
I find other people fascinating and treasure opportunities to brainstorm with contributors, or mingle at the Congress wine hour, or zoom into monthly WIP meetings. I am committed to making our society a welcoming intellectual space for everyone.

A third, deeply important issue for me is outreach. As director of the International *Piers Plowman* Society, I ran a successful virtual reading group with participants from around the world. This year I’m planning a free online pedagogy workshop called “Piers Without Tears.” Next spring I’m planning to teach medieval literature in the Teachers Institute, an organization that supports middle and high school teachers from underserved Philadelphia communities. I would like the chance to put good content about medieval literature into wider circulation, using all the resources of contemporary media. I would also like to find dynamic partners for NCS who might support this initiative.

**Stephanie Trigg, FAHA (Department of English, University of Melbourne)**

I was educated in Australia and have spent my working life at the University of Melbourne, where I am Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor of English Literature. My publications in medieval studies include my edition of *Wynmere and Wastoure* (1990), and several books of criticism, including *Congenial Souls: Reading Chaucer Medieval to Postmodern* (2002); *Shame and Honor: A Vulgar History of the Order of the Garter* (2012); and with Thomas A. Prendergast, *Affective Medievalism: Love, Abjection and Discontent* (2019), and *30 Great Myths about Chaucer* (2020). I have edited several essay collections and special issues of journals in medieval and medievalism studies, and published a book on the Australian poet, *Gwen Harwood* (1994). My current collaborative research project (with Joe Hughes, Tyne Sumner and Guillemette Bolens) is funded by the Australian Research Council’s Discovery project scheme: “Literature and the Face: A Critical History.”

I have served as a Trustee for NCS (2008-12) and I gave the Biennial Chaucer lecture in 2016, “Chaucer’s Silent Discourse”. I have also recently completed a three-year term as Head of the English Section of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. I was a founding Chief Investigator of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions (2011-19); and I am currently on the Council of the Society for the History of Emotions, and the Advisory Board of the John Rylands Institute, Manchester. I am also on the editorial board of the Manchester Medieval Literature and Culture book series.

As a “lone medievalist” in my department, I have a special interest in articulating closer relationships between medieval studies and post-medieval literary studies, and between medieval literature and medievalism. In the last ten years I have become more convinced of the value of collaborative research and writing across periods and disciplines. I am also interested in finding ways for medievalists to become more involved in public culture, and to take part in global discussions about the future of humanities scholarship. I have considerable experience in mentoring graduate students and early career researchers, in medieval studies and other areas of literary studies.