

Michel Aaij (updated August 2025)
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Education

Ph.D. English, The University of Alabama (1998-2002)

Dissertation: *Elene and the True Cross*. Director: John P. Hermann.

M.A. English, The University of Alabama (1995-1997)

Thesis: *Missing Feminine Presence in Beowulf*. Director: John P. Hermann.

Graduate work, Philosophy, Physics, English, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (1987-1991)

Propedeuse, Philosophy, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (1986-1987)

Employment

Associate Professor, Auburn University Montgomery (2006-)

Tenure awarded, promotion to associate in 2011

Lecturer, University of Tennessee (2004-2006)

NEH Visiting Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina-Asheville (2003-2004)

Instructor, University of Alabama (2003)

Graduate teaching assistant, University of Alabama (1995-2002)

Book

A Companion to Boniface, with Dr. Shannon Godlove. Edited collection with 18 chapters; I contributed "The Boniface Correspondence (123-51), "Popular Veneration and the Image of Boniface in the Modern Era" (428-71). Brill's Companions to the Christian Tradition 92. Brill, 2020.

Articles

"The Poet of the Confederacy: How Sidney Lanier's Reworking of Sir Thomas Malory Shaped and Popularized Southern Notions of Chivalry," forthcoming in *American Medievalism and the US South*

"Medievalism and the Old South: Metaphors and References in the Works of Poets of the Confederacy," in *Studies in Medievalism* 32 (2022), 171-94

"Teaching the Old and Middle English Judith—Back into the Canon," *Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Teaching* 24.1 (2017), 161-80

"A Love Stronger than Death: The Persistence of Saint Elisabeth in Western Europe," *Spiritus* 9 (2009): 189-216. Research supported by Grant-In-Aid, \$2500, AUM, Summer 2007

"Saint Elisabeth of Thuringia, 1207-2007," *The Heroic Age* 10 (March 2007), <http://www.heroicage.org/issues/10/bio2.html>, 2400 words

"Boniface's Booklife: How the Ragyndrudis Codex Came to be a Vita Bonifatii," *The Heroic Age* 10 (March 2007), <http://www.heroicage.org/issues/10/aaij.html>, 11600 words

"Perverted Love in Chaucer's 'Anelida and Arcite,'" *Medieval Perspectives* 14 (1999): 13-19.

"Beowulf and the Reign of Cnut," *Matheliende* 5.3 (1998): 1, 4-5, 11

"Editing Beowulf," *Matheliende* 5.1 (1997): 10-12

Reference articles

Classic and Medieval Literature Criticism, Gale Literary Criticism Series:

"Saint Boniface circa 675-754: Anglo-Saxon missionary and church reformer." Vol. 190 (2018): 1-114.

"Cædmon fl. circa 658-80: English poet." Vol. 198 (2018): 1-150.

"Nicole Bozon fl. fourteenth century: Anglo-Norman poet and prose writer." Vol. 200 (2019): 1-80.

“Adso of Montier-en-Der 910?-992: French monk, hagiographer, and scholar.” Vol. 206 (2020): 1-64.

Ongoing research projects

Modern Veneration of St. Boniface in Germany, the Netherlands, and England. 65,000 words

Annotated bibliography on Saint Boniface; EndNote database with over 1400 entries

Review articles, “Continental Business”

Ludo Jongen, Julia Szirmai, and Johan H. Winkelman, *De reis van Sint Brandaan*. *The Heroic Age* 16 (2015), <http://www.heroicage.org/issues/16/cb.php>, 1700 words

Willem van der Meiden, *Christus tussen IJssel en Elbe, Inculturatied motieven in de Heliand*. Eric Vanneufville, *Heliand: L'Évangile de la mer du Nord*. Gesine Mierke, *Memoria als Kulturtransfer: Der altsächsische Heliand zwischen Späntike und Frühmittelalter*. Clemens Burchhardt, ed., *Heliand: Die Verdener altsächsische Evangelium-Dichtung von 830 übertragen ins 21. Jahrhundert*. *The Heroic Age* 13 (August 2010) <http://www.heroicage.org/issues/13/cb.php>, 4200 words

Hans-Jürgen Kotzur, ed., *Rabanus Maurus: Auf den Spuren eines karolingischen Gelehrten*. Stephanie Haarländer, *Rabanus Maurus zum Kennenlernen: Ein Lesebuch mit einer Einführung in sein Leben und Werk*. Franz J. Felten, ed., *Hrabanus Maurus: Gelehrter, Abt von Fulda, und Erzbischof von Mainz*. *The Heroic Age* 12 (May 2009). <http://www.heroicage.org/issues/12/cb.php>, 3100 words

Review article on 14 German books on Saint Elisabeth. *The Heroic Age* 11 (May 2008) <http://www.heroicage.org/issues/11/cb.php>, 3900 words

Hubertus R. Drobner, *Der heilige Pankratius: Leben, Legende und Verehrung*. Dirk Otten, *Lebuïnus, een gedreven missionaris*. *The Heroic Age* 10 (May 2007). <http://www.heroicage.org/issues/10/cb.html>, 2500 words

Franz J. Felten, ed., *Bonifatius—Apostel der Deutschen: Mission und Christianisierung vom 8. bis 20. Jahrhundert*. Wolfgang Hamberger and Ietel J. Vida, eds., *Der Bonifatiusweg: Die Wurzeln Europas Entdecken*. Auke Jelsma, *Het Leven als Leerschool: Preken van Bonifatius*. *The Heroic Age* 9 (October 2006) <http://www.heroicage.org/issues/9/cb.html>, 6200 words

Auke Jelsma, *Bonifatius: Zijn Leven, Zijn Invloed*. Lutz E. von Padberg, *Bonifatius: Missionar und Reformer*. Hubertus Lutterbach, *Bonifatius—Mit Axt und Evangelium: Eine Biographie in Briefen*. *The Heroic Age* 8 (Spring 2005) <http://www.heroicage.org/issues/8/cb.html>, 4900 words

Janina Cünnen, *Fiktionale Nonnenwelten: Angelsächsische Frauenbriefe der 8. und 9. Jahrhundert*. *The Heroic Age* 7 (Spring 2004) <http://www.heroicage.org/issues/7/aiij.html>, 4000 words

Marco Mostert, *754: Bonifatius bij Dokkum Vermoord*. Petra Kehl, *Kult und Nachleben des Heiligen Bonifatius im Mittelalter (754-1200)*. *The Heroic Age* 6 (Spring 2003) <http://www.heroicage.org/issues/6/aiij.html>, 4000 words

Book reviews

Irvine, Susan. *Alfredian prologues and epilogues*. Oxford: 2024. *Choice* 62.2 (2024).

Cusato, Michael F. *Francis of Assisi*. U of Chicago P, 2023. *Choice* 61.8 (2023).

Faulkner, Mark Jonathan. *A New Literary History of the Long Twelfth Century*. Cambridge UP, 2022. *Choice* 60.12 (2023).

Steel, Karl. *How Not To Make a Human: Pets, Feral Children, Worms, Sky Burial, Oysters*. Minnesota UP: 2019. *Choice* 58.1 (2020), 38.

Smith, Rachel J. D. *Excessive Saints: Gender, Narrative, and Theological Invention in Thomas of*

- Cantimpré's Mystical Hagiographies*. Columbia UP: 2019. *Choice* 57.1 (2019), 63.
- Rosenberg, Samuel N. *Robert the Devil: The First Modern English Translation of Robert Le Diable*. Penn State UP: 2018. *Choice* 56.3 (2018), 340.
- Kellogg, Michael K. *The Wisdom of the Middle Ages*. Prometheus: 2016. *Choice* 55.1 (2017), 60.
- Schiff, Randy P. and Joseph Taylor, eds. *The Politics of Ecology: Land, Life, and Law in Medieval Britain*. Columbus: Ohio State UP, 2016. *Choice* 54.3 (2016), 366.
- Schulman, Jana K. and Paul Szarmach, eds. *Beowulf at Kalamazoo: Essays on Translation and Performance*. Kalamazoo: Medieval Institute, 2012. *South Atlantic Review* 80.1-2 (2015): 191-94.
- Sturges, Robert S., eds. and trans. *Aucassin and Nicolette*. East Lansing: Michigan State, 2015. *Choice* 53.1 (2015).
- Klemperer, Victor. *The language of the Third Reich*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2013. *Choice* 52.2 (2014).
- Willemyns, Roland. *Dutch: Biography of a Language*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2013. *Choice* 51.7 (2014): 1218.
- Grady, Frank and Andrew Galloway, eds. *Answerable Style: The Idea of the Literary in Medieval England*. Columbus: Ohio State UP, 2013. *Choice* 51.4 (2013): 634.
- Agapitos, Panagiotis A. and Lars Boje Mortensen, eds. *Medieval Narratives Between History and Fiction: From the Centre to the Periphery of Europe, c. 1100-1400*. Museum Tusculanum Press/UP of Copenhagen, 2012. *Choice* 50.9 (2013): 1622.
- Fox, Michael and Manish Sharma, eds. *Old English Literature and the Old English Testament*. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 2012. *Choice* 50.1 (2012): 84.
- Rider, Jeff and Jamie Friedman, eds. *The Inner Life of Women in Medieval Romance Literature: Grief, Guilt, and Hypocrisy*. Palgrave/Macmillan, 2011. *Choice* 49.5 (2012): 873.
- Jurasinski, Stefan. *Ancient Privileges: Beowulf, Law, and the Making of Germanic Antiquity*. Morgantown: WVU Press, 2006. *The Heroic Age* 14 (November 2010), <http://www.heroicage.org/issues/14/reviews.php>
- Bremmer, Jr., Rolf H. *Hir is Eskriven: Lezen en schrijven in de Friese landen rond 1300*. Hilversum: Verloren, 2004. *The Heroic Age* 9 (October 2006) <http://www.mun.ca/mst/heroicage/issues/9/reviews.html>
- Owen-Crocker, Gale R. *The Four Funerals in Beowulf and the Structure of the Poem*. Manchester: Manchester UP, 2000. *South Atlantic Review* 66.4 (2001): 153-57.

Presentations

- “From the Beauvoir Club to the Country Club: A Century and a Half of Social Clubbing in Montgomery,” Southern Studies Conference, Auburn University Montgomery, April 2023
- “Sidney and Clifford Lanier and Their Legacy in Montgomery,” Southern Studies Conference, Auburn University Montgomery, April 2023
- “The Poet of the Confederacy: How Sidney Lanier’s Reworking of Sir Thomas Malory Shaped and Popularized Southern Notions of Chivalry,” Race and Medievalism symposium, Tuscaloosa, AL, September 2022 (sponsored attendance)
- Attended North Africa Workshop, Georgia State University, June 2022 (sponsored attendance)
- “Medievalism and the Old South: Metaphors and References in the Works of Poets of the Confederacy,” Georgia Medieval Group meeting, March 2022
- “Putting Africa on the Map in the Sophomore Survey,” for South Atlantic Modern Language Association, November 2021
- “The Medieval Canon,” Roundtable, 54th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, May 2019
- “Revisiting Boniface and the Donar Oak—Hagiography, Legend, Syncretism,” at Southeastern Medieval Association, October 2016, Knoxville
- “Teaching Judith Back Into the Canon,” presented at Georgia Medievalists’ Group, November 2014

- “Three German Saints, Three Different Careers: The Afterlives of Rabanus Maurus, Boniface, and Elisabeth of Thuringia,” at 45th International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 2010
- “Hollywood’s *Beowulf* in the Classroom,” at Association of College English Teachers of Alabama conference, Montevallo, February 2010
- “Varieties of Cultural Otherness in Western Literature: Sexuality and Animal Imagery in Some Classic Western Texts,” at Southern Comparative Literature Association’s Conference, October 2008
- “A Star That Illuminates the Entire World: Happy 800th Birthday, Saint Elisabeth!”, at Southeastern Medieval Association conference, October 2007
- “A Changing Saint in a Changing Europe: Boniface’s German Career in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries,” at 40th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, May 2005
- “Rum-Ram-Ruf: Rhythm and Rhyme from Caedmon to Chaucer,” at Philological Association of the Carolinas, March 2004
- “Boniface and the Ragyndrudis-Codex: Rewriting a Book into a Vita,” at 38th International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 2003
- “Onward, Keatsian Soldiers: The Linguistic Import of Moneta’s ‘Language Pronounc’d’ in John Keats’s ‘The Fall of Hyperion: A Dream,’” at Sigma Tau Delta convention, March 2003
- “Scott’s Waterfalls: Monuments of Enduring Oblivion,” at Sigma Tau Delta convention, March 2002
- “From Odinn to Derrida and Back: Writing, Runes, and the Cross in *Elene*,” at South Atlantic Modern Language Association convention, November 2001
- “Relics and Writing: A Tortured Book and a Torturing Text,” Southeastern Medieval Association Conference, October 2001
- “Cynewulf’s Family Romance: A Psychoanalytic Reading of *Elene*,” at South Atlantic Modern Language Association convention, November 2000
- “Misreading in *Wieland*: Some Unresolved Issues,” at Sigma Tau Delta convention, March 2000
- “Charles Brockden Brown and *Wieland*’s Clara: A Man Writing Like A Woman Writing Like A Man,” at Annual Comparative Literature Symposium “Woman in the Eighteenth Century, January 2000
- “*Bartleby*’s Poetic Narrator,” at Sigma Tau Delta convention, March 1999
- “Machiavellian Rhetoric in *The Prince* and the *Mandragola*,” at South Atlantic Modern Language Association convention, November 1998
- “Perverted Love in Chaucer’s ‘Anelida and Arcite,’” at Southeastern Medieval Association conference, October 1998
- “Missing Feminine Presence in *Beowulf*,” at South Atlantic Modern Language Association convention, nominated for “Best Paper by a Graduate Student” by Prof. John M. Hill, November 1997

On-campus presentations

- “Dodging Death: The Drive for Immortality in Literature,” Common Reading presentation, AUM Campus, 6 April 2018
- “Medieval Monsters,” at AUM Reads, March 7, 2016
- “Catholic Saints: Past, Present, and Future,” invited lecture for Honors Colloquim (2012, 2014) and Dr. Jan Bulman’s MLA class (2013, 2015)
- “Dodging Death: The Drive for Immortality in Literature,” for Common Reading series (2018)
- “I have a dream,” Global Reflection on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, 2011
- “Making Each Other: Boniface’s Life and Death as the Metonymy of a Book,” presented at AUM Liberal Arts Conference, Spring 2009

Moderator, chair at conferences

- Moderator (invited), “Love, Power, and Gender in The Lais of Marie de France “, 2021 Medieval Association of the Midwest Virtual Conference

Moderator/chair at every Sigma Tau Delta convention since I became chapter sponsor, plus evaluation of student submissions

Editorial work

Member, Editorial Board, *The Heroic Age: A Journal of Early Medieval Northwestern Europe Writing About Literature in the Media Age*. Daniel Anderson. New York: Longman, 2005 (invited review)
Norton Anthology of American Literature, 6th ed. Gen. ed. Nina Baym. New York: Norton, 1998 (invited review)
Literature: Reading Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and the Essay, 4th ed. Robert DiYanni. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 1998 (invited review)

Awards and honors

Outstanding chapter sponsor award, Sigma Tau Delta, 2011
 John C. Hodges Award for research-related course release, U of Tennessee, Spring 2005
 Best Scholarly Paper Award for "Relics and Writing," Sigma Tau Delta convention, 2002
 Best Convention Essay, "Sir Walter Scott's Waterfalls," Sigma Tau Delta convention, 2002
 Outstanding Research by a Doctoral Student, Department of English, UA, 1999, 2000, 2001
 Spain-Hickman Scholarship, Tuscaloosa Rotary Club, 2000
 Henry Regnery Endowed Scholarship, Sigma Tau Delta 2000
 Award for Best Convention Essay, Sigma Tau Delta convention, 2000
 Award for Best Personal Website, Sigma Tau Delta convention, 2000
 Runner-up for Best Chapter Website, Sigma Tau Delta convention, 2000
 Dean Paul Garner Leadership Award, Tuscaloosa International Friends, 1997
 Foundation Award, Student Government Association, UA, 1997
 Outstanding Committee Award, Student Government Association, UA, 1997

Major Areas of Creative or Research Interest

Old and Middle English language and literature, Medieval literature, Medievalism studies, Popular veneration of saints, Sociology and history of religion, African literature, World literature, Wikipedia, digital editing

Other

Chapter sponsor for Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honors Society, since 2009; attendance at annual conventions and supervision of traveling students; fundraising for those conventions

Service

Course design

(I am listing only the ones I developed from scratch; most survey classes and classes such as History of the English Language follow established formats)
 ENGL 2600, Development of African Literature survey class, as a subset of ENGL 2600, covers African literature from its beginnings to the post-colonial period
 ENGL 4860, "Monsters in literature and film," with books such as *Beowulf* and *Lord of the Rings*, and movies based on them
 ENGL 4860, "Beowulf and Film," a deep study of a variety of *Beowulf* adaptations
 ENGL 4840, "Epic Literature," from Homer to Roberto Bolano
 ENGL 4840, Western Literature of the Post-WW2 period, upper-level class discussing novels from half a dozen countries and languages
 ENGL 4860, "Women Writing and Being Written," later "Women in Medieval Literature": the role of

women in medieval literature and literature production, as subjects of patriarchal discourse and as writers of sometimes proto-feminist texts

ENGL 4860, "Race and the Middle Ages," an upper-level literature class that studies the role medieval literature and medievalist attitudes have played in racist ideas of the 19th century until today

Department and campus service

Participation in over a dozen searches in our department, including chairing the Rhet/Comp search in 2015-2016 and the TESOL lecturer search in 2018

Faculty sponsor for Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society, since 2009

Organization of annual series Three/Four Mondays of Poetry, revived again for 2022; helped bring poets such as Frank X. Walker (2013), Denise Duhamel (2014), Maurice Manning (2015), Gary Dop (2017) to campus; organized poetry workshops for the broader community and open mic events at local high schools; organized readings by local poets at various locations around Montgomery

Speakers brought to campus with the help of the Lecturers Committee:

Tony Crunk (2010)

Natasha Trethewey, the year she became the National Poet Laureate (2011)

Foster Dickson, book presentation for *Closed Ranks*, his study of the police killing of Bernard Whitehurst, Jr., in Montgomery, 2018 (\$700)

Sean Dietrich ("Sean of the South"), 2019 (\$1350)

Noam Cohen, writer for the *New York Times* and *Wired*, as an expert in digital writing for a rhetoric and composition class, Fall 2021 (\$500)

Mark Potok, former spokesperson for the Southern Poverty Law Center, for Dr. Knigge's Terrorism and Psychology class, Fall 2021 (\$200)

JP DaPoet, slam poet, for Dr. Quaney's Creative Writing Class, Fall 2021 (\$100)

Jason McCall, for Creative Writing series (Fall 2022)

Community service

Committee participation for grant approval process, Alabama State Council on the Arts, May 2022

For the Four Mondays of Poetry events, three each year were out in the community, in locations such as the Huntingdon campus, KRU on Mt Meigs, the Jubilee Center, the Cloverdale Playhouse, the Kress Building, Booker T. Washington Magnet High School, and Loveless Academic Magnet Program

Historical marker for the location where Juliette Hampton Morgan, a white Civil Rights activist, died in 1957, in progress, with the assistance of the Alabama Historical Association

Assistance of logistical and technical nature with events for local Boy Scout, Girl Scout, and Cub Scout troops (not just selling cookies!)

Wikipedia-related presentations, workshops

"Wikipedia for Librarians and Archivists", Digital Scholarship Interest Group, Auburn main campus, Spring 2022

"DON'T USE WIKIPEDIA--Wait. Do use Wikipedia, but use it wisely", for Faculty Development Institute, on AUM Campus, September 11, 2018)

"DON'T USE WIKIPEDIA--Wait. Do use Wikipedia, but use it wisely", at Alabama Educational Technology Conference, June 2018, Birmingham

"Wikipedia in the Classroom--Community, Diversity, Power," keynote address at *Integrating Wikipedia in Writing-Intensive Courses*, summer symposium for Associated Colleges of the South, Spelman College, Atlanta, June 2016

"Using Wikipedia in the classroom, and navigating digital archives and the Wikipedia community," panel presentation in "Research, Records, & Writing: A Panel on the Use of Digital Archives in First-Year

Composition,” at Computers and Writing 2016, Rochester, May 2016

Attended Wikimania July 2012, Washington DC, as member of the Education Project, grant from
Wikimedia Foundation

“Good Articles and Peer Review on Wikipedia,” in Open Workshop on Wikipedia Governance and Culture.
Wikipedia in Higher Education Summit, Boston, July 2011, grant from Wikimedia Foundation

Languages

Modern: Fluent in English, Dutch, French, German; basic knowledge of Swedish, Japanese

Old: Old Icelandic, Old English