

MARIA SACHIKO CECIRE

Assistant Professor of Literature | Director, Center for Experimental Humanities
30 Campus Road, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY
mcecire@bard.edu | (845) 758-7697 | Twitter: @mscecire

EDUCATION

DPhil, English. University of Oxford, July 2011
MSt (with distinction), English Medieval Studies, University of Oxford, June 2007
BA (with honors), English Language and Literature, University of Chicago, June 2006

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Children's literature and culture, digital humanities, fantasy and speculative fiction, gender studies, media studies, medieval literature and medievalisms, race and ethnicity, popular culture.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY
Assistant Professor of Literature, Fall 2012 – Present.
Visiting Assistant Professor of Literature, Fall 2010 – Spring 2012.
University of Oxford, UK
College Lecturer in English, Keble College, Oxford, Academic Year 2008 - 2009
Tutor, Corpus Christi, Lincoln, Mansfield, and St. Peter's Colleges, Oxford, 2007 – 2010

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

- 2019 *Re-Enchanted: The Rise of Children's Fantasy Literature in the Twentieth Century*. University of Minnesota Press (under contract; to be published Fall 2019)
2015 *Space and Place in Children's Literature, 1789-Present*, co-edited with Hannah Field, Kavita Mudan, Malini Roy. Routledge.
"Introduction: Spaces of Power, Places of Play" (co-authored)
"English Exploration and Textual Travel in *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*"

Articles and Essays:

- 2019 "Custom-built DH and Institutional Culture: The Case of Experimental Humanities," co-authored with Susan Merriam, *Debates in Digital Humanities: Institutions, Infrastructures at the Interstices*, ed. Anne McGrail, Angel David Nieves, Siobhan Senier (projected publication date)
2014 "Staging and Filming John Bale's *Three Laws*," co-authored with Elisabeth Dutton and James McBain, *Shakespeare Bulletin* 32:1.
2013 "Sources and Successors," in *J.R.R. Tolkien: The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings* (New Casebooks), edited by Peter Hunt, Palgrave MacMillan.
2013 "Magynfyence Onscreen: Documentary Film as Translation," *Medieval English Theatre* 35.
2012 "Reality Remixed: Neomedieval Princess Culture in Disney's *Enchanted*," in *The Disney Middle Ages*, edited by Susan Aronstein and Tison Pugh, Palgrave MacMillan.
2011 "Barriers Unbroken: Sir Palomides the Saracen in *The Book of Sir Tristram*," *Arthurian Literature* 28, edited by David Clark and Katherine McClune, Boydell & Brewer.
2010 "*Ban Welondes*: Wayland Smith in Popular Culture," in *Anglo-Saxon Culture and the Modern Imagination*, edited by David Clark and Nicholas Perkins, Boydell & Brewer.

2009 “Medievalism, Popular Culture, and National Identity in Children’s Fantasy Literature,” *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism* 9.3.

2008 “Harry Potter and the Poetics of Paranoia in the Oxford School of Children’s Literature,” *Journal of Children’s Literature Studies* 5.1.

Book Reviews:

2017 “*The Middle Ages in Children’s Literature*,” *Children’s Literature* 45: 202-207;
doi: 10.1353/chl.2017.0014

2013 “*Popular Children’s Literature in Britain and The Cambridge Companion to Children’s Literature*,” *Notes & Queries* 60. 1: 170-2; doi: 10.1093/notesj/gjs289.

2013 “*What Are Little Boys and Girls Made of? Gender Issues in Children’s Literature*,” *Modern Philology* 110. 4; doi: 10.1086/669537.

Other Publications:

2019 “History Says Otherwise: A Conversation on Digital Archiving,” with Molly Kleiman, Peter J. Russo, and Ben Vershbow, in *The Born-Digital Institution*, ed. Zachary Kaplan, Rhizome and Sternberg Press (in preparation).

2016 “Massively Open,” a short story about academia in the age of automation, originally published online in *Viewscreen Magazine*. June 28, 2016. Available at:
<https://medium.com/@msceire/massively-open-1f705cc61e70>

SELECTED GRANTS AND AWARDS

2018 \$397,255 (+ \$75,000 planning grant from 2016) National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Grant for the American Library Association (ALA)’s “The Great Stories Club: Reading and Discussion for At-Risk Youth” (named collaborator: National Project Scholar)

2017 \$1,140,765 Kellogg Foundation Grant for ALA’s Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Great Stories Club: Exploring Racial Equity Through Reading and Discussion (named collaborator: National Project Scholar)

2016 \$30,000 NEH Planning Grant for Historic Hudson Valley: Washington Irving and the Art of Storytelling (named collaborator: advisor)

2015 \$434,978 NEH Grant for the ALA’s “The Great Stories Club: Reading and Discussion for At-Risk Youth” (named collaborator: National Project Scholar)

2014 \$800,000 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Grant for Experimental Humanities at Bard College (Principal Investigator)

2014 408,104 CHF Swiss National Science Fund grant for the Early Drama at Oxford project (named collaborator: film director)

2013 \$25,000 Bard College Center for Civic Engagement Open Society Foundation Linkage Grant for international conference: “Digital and Visual Culture in the Liberal Arts: Research, Teaching, Collaboration” (co-organized with Prof. Drew Thompson)

2012 \$175,000 Alden Trust Digital Media Lab Grant

2012 \$4,500 National Science Foundation CPATH “Creating a Campus-wide Computation Initiative” Curricular Development Grant (with Prof. Keith O’Hara)

2006 – 2010 Rhodes Scholarship

2006 – 2009 Keble College Association Grants for Research, Travel, and the Arts

2009 Oxford English Faculty Grant for the Place and Space in Children’s Literature Conference

SELECTED PAPERS AND TALKS

Invited Talks:

- 2019 Keynote: Liberal Education in the Age of Automation Conference; Calgary, Alberta, Canada, May 16-18.
- 2018 “The Remix, the Sample, the Assemblage, the Compilatio,” Triple Canopy Publishing Intensive, NY, NY. June 11.
- 2017 “Digital Methods and Resources as Core Ingredients to a Liberal Arts Education” panel, Encountering Digital Humanities in the Liberal Arts Colloquium, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, March 6.
- 2016 “Assemblages and Manipulable Objects,” Triple Canopy Publishing Intensive, Brooklyn, NY. June 6.
- 2015 “Experimental Humanities,” Digging Deep: Ecosystems, Institutions and Processes for Critical Making event, CUNY Graduate Center, NY, NY, December 1.
- 2015 “Performing Gender, Performing Power: *Performing Dido* On Film,” Ashmolean Museum Study Day, Oxford, UK. May 10.
- 2015 “Experimental Humanities,” Experimental Teaching as Design Practice Workshop, Harvard University MetaLab and the Initiative for Learning and Teaching, Cambridge, MA. May 1.
- 2015 “Unfashionable Creatures: Tolkien’s 1931 Curricular Reforms and the Fantastic Imagination,” Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. April 10.
- 2014 “Unfashionable Creatures: Tolkien’s 1931 Curricular Reforms and the Fantastic Imagination,” Brandeis University, Waltham, MA. April 10.
- 2012 “Filming Authority: John Skelton’s *Magnyfycence* and Video Techniques” Medieval English Theatre Conference, University of Oxford, UK. 31 March.
- 2007 “Christmas in the Oxford School of Children’s Literature,” C.S. Lewis Society, Oxford, UK. November 28.

Conference Papers and Roundtables:

- 2019 Roundtable: “Nnedi Okorafor’s Binti Trilogy: Reimagining the Politics of Children’s Fantasy,” International Association of the Fantastic in the Arts Conference, Orlando, FL, March 15.
- 2018 “Inclusive Practices in Experimental Humanities” / “Prácticas inclusivas en las humanidades experimentales,” Panel: “Experimental Humanities” (panel co-organizer), Digital Humanities 2018 International Conference, Mexico City, Mexico, June 26-29.
- 2018 “Being an X-Man”: Genres of Youth and Narratives of Overcoming in Junot Díaz’s *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*,” Panel: “Coming of Age? Literary and Filmic Growth into Race and Gender,” Playing With Childhood Conference, University of Pittsburgh, PA, April 6-7.
- 2017 “Digital vs. Experimental Humanities at a Small Liberal Arts College,” Panel: “Challenges for New Infrastructures and Paradigms in DH Curricular Program Development,” Digital Humanities 2017 International Conference, Montreal, Canada, August 8-11.
- 2017 “Fairy Tales of Female Sovereignty in Heterosexual Romance,” Seminar: “Romantic Love in (Post)Medieval Contexts” (seminar co-organizer), American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Utrecht, the Netherlands, July 7-9.
- 2017 “Making Magic: Representability and Technology in the Wizarding World of Harry Potter,” Panel: “Virtual/Augmented Reality: Embodying the Impossible” (panel co-organizer), Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, March 22-26.
- 2016 “The ‘Great Rough Countryside’ of English Studies and Fantasies of Heroic Scholarship,” Panel: “Institutions of Reading,” American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Cambridge, MA. March 16-19.

- 2015 “Relegated to the Nursery: Magical Thinking and Pre-Modern Literary Forms,” Panel: “Childish Forms,” American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Seattle, WA. March 26-29.
- 2015 “Remediating Early English Drama,” Digital and Visual Culture in the Liberal Arts Conference, Istanbul, Turkey. March 15-18.
- 2014 “It Grows Like a Seed in the Dark”: Medieval Literature and Tolkien’s Alternate Canons,” 29th International Conference on Medievalism, Atlanta, GA. October 24-25.
- 2014 “From Middle Earth to the Magic Kingdom: Britain and America’s Fantastical Empires of the Mind,” International Association of the Fantastic in the Arts Conference, Orlando, FL. March 19-23.
- 2014 “Doing It Onscreen: New Media Translations of Medieval Drama,” Panel: “Doing Things with New Media in Medieval Studies,” MLA Conference, Chicago, IL. January 9-12.
- 2012 “Our Childhoods: A Sororal Collaboration,” with Natalia Cecire. Session: “Impure Collaborations,” 2nd Biennial Meeting of the BABEL Working Group, Northeastern University, Boston, MA. September 20-22.
- 2012 “Marks of the Beast: Fragmented Monstrosity in Narnia and Harry Potter,” International Association of the Fantastic in the Arts Conference, Orlando, FL. March 21-25.
- 2011 “Making a Magnificent Film: Representing Medieval Drama in a Digital Age,” Panel: “From N-Town to YouTube,” MLA Conference, Los Angeles, CA. January 7.
- 2009 “Postcolonial Fantasies: Medievalism and Alterity in the Oxford School of Children’s Literature,” Childhood and Postcolonialism Symposium, Childhood Research in Literature, Language and Learning at Växjö University, Sweden. December 16.
- 2009 “The Oxford School of Children’s Literature: Medieval Voices and Fantasy,” 44th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. May 8.
- 2009 “Medievalism, Popular Culture, and Identity Formation: Nationalism in a Globalizing World,” 19th Annual Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism Conference: Nationalism and Globalisation, London School of Economics, UK. April 2.
- 2009 “Barriers Unbroken: The Sexual and Social Frustration of Sir Palomydes in *Le Morte D’Arthur*,” Blood, Sex, Malory Conference, University of Leicester, UK, April 25.
- 2008 “The Oxford School of Children’s Literature,” Canons of Children’s Literature Conference, University of California at Berkeley. March 15.
- 2007 “Breaking into Oxford: Philip Pullman’s *Lyra* and the Oxford School of Children’s Literature,” Northeast MLA Conference, Baltimore, MD. March 3.

SELECTED INSTITUTIONAL TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2016 and 2017 “Close Reading Workshop,” the Learning Commons, Bard College, NY. October 2016 and February 2017.
- 2015 “Social Media Campaigns for Social Good,” Bard International Network Social Entrepreneurship conference, Istanbul, Turkey. March 15.
- 2014 “Social Media: Practical Applications” Bard International Network Social Entrepreneurship conference, Istanbul, Turkey. March 24.
- 2013 “New Media and Politics: Blogging & Other Communication Tools,” U.S. Foreign Policy Summer Institute Bard College, NY, June 26 (with Prof. Walter Russell Mead).
- 2013 “The Experimental Humanities Program,” Alumni/ae Brunch, Bard College, NY, May 25.
- 2012 “Discovery in the Humanities,” First-Year Seminar Symposia Series, Bard College, NY, September 17.

- 2011 “Discovering Afterlives in the Humanities,” First-Year Seminar Symposia Series, Bard College, NY, September 12.
- 2008 “De-Gnoming the Garden: Colonialism, Xenophobia, and Little People in *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *Harry Potter*,” Oxford Children’s Literature and Youth Culture Colloquium, University of Oxford. October 23.

SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY

Courses:

- First-year Seminar (100 level), Fall 2010, 2011, 2012
- LIT 103: Introduction to Literary Studies, S2013, F2013, S2015, F2016
- LIT 235: Introduction to Media, F2012, F2013, F2016, F2018
- LIT 243: Literature in the Digital Age, S2018
- LIT 2026: Introduction to Children’s & Young Adult Literature, F2010, S2012-15, S2017-18
- LIT 2029: The Medium and the Message: Focus on Language, S2011, S2012
- LIT 2082: Multimediated Medievalisms: Arthurian Afterlives, 1800-Present, S2014
- LIT 2218: Children’s Fantasy Literature in Cultural Conversation, S2011, F2014, F2018
- LIT 2505: Early English Literature Reanimated: The Further Adventures of the Body and Soul (with Prof. Lianne Habinek), F2011
- LIT 3018: Medievalisms, S2013
- LIT 3046: Woman as Cyborg, F2014, S2017

University of Oxford, UK

College Lecturer in English, Keble College, Oxford, 2008 - 2009

Tutorials and classes in the History of the English Language and Medieval Literature
Tutor, Corpus Christi, Lincoln, Mansfield, and St. Peter’s Colleges, Oxford, 2007 - 2010

Tutorials in Children’s Literature, Fairy Tale, and Medieval Literature

Advanced Studies in England, Bath, UK

Instructor, “Images of Youth: 20th Century Children’s and Young Adult Literature,” Spring 2010

INSTITUTIONAL ORGANIZING & LEADERSHIP

The Center for Experimental Humanities, Bard College, NY. Fall 2012-Present

Founding Director. Bard College’s liberal arts-driven answer to the Digital Humanities, focuses on how technology mediates what it means to be human. An academic program with core courses and faculty, as well as a humanities center. <http://eh.bard.edu> | Twitter: [@Bard_EH](https://twitter.com/Bard_EH)

Global | Local: Experiments in the Arts and Humanities Conference, Bard College, March 31 - April 1, 2017. Organizer. Speakers included scholars and artists Manan Ahmed, T. L. Cowan, Treva Lindsey, Hoyt Long, Heather Love, Angel Nieves, Paolo Pedercini, Nicole Starosielski, and Dennis Tenen; over 100 attendees. <http://eh.bard.edu/conference2017/>

Experimental Humanities “Unconference,” Bard College, April 18, 2015. Organizer. Keynote by Mark Sample. Digital pedagogy, research, and public humanities. Bard and regional attendees.

Digital and Visual Culture in the Liberal Arts: Research, Teaching, Collaboration Conference. Co-organizer (with Prof. Drew Thompson), Istanbul, Turkey, March 15-18, 2015. Included faculty speakers and participants from across the Bard International Network.

Children's Literature Oxford Colloquium, Oxford, UK, April 2007 – June 2010. Co-founder and convener. Previously titled The Children's Literature and Youth Culture Colloquium. The University of Oxford's seminar series on children's literature and youth culture studies.

Place and Space in Children's Literature Conference, Keble College, Oxford, March 27 - 28, 2009. Organizer. Speakers included author Philip Pullman and children's literature scholars Peter Hunt, Maria Nikolajeva, and Farah Mendlesohn; over 100 attendees from 14 countries.

Rhodes Women Forum, Oxford, 2007 – 2009. Founding organizer. Discussion lunches, alumni events, and peer mentoring for female Rhodes Scholars.

Thirty Years of Women Rhodes Scholars Weekend, Oxford, UK, May - June 2008. Co-Head Organizer. A weekend of panels, talks, and social events. By and for international women Rhodes Scholars, celebrating their first thirty years as part of the scholarship.

SERVICE AND RELATED EXPERIENCE

American Library Association's Great Stories Club: Theme Development, Introductory Lectures & Discussion Workshops for Librarian GSC Leaders (as National Project Scholar)

*"Deeper than Our Skins: The Present is a Conversation with the Past" (part of Kellogg's Truth, Racial Healing, & Transformation) Chicago, IL, February 21-22, 2019.

*"What Makes a Hero?: Self, Society, and Rising to the Occasion," Chicago, IL, November 15-16, 2018.

"Structures of Suffering: Origins of Teen Violence and Suicide," Chicago, IL, March 10, 2017.

"The Art of Change: Creation, Growth, & Transformation," Orlando, FL, 24 June 2016.

*"Hack the Feed: Media, Resistance, Revolution," Chicago, IL, 16 November 2015.

* stars denote themes that I created; I contributed materials and/or training for the others

National Endowment for the Humanities, Grant Review Advisory Board Member
Division of Public Programs: Community Conversations Grants, October 24, 2016.
Division of Public Programs: Media Production Grants, April 5, 2015.

The Humanities and Technology Camps (THATCamps), MD, NJ, and NY 2011-2013
Co-organizer. THATCamp Theory (Rutgers University, 13-14 October, 2012).
THATCamp Pedagogy (Vassar College, 15-16 October 2011)
THATCamp Games (University of Maryland, 20-22 January 2012)
THATCamp Feminisms East (Barnard College, 16 March 2013)

COMMITTEES

Experimental Humanities Steering Committee, Bard College, NY, 2014-Present
Faculty Exchange Oversight Committee, Bard College, NY and Abu Dis, Palestine, 2016-Present
Red Hook Town Communications Committee, 2017 - Present
Faculty Resources Committee, Bard College, NY, Spring 2018
Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee (for one of the 16 US Districts), 2012 - 2017
Grievance Committee, Bard College, NY, 2012-2016
Committee on Blended Learning, Bard College, NY, 2012-2014
Committee on Integrative Learning (alternate), Bard College, NY, 2013
Fellowships Committee, Bard College, NY, 2011-2013
Wellness Committee, Bard College, NY, 2011-2013
Keble College English Student Selection Committee, Oxford, UK, Winter 2008

MEDIA PROJECTS (<http://mariacecire.wordpress.com/media-projects>)

In Theory Podcast. Co-host. New York, 2015 – 2017.

A podcast that uses academic theory to explain the everyday world, from pop culture to politics to our personal lives. For a general audience; co-hosted with NYC-based lawyer and activist Noorain Khan. Topics range from the wedding-industrial complex to theories of childhood to cyborgism in the twenty-first century. Episodes at: <http://intheory.us>

Early Drama at Oxford (EDOX). Film director and digital content. Oxford, UK, 2011 – 2015.

Bringing rarely-seen medieval and early modern plays to life through new translations, stagings, and original documentary films. With Prof. Elisabeth Dutton and Dr. James McBain (U Fribourg).

Performing Dido. Director, documentary film. In association with EDOX. Oxford, UK, 2015.

Two all-male troupes take on Dido's tragic tale. William Gager's *Dido* in a translation by Elizabeth Sandis (dir. Elisabeth Dutton), and Marlowe's play performed by Edward's Boys (dir. Perry Mills). Supported by Christ Church College, a British Academy Grant, and the University of Fribourg.

Three Laws in Oxford. Director, documentary film. In association with EDOX. Oxford, UK, 2013. John Bale's Reformation-era institutional drama unfolds in the spaces of contemporary Oxford. Supported by Magdalen College, the John Fell Fund at the University of Oxford, and a British Academy Grant.

Magnyfycence: Staging Medieval Drama. Documentary film. Co-directed with Mike LaRocco, in association with Staging the Henrician Court. Oxford and London, UK, 2010. Unpacks John Skelton's allegorical advice to princes in Henry VIII's Hampton Court Palace. Supported by the AHRC.

Momentum: Math and Science Teachers in Zambia. Director, documentary film. Southern Zambia and Chicago, IL, 2006. American and Zambian teachers develop lab exercises for their students together, forming friendships and learning about each other.

Global Activism: U.S. Science Teachers Go to Zambia. Radio documentary for Chicago Public Radio's *Worldview* program. Director. Southern Zambia and Chicago, IL, 2006.