

ELLY R. TRUITT
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EMPLOYMENT

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA	
• Associate Professor, Department of the History and Sociology of Science	2020–
Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA	
• Associate Professor, Department of History	2015–20
• Assistant Professor, Department of History	2008–15
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA	
• Lecturer, Department of the History of Science	2007–08
• Lecturer, Committee on Degrees in History and Literature	2007–08

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA	
• Ph.D., History of Science	2007
• A.M., History of Science	2003
Rare Book School, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA	
• Islamic manuscripts, Philadelphia Free Library, Philadelphia, PA	2018
• Medieval manuscripts, Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD	2004
University of Cambridge, United Kingdom	
• M.Phil., Mediaeval History	1998
Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA	
• A.B., English Literature & Medieval/Renaissance Studies (Honors) <i>Magna cum laude</i> , ΦBK	1997

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. Visiting Fellow	2018–19
Max-Planck-Institute for the History of Science, Berlin. Visiting Fellow	2017
Bibliotheca Fictiva Forgery Fellow, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD	2017
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, New Directions Fellowship (for Arabic coursework and manuscript study)	2016–19
Chemical Heritage Foundation/Science History Institute, Philadelphia, PA. Visiting Fellow	2015
Huntington Library, San Marino, CA. Dibner Fellow (short-term)	2013
National Science Foundation, Scholar's Award	2010–11
Wolf Humanities Center, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. Regional Faculty Fellow	2009–10

Jerry Stannard Memorial Prize (article prize in the history of pharmacology, botany, or <i>materia medica</i> before 1800 in French, German, or English)	2009
Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA	
• Faculty research grant	2017
• Publication subvention award	2014
• Center for International Studies	2009
The Folger Library, Washington, DC. Seminar grant for “Writing and Wonder: Books, Memory, and Imagination in Early Modern Europe”	2008
Dibner Institute for the History of Science and Technology, Dissertation Completion Fellowship	2005–06
Embassy of France in the U.S., Chateaubriand Fellowship	2004–05
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA	
• Frederick Sheldon Fellowship	2004–05
• Lurcy Fellowship	2004–05
• Scholarly Merit/Term-Time Research Award	2002–04
• Matthew Strominger Memorial Prize (for excellence in the History of Medicine)	2001
Edna V. Moffett Graduate Fellowship, Wellesley College	2000–01
HRH The Prince of Wales Trust, Prince’s Trust Scholar	1997–98

RESEARCH, PUBLISHED AND FORTHCOMING

MONOGRAPH

Medieval Robots: Mechanism, Magic, Nature, and Art (Philadelphia: Press of the University of Pennsylvania, 2015; paperback ed., 2016; audiobook, 2019).

- Croatian edition, expected 2020.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

“*Translatio scientiae*: Chaucer and the Astrolabe,” *Medieval Translations and Their Readership: Proceedings of the XI Cardiff Conference on the Theory and Practice of Translation in the Middle Ages*, eds. Pavlina Rychterová and Jan Odstrcilik (Brepols, under review).

“Made, Not Born: AI from Myth to Materiality,” *The Love-Makers*, ed. Aifric Campbell (Goldsmiths Press, under review).

“Demons and Devices: Augmented and Artificial Intelligence before AI” in *AI Narratives: A History of Imaginative Thinking about Intelligent Machines*, eds. Stephen Cave, Kanta Dihal, and Sarah Dillon (Oxford University Press, 2020), 49-71.

“Marvelous History: Authority and Credibility in Medieval Histories of Troy,” *Literary Forgery in Early Modern Europe*, eds. Earle Havens and Walter Stephens, assisted by Janet E. Gomez (Baltimore, MD: The Press of the Johns Hopkins University, 2018), 99-117.

“The Incarnation of Time,” in *L’automate, modèle, métaphore, machine, merveille*, eds. Aurélia Galliard, Jean-Yves Goffi, Bernard Roukhomovsky, & Sophie Roux (Presses universitaires de Bordeaux, 2013), 365-78.

“Celestial Divination and Arabic Science in Twelfth-Century England: The History of Gerbert of Aurillac’s Talking Head,” *The Journal for the History of Ideas* 73 (2012): 201-22.

“The Garden of Earthly Delights: Mahaut of Artois and the Automata at Hesdin,” *Medieval Feminist Forum* 46 (2010): 74-79.

“Fictions of Life and Death: Tomb Automata in Medieval Romance,” *postmedieval: a journal of medieval cultural studies* 1 (2010): 194-98.

“The Virtues of Balm in the Late Medieval Period,” *Early Science and Medicine* 14 (2009): 711-36.

- Awarded the Jerry Stannard Memorial Prize, 2009.

“‘Trei poëte, sages dotors, qui mout sorent di nigromance’: Knowledge and Automata in Twelfth-Century French Literature,” *Configurations* 12 (2005 for 2004): 167-93.

NON-PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

“And of all these things the Polar Bear was the symbol:’ Charisma, Wilderness, and Whiteness” in *American/Medieval: Earth & Water in Transit*, eds. Gillian Overing and Ulrike Wiethaus (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2019), 51-66.

“In Whose Image?” in *You, Robot*, ed. Ben Russell (Scala Arts & Heritage, 2016).

“Fantasy North,” *Aeon*, February 2016 (translated into French and Hungarian).

Response to J. Cohen, “Automata in Myth and Science,” *History Today*, July 2015.

“Preternatural Machines,” *Aeon*, March 2015 (translated into French and Hebrew).

- Included in *More-than-Human: Perspectives on Interspecies Alliances*, ed. André Jacque, Marina Otero Verzier, and Lucia Pietroiusti (Het Nieuwe Instituut, Rotterdam & Serpentine Galleries, London, appearing 2020).

“Thinking with Robots: The Secret History of Early Automata,” in *Our Work Here Is Done: The Future of A Robot Economy*, ed. Stian Westlake (Nesta, 2014).

“Tips for Conquering the Archive,” in *Medieval Feminist Forum* 40 (2005): 27-33.

RESEARCH, IN PROGRESS

MONOGRAPH

Roger Bacon and the Invention of Modern Science. (proposal under review with the Press of the University of Pennsylvania).

Courty Science in the Medieval World.

ARTICLES

“Science, Technology, and Magic in Late Medieval Latin Christendom,” *Magic as Technology*, ed. Donato Verardi, Delleportiana Series (Agorà & Co., expected 2022).

“Scientific People and Places,” *Bloomsbury History and Philosophy of Science*, ed. Robert Goulding and Liba Taub, vol. 1 (Bloomsbury, expected 2022).

“Registers of Experience in Medieval Latin Science.”

“Science, Technology, and Magic in Late Medieval Latin Christendom”

“Clock and Codex: Time, Narrative, and Universality in the Latin Middle Ages.”

COLLABORATIONS

“Leonardo’s Madrid Codex: Thought Experiments.” Co-author, with Pamela O. Long, independent scholar. In progress.

“Medieval Robots.” External consultant, Michal Luria (PI), doctoral candidate, Department of Human-Robot Interaction, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA. In progress.

REVIEWS

- Middle English Marvels: Magic, Spectacle, and Morality in the Fourteenth Century*, by Tara Williams, in *Speculum* 94.1 (2019): 299-300.
- Nature Speaks: Aristotelian Philosophy and Late Medieval Literature*, by Kellie Robertson, in *Early Science and Medicine* 22 (2017): 375-77.
- The Voynich Manuscript*, edited by Raymond Clemens, with an Introduction by Deborah Harkness, in *The Medieval Review* 17.07.10 (<https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/tmr/article/view/23801>).
- New Romantic Cyborgs, Romanticism, Information Technology, and the End of the Machine*, by Mark Coeckelbergh, in *The Times Literary Supplement*, June 30 (2017).
- La nature comme source de la morale au Moyen Âge*, ed. Maaïke van der Lugt, in *Aestimatio: Critical Reviews in the History of Science* 12 (2017 for 2015): 110-13.
- Roger Bacon's Communia Naturalium: A 13th Century Philosopher's Workshop*, eds. Paola Bernardini and Anna Rodolfi in *The Medieval Review* 16.02.32 (<https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/tmr/article/view/21378/27347>).
- Androids and Intelligent Networks: Artificial Slaves* by Kevin LaGrandeur, in *Renaissance Quarterly* 67 (2014): 371-72.
- Androids in the Enlightenment* by Adelheid Voskuhl, in *Centaurus* 56 (2014): 68-70.
- Histoires prodigieuses* by Pierre Boastiau, edited by Stephen Bamforth, in *Isis* 103 (2012): 572-73.
- Sublime Dreams of Living Machines: The Automaton in the European Imagination* by Minsoo Kang, in *Centaurus* 54 (2012): 199-200.
- The Natural and the Supernatural in the Middle Ages* by Robert Bartlett in *Isis* 100 (2009): 390-91.
- The Providence of God Regarding the Universe* by William of Auvergne, translated by Roland J. Teske in *The Journal for the History of Philosophy* 47 (2009): 468-69.
- "Every Valley Shall Be Exalted" by Constance Bouchard in *Medieval Feminist Forum* 43 (2007): 133-35.
- Discerning Spirits* by Nancy Caciola in *Medieval Feminist Forum* 38 (2004): 1-4.

INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED, LAST TEN YEARS)

2020

- Keynote roundtable, "Automation and Agency," Association for Computer-Aided Design in Architecture (ACADIA) Annual Meeting, Online. October.
- "Who Has Science? Roger Bacon, Technology, and Scientific Progress," Keynote address, Medievalists @ Penn Graduate Conference, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. April.
*Cancelled/postponed due to COVID-19.

2019

- "Demons and Divination: Artificial Intelligence in the Latin Middle Ages," Plenary address, Moravian College Undergraduate Conference on Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Bethlehem, PA. December.
- "Timelines: The Codex, the Clock, and the Representation of Temporal Narratives," 12th Annual Symposium at the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies, University of Pennsylvania & the Free Library, Philadelphia, PA. November.
- "Secrets, *Scientia*, and Statecraft in Thirteenth-Century Latin Christendom," Medieval & Renaissance Colloquium, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA. October.

“Registers of Experience in Roger Bacon,” at “Premodern Experience of the Natural World in Translation,” Max-Planck-Institute for the History of Science, Berlin. June.

2018

“Medieval Automata: In Whose Image?” at “Origin Myths of Artificial Intelligence: Histories of Technology and Power: Workshop on the 60th Anniversary of the Teddington Conference,” Leverhulme Center for the Future of Intelligence, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK. November.

“Experience, Utility, and the Inventions of Roger Bacon,” History and Sociology of Science Workshop, University of Pennsylvania. October.

“Demons and Devices: Artificial Intelligence before AI,” Leverhulme Center for the Future of Intelligence, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK. July.

“Instruments for Certainty in the Middle Ages,” Preindustrial Technology Workshop, Yale University, New Haven, CT. April.

“Speculative Mechanisms: Roger Bacon and the Technology of Knowledge,” Marshall Grossman Lecture Series, University of Maryland–College Park, College Park, MD. April.

Keynote address at “Marvelous Fabrications,” Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities event on robots in design, engineering, and history, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL. March.

“Ingenious Inventions and the Secrets of Nature: The Marvels of Alexander the Great and Roger Bacon in Thirteenth-Century Natural Philosophy,” Bard Graduate Center, New York, NY. March.

“Future Perfect, Future Past: Roger Bacon’s Instruments,” Medieval and Early Modern History Seminar, Brown University, Providence, RI. February.

2017

“Reading Time in the Middle Ages” Annual Schwoerer Memorial Lecture, Smith College, Northampton, MA. November.

“The Codex and the Clock: Instruments for Time and Narrative in Late Antiquity and the Latin Middle Ages,” Medieval/Early Modern Studies, Departments of French; English; and History and Philosophy of Science, Indiana University–Bloomington, Bloomington, IN. October.

“Brazen Heads and Talking Statues: Stories of Artificial Oracles,” “AI Narratives” workshop, Royal Society/Leverhulme Center for the Future of Intelligence, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK. May.

“The Invention of Roger Bacon,” Group II Colloquium, Max-Planck-Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany. March.

2016

“Thinking with Machines in the Middle Ages,” Program in the History of Science, Yale University, New Haven, CT. December.

“What Are Medieval Robots?” Provost Distinguished Lecture, University of Delaware, Wilmington, DE. November.

“Fantastic Inventions: Mechanical Marvels in Medieval Histories of Troy,” Borghesi-Mellon Humanities Interdisciplinary Workshop, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, WI. September.

“Medieval Scientific Manuscripts,” Medieval/Renaissance Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. September.

“What Are Medieval Robots?” Digital Cultures Seminar/English Department, UC–Davis, Davis, CA. November.

2015

“Translating Time, Transforming Technology,” presented at “No End of Wonders: A Workshop in Honor of Katharine Park,” Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. June.

“Fabrication and Imitation: Natural Philosophy, Mimesis, and Automata in the Latin Middle Ages,” Graduate Student Association for Visual Culture, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA. April.

“Natural Philosophy and Magic in the Latin Middle Ages,” St. Joseph’s University, Philadelphia, PA. April.

2014

“Thinking with Robots,” Keynote address at “Humanising the Robot Society,” National Endowment for Science, Technology, and the Arts (Nesta), London, UK. June.

“The Quick and the Dead: Corpses, Memorial Statues, and Automata,” Art History & Medieval Studies, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. April.

“Rare Devices: Geography, Technology, and Automata,” Medieval Studies, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. February.

2013

“Text and Technology: Automata in Liturgical and Courtly Pageantry,” Department of the History of Science and Technology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. September.

“Talking Heads: Astral Science, Divination, and Legends of Medieval Philosophers,” Department of the History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. April.

2012

“Technology and Text: The Automata at Hesdin,” The Warburg Institute, London, UK. June.

“Between Science and Art: Automaton-Making in Medieval Romance,” presented at “Think Romance! Re-Conceptualizing A Medieval Genre,” Center for Medieval Studies, Fordham University, Bronx, NY. March.

2011

“History and Invention in the Middle Ages,” presented at “Ingenious Acts: The Nature of Invention in Early Modern Europe,” The Huntington Library, San Marino, CA. April.

2010

“Moving Images and Talking Statues: Definitions of Medieval Automata,” History Department, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ. November.

“Translating Technology: Automata in the Medieval World,” History and Philosophy of Science Department, Indiana University–Bloomington, Bloomington, IN. March.

“The Uses of Automata in Medieval Literature,” Seminar on Material Texts, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. February.

2009

“The Dramatization of Time” presented at “L’automate: Modèle, machine, merveille,” Université Grenoble II et III, Grenoble, France. March.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED, LAST TEN YEARS)

2020

“Afterlives of Medieval Forgeries,” Roundtable, Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA. April. *Cancelled due to COVID-19.

2019

“Experience, Utility, and Discovery: Roger Bacon in the Age of Francis,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Utrecht, The Netherlands. July.

“The Invention of Modern Science,” Medieval Academy of American Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA. March.

2017

“Roger Bacon’s Speculative Technologies,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON. November.

“The Necessity of Invention: Roger Bacon on Technology,” Rare Book School Conference, “Bibliography among the Disciplines,” Philadelphia, PA. October.

Commentator and session chair, “Embodying Science: Female Representations of Knowledge in European Culture, 12th-18th Centuries,” Berkshire Conference on the History of Women and Genders, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY. June.

“*Translatio scientiae*: Chaucer’s Translations of the Astrolabe,” XI Cardiff Conference on the Theory and Practice of Translation in the Middle Ages, Institute for Medieval Research/Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Vienna, Austria. March.

2016

“Technologies of Time: Astronomical Clocks as Universal History,” New Chaucer Society Biennial Meeting, London, UK. July.

“The Limits of the Human,” International Medieval Congress, Leeds, UK. July.

2015

“The Media of History,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. November.

“‘I n’am but a lewd compiler:’ *Translatio* and Scientific Knowledge in Chaucer’s *Treatise on the Astrolabe*,” London Chaucer Society Biennial Meeting, London, UK. July.

“Not That Bacon, the Other One: Roger Bacon’s Experimental Science in Elizabethan England,” Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, Berlin, Germany. March.

2013

“An Irrational Fear of Magic,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Boston, MA. Panel organizer: “Re-Thinking Medieval and Early Modern Science.” November.

“Natural Philosophy in LJS 384: William of Conches’ *De philosophia mundi*,” Delaware Valley Medieval Association Meeting, Philadelphia, PA. September.

2012

“The Marvelous History of Troy,” New Chaucer Society Biennial Conference, Portland, OR. July.

2010

“What Do We Mean When We Talk about Medieval Automata,” presented at “Images at Work: Image and Efficacy from Antiquity to the Rise of Modernity,” Kunsthistorisches-Institut, Florence, Italy. October.

DOCTORAL COMMITTEES

Kersti Francis, Comparative Literature and Medieval Studies, University of California–Los Angeles.

Joseph Snyder, History and History of Science, Princeton University.

GUEST TEACHING & EXAMINATION

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, History of Art Department, doctoral seminar on experiment and observation (Sarah Guérin). September & October 2018.

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, English Department, doctoral seminar on Troy literature (Patricia Ingham). October 2017.

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, Departments of French, Italian, and Comparative Literature, doctoral seminar presentation (Walter Stephens). April 2017.

Bates College, Lewiston, ME, Women & Gender Studies/English, Senior Thesis External Examiner. April 2017.

University of California–Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, doctoral seminar on Roger Bacon and texts on experiment (Chris Chism). October 2016.

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, History of Art Department, guest professor, doctoral seminar on late medieval automata (Laura Weigert). April 2014.

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, English Department, guest professor, undergraduate seminar on science and technology in *Canterbury Tales* (Andrew Cole). March 2013.

Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA, Honors Program Examiner, Medieval History. May 2012.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

SCHOLARLY ORGANIZATIONS

Journal of Manuscript Studies, Editorial board member. 2019–2022

Exemplaria, Advisory board member. 2019–2023

Encyclopedia of the History of Science (ETHOS), Carnegie Mellon University and Mellon Foundation, Advisory board member. 2019–

History of Science Society, Council member. 2018–20

Medieval Academy of America, Program Committee for 2019 Annual Meeting. 2017–19

Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Advisory Council member. 2016–
Delaware Valley Medieval Association, Executive Council. 2016–20

Berkshire Conference on the History of Women and Genders, Program Committee Co-chair, “Science and Gender” thread. 2015–17

Early Sciences Working Group, co-convener, Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine. 2010–15

MANUSCRIPT REVIEW

Journal of the History of Ideas, Renaissance Quarterly, Preternature, Journal of Early Modern History, Centaurus, Art History, Romanic Review, Viator, Routledge, Johns Hopkins University Press, Getty Publications.

FELLOWSHIP REVIEW

NEH; Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine; Paris Institute for Advanced Studies; Israel Science Foundation; Wellesley College.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

BBC Radio Four

- “In Our Time: Automata,” 2018
- “In Our Time: Roger Bacon,” 2017
- “Rise of the Robots,” 2017

“The Dark Arts in the Dark Ages,” Morbid Anatomy/Observatory Room, Brooklyn, NY. 2014

London Science Museum, London, UK: Consultant for “You, Robot” exhibit. 2013–17

“Medieval Robots: Automata Since the First Millennium,” Morbid Anatomy/Observatory Room, Brooklyn, NY. 2013

“The Dark Arts in The Dark Ages,” The Wagner Free Institute, Philadelphia, PA. 2012

Philadelphia Science Festival, “It Sounds Made Up.” 2011–14

Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments, Harvard University: Consultant and translator for exhibit entitled “Bringing Nature Inside,” by Rosamond Purcell, based on the seventeenth-century natural history collection of Ole Worm. 2003–04

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association; Berkshire Conference on the History of Women and Gender; History of Science Society; Medieval Academy of America; New Chaucer Society; Renaissance Society of America; Society for Feminist Medieval Studies; Society for the History of Technology; Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts.

LANGUAGES

Middle English, Latin, Old French, Anglo-Norman, French, German, Spanish, & Arabic (Classical & MSA).