

Masha Raskolnikov

Associate Professor, Department of English, Cornell University
Interim Director (Spring 2010 only) Feminist, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program
Member, Graduate Field and Core Faculty, Medieval Studies; Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; and LGBT Studies Programs, Cornell University.
Member, Graduate Field, Comparative Literature, Cornell University

Education

PhD, Rhetoric Department, University of California, Berkeley, 2002
Dissertation: *Subject to Debate: Gender, Self and Allegory in the Middle English Poetry of Disputation*
Dissertation Committee: Judith Butler (co-director) Anne Middleton (co-director)
Steven Justice, Ralph Hexter, Carol Clover
MA, Rhetoric Department, University of California, Berkeley, 1996
BA with High Honors, College of Letters, Wesleyan University, 1995

Teaching and Research Interests

Middle English literature, allegory, medieval literary theory and rhetoric, contemporary critical theory, feminist and queer studies.

Book:

Body Against Soul: Gender and Sowlehele in Middle English Allegory, in the series *Interventions: New Studies in Medieval Culture* edited by Ethan Knapp (Ohio State University Press, July 2009).

Through a reading of *Piers Plowman*, the Katherine Group's "Sawles Warde," and the popular but little-studied thirteenth-century debates between the Body and the Soul, I argue that Middle English allegory participates in the construction of a quotidian psychological discourse about the workings of the self. This discourse is often intimately concerned with whether the allegorized aspects of the anatomized self are to be gendered "male" or "female" and with how gender impacts relationships between aspects of the self, fraught as they are with the erotics and struggles of establishing the kind of hierarchies that lead to a well-balanced life. This study crosses the artificially-constructed boundary between an academic history of psychology as a discipline, and the cultural studies of the history of "the self" to examine a category that moderns might call "self-help" and that medieval thinkers and manuscript-compilers tended to call *sowlehele*.

Articles:

"Transgendering Pride" solicited for and forthcoming in the inaugural issue of *postmedieval: a journal of medieval cultural studies*
"Promising the Female, Delivering the Male: Transformations of Gender in *Piers Plowman*" *The Yearbook of Langland Studies* 19, 2005.

“Confessional Literature, Vernacular Psychology, and the History of the Self in Middle English”
Literature Compass Volume 2 (2005) ME 128, 1-20.

“Between Men, Mourning: Time, Love and the Gift in the *Roman de la Rose*” in *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 10.1 (Winter 2004), pp. 47-75

“Pninian Performatives” in *Nabokov at the Limits: Redrawing Critical Boundaries* ed. Lisa Zunshine (New York: Garland Academic Publishers, 1999): 127-161

Book Reviews:

Jody Enders, *Murder by Accident: Medieval Theater, Modern Media, Critical Intentions*, forthcoming in *Modern Language Quarterly*.

Karma Lochrie, *Heterosyncrasies* in *SSHMA Newsletter: Society for the Study of Homosexuality in the Middle Ages*, April 2009

Nelly Richard, *Masculine/Feminine: Practices of Difference(s)*, trans. Silvia R. Tandeciarz and Alice A. Nelson, in *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, 11. 3(2005), 479-481.

Thelma S. Fenster and Clare A. Lees, eds., *Gender in Debate from the Early Middle Ages to the Renaissance* in *The Medieval Review*, Fall 2003.

Michel Foucault, “*Il Faut Défendre la Société*” in *Critical Sense: a journal of political and cultural theory*, Special Issue, “Formations of Race and Nation.” Spring 1998.

Recent Fellowships and Honors

Appel Fellowship, Cornell University, 2009.

President’s Council of Cornell Women Affinito/Stewart Grant, 2004-2005.

American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship 2003-2004

Invited Participant, Mellon Humanities Seminar on Gender and Sexuality, Cornell University, 2003-2004

Fellow, The Society for the Humanities, “Secular and Sacred,” Cornell University, 2003-2004

Invited Presentations

“Pninian Jokes” Washington & Lee University, March 2009

"Jesus Christ Superstar: Intersections of Politics, Violence and Sexuality," Telluride House, Cornell University, November 2006.

“Body/Soul Debate and Transgender Autobiography,” *Resisting Medicine, Re/modeling Gender*, English Department Colloquium, Cornell University, October 2006.

“How Soul Joined With Body: Allegorical Goddesses and the Question of Embodiment” University of Pennsylvania Medieval/Renaissance Colloquium, February 2005.

“Translating Susannah in the Garden, Faithful and Faithless,” *Making the Text*, Cornell University, October 2003.

"The Soul is the Prison of the Body" Telluride House, Cornell University, February, 2003.

(Selected) Conferences and Presentations

“Apologizing and Overapologizing: Derrida and Chaucer in the Prologue to the *Legend of Good Women*” Panel sponsored by *Exemplaria*, 44nd Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2010.

“Queering Authorship in *Piers Plowman*” SEMA Conference, October 2008.

Panelist, discussion of Karma Lochrie’s *Heterosyncrasies*, Society for the History of Medieval

Homosexuality, 42nd Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2008.
 “The Four Daughters of God and the Trouble with Gender” 4th International *Piers Plowman* Conference, Philadelphia, PA, May 17-19th 2007.
 “The Voice Within Is Always Female: Misogyny, Materiality and the Daughters of God Trope” 40th Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI May 2005.
 “The Split Subject of Medieval Body/Soul Debate” at the Medieval Academy Conference, Seattle, April 1-3. 2004
 “Body and Soul: Middle English Debate and the History of the Self” at *The New Medievalisms* Conference, London, Ontario, Canada, March 12-14, 2004
 “Care of the Self, Care of the Soul: *Sawles Warde* In and Out of Context” at *The Central Ages: Periods and Boundaries*, at the Illinois Medieval Association Conference, February 27-28, 2004
 “Translating Susannah in the Garden, Faithful and Faithless” at *Translatio, or the Transmission of Culture*, Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Conference, February 12-14, 2004
 “Gender and Genre in Chaucer's *Parliment of Fouls*,” 38th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI May 2003.

Film

FTF: Female to Femme, dir. Kami Chisholm and Elizabeth Stark, 2006. Featured interviewee in documentary about lesbian femme identity. *FTF* has screened at over twenty national and international film festivals, including San Francisco *Frameline*; Los Angeles *Outfest*, Vancouver *Out on Screen*; Brisbane, Australia *Queer Film Festival*; London *BFI Queer Film Festival*, Budapest *Pride Festival* and at universities around the country.

University Service

Interim Director, Feminist, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, Cornell University, Spring 2010.
 Director, Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Studies Program, Cornell University, 2007-2009.
 Elected Representative, Agenda Committee, Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate, Cornell University
 Faculty Sponsor: Cornell University Queer Colloquium; Gender and Sexuality Reading Group (inception in 2005 to present)
 Member: Cornell Feminist Gender and Sexuality Studies Chair Search Committee, Winter 2006-07
 Cornell English Department Placement Officer, 2006-2007, 2007-2008. Visiting Fellows Committee, 2008-2009.
 Cornell English Department Admissions Committee, 2005-2006; Medieval Studies Admissions Committee, annual since 2002.
 Cornell English Department Academic Review Committee, 2005-2006
 Cornell English Department/Medieval Studies Joint Search Committee (two lines; Early English, Medieval Latin), 2004-2005

Conferences Organized

“TransRhetorics” Cornell University, March 2009.
 “What is a First Book?” Cornell University, Fall 2003.
 “Conversations in Feminist Theory” Cornell University, Spring 2003.