

## Margaret Ann (Peggy) Escher, Ph.D.

English Department  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
City University of New York  
524 West 59<sup>th</sup> Street 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10019  
(212) 237-8703

mescher@jjay.cuny.edu

January 2007

Ph.D. Comparative Literature. New York University.  
Dissertation: “Configurations of Trickery in Boccaccio’s *Decameron*,  
Marguerite de Navarre’s *Heptaméron*, Masuccio’s *Il Novellino* and  
Shakespeare’s *Othello*.”  
Advisor: Dr. Daniel Javitch

M. Phil. Comparative Literature. New York University.

Certificate in Latin. The Latin/Greek Institute, CUNY.

B.A. Philosophy. St. John’s College. Annapolis, MD.

### EMPLOYMENT

#### **John Jay College of Criminal Justice / City University of New York.**

2007-present

Lecturer  
English Department  
Certificate of Continuous Employment awarded in 2011

1982 – 2007

Assistant Professor (Substitute Line) and Adjunct Lecturer  
English Department  
Thematic Studies / Interdisciplinary  
Basic Skills

#### Courses

- Lit 372 Topics in Early Modern Literature: The Art of the Swindle  
from the *Decameron* to *Othello*
- Lit 371 Topics in Medieval Literature: Building and Bucking the  
System: Creators and Challengers of Law in Medieval  
Literature
- Lit 370 Topics in Ancient Literature: Ancient Greek and Roman Comedy
- Lit 327 The Literature of Crime and Punishment
- Lit 314 Shakespeare and Justice
- Lit 313 Shakespeare
- Lit 233 American Literature
- Lit 232 Modern World Literature
- Lit 231 Medieval and Early Modern Literature
- Lit 230 Classical Literature
- Lit 233 American Literature

- Conscience and Risk: Ethics Explored Through Writing / Eng. 102

### **Marymount College / Manhattan.**

1982-1988                      English Department  
    Critical Thinking Department  
    Adjunct Lecturer

#### Courses

- Modern Poetry
- The Novella
- The Brontës
- Critical Thinking

### **St. Peter's College (Jersey City, NJ).**

1978-79                      English Department  
    Adjunct Lecturer  
    --            College Composition

### PUBLICATIONS

- 1988                      "Roberta Allen Emerges as a Writer." *Women Artists News*. Fall 1988.  
 1986                      'World Literature.' *The Reader's Adviser*, ed. Maurice Charney. New York: R. R. Bouker.  
 1985                      *Comparative Poetics: Xth Congress of the International Comparative Literature Association*. Volume II. Assistant Editor. New York: Garland.

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2015                      "Computational Error in *Decameron* 8.8 and 8.10: Revenge and the Mis-Measure of Justice." 50<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.
- 2015                      "Disordering of Space and Thought in *Decameron* 7.8." Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, Berlin, Germany.
- 2014                      "'A more continue time': *Ingegno* and the Reckoning of Multiple Identities in *Decameron* 8.8 and *Hamlet*." 49<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.
- 2013                      "'From this time forth I never will speak word': Closing the gap between words and things in *Decameron* 8.10 and *Othello*." 48th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.
- 2012                      "'O damned Iago! O inhuman dog!': Antecedents of Roderigo's Ungulling in *Decameron* Day Eight and Day Nine." 47th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.

- 2011 “Marguerite de Navarre’s Calvinist Medievalism: Fragmentation of the Figure in l’ *Heptaméron*.” 46th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.
- 2011 “Spatial Representation of Agency in Marguerite de Navarre’s l’*Heptaméron*.” Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, Montreal.
- 2010 “Equivocal Speech and Deed: Rending the Bonds of Affiliation in Day 8 of the *Decameron*.” International Medieval Congress University of, Leeds (UK).
- 2010 “ ‘*Con beffe e dolore e danno*’: Two Varieties of Unseeing in Masuccio Salernitano’s *Il Novellino*.” Canadian Society for Renaissance Studies Congress, Concordia University, Montreal.
- 2010 “Rendering Void: Dismemberment of Contract, Word and Flesh in *Decameron* 8.1, 8.9 and 8.10.” 45th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.
- 2010 “Inferring the Shadow Text: Encrypted Homoeroticism in Trickster Narratives in Boccaccio’s *Decameron*.” Conference of the Renaissance Society of America, Venice (Italy).
- 2009 “Lexical Ambiguity, Metaphor and the Art of the Swindle in Day 8 of Boccaccio’s *Decameron*.” Canadian Society for Renaissance Studies Congress, Carleton University, Ottawa.
- 2009 "Consolation of Revenge: Trickery and the Limits of Justice in Day 8 of Boccaccio's *Decameron*." 44th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.
- 2009 “The Timing of Desire in Day Three of Boccaccio’s *Decameron*.” Sixteenth International Medieval Conference, University of Leeds (UK).
- 2008 “Complicity of Transgressive Tricksters and Unseeing Victims in Masuccio Salernitano’s *Il Novellino*,” “Crime Cultures Conference Figuring Criminality in Literature, Media and Film.” University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth (UK).
- 2008 “Space, Perception and the Imagination in Day 7 of Boccaccio’s *Decameron*,” Canadian Society for Renaissance Studies. Congress. University of British Columbia, Vancouver.
- 2007 “Error and Artistic Illusion in Trickster Stories in the *Decameron*.” Canadian Society for Renaissance Studies. Congress. University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon.
- 2007 “Female Narrator vs. Male Author in *Decameron* 8.9.” 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Comparative Literature Conference on Women, Sexuality and Early Modern Studies. California State University, Long Beach.
- 1998 “Tricksters and the Shapes of Daily Life in Boccaccio’s *Decameron*.” Conference on Rhetoric, Knowledge and Mediation sponsored by the University of Bergen (Norway). New York City.
- 1988 “*Indignatio* in the Satires of Juvenal.” XIIth Congress of The International Comparative Literature Association. Munich.

- 1986 “Good Faith and Bad in Boccaccio’s *Decameron*..” Italian Studies Conference. University of Indiana, Bloomington.
- 1985 “The Centrality of *Franchise* in Montaigne’s *Essais*.” IXth Congress of The International Comparative Literature Association. Paris.

### WORKS IN PROGRESS

#### Book

In discussion with Ashgate Press (UK) to publish *Agency, Inconsistency and the Art of the Swindle in the French and Italian Novella*.

#### Peer-Reviewed Articles in Progress

“Trickster and Artist Disjoined: Defective Agency and the Rending of Narrative in Trickster Stories in Boccaccio’s *Decameron*” to *Quaderni d’italianistica*. Nearly completed

“Spatial Dominion and the Power to Deceive: Controlling Home, Husband and Text in Day Seven of Boccaccio’s *Decameron*” to *Renaissance and Reformation*. Nearly completed

“Trickster and Artist Disjoined: Defective Agency and the Rending of Narrative in Trickster Stories in Boccaccio’s *Decameron*” to *Quaderni d’italianistica*. Writing in progress

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 2007 Talk entitled “ ‘*Pros tyn tou metriou*’: The twisting Art of Plato’s *Statesman* and Ancient Greek Tricksters” presented to English Department faculty, John Jay College / CUNY.
- 1983-1984 Associate. International Seminar on Germanistik. Erfurt and Weimar.
- 1982 Assistant Organizer. Xth Triennial Congress of the International Comparative Literature Association. New York City.

### COLLEGE SERVICE

#### Department

- Spring-Fall 2010 General Education Literature Subcommittee
- Fall 2008-Spring 2011 Faculty Advisor to students majoring in English
- Fall 2007- Spring 2011 Chair, English Department Committee to Research and Negotiate Articulation Agreements with English Departments in Community Colleges in the CUNY System

College

Fall 2012-Present	Senator, Faculty Senate, English Department Representative
Fall 2012-Present	Member, College Council
Fall 2012	Member, Search Committee for Director of Admissions
Fall 2011-Present	Member, Undergraduate Admissions Appeals Committee
Fall 2011-Spring 2012	Member, Faculty-Student Disciplinary Committee
Fall 2009-Present	Educational Partnerships Subcommittee of the Undergraduate Curriculum and Standards Committee
Fall 2009-Spring 2011	Human Rights Minor Planning Group
Fall 2009	English Department Representative, College Outcomes Assessment Committee

OTHER ACTIVITIES

2014	Session Organizer of Conference Session Sponsored by Italians and Italianists at Kalamazoo, 49 <sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.
2003	Consultant. Horace Mann Middle School (Bronx, New York). Curriculum Development: Redesigned Middle School Ethics Curriculum.

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Boccaccio Association., Canadian Society for Renaissance Studies, Modern Language Association, Renaissance Society of America, Medieval Association of the Midwest.

LANGUAGES

**Modern:** French, German, Italian. **Ancient:** Greek, Latin.

~ References available on request ~