

**Karen D. Adams**  
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## EDUCATION

**University of Pittsburgh**, Department of French and Italian, Pittsburgh, PA  
**PhD French Literature**, December 2016

Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski

Dissertation Title: "Reimagining Gender, Reimagining Kinship: Cross-Dressing, Sex Change, and Family Structure in Four Medieval French Narratives"

Certificate in Medieval and Renaissance Studies

**University of Pittsburgh**, Department of French and Italian, Pittsburgh, PA  
**MA French Literature**, April 2010

**Vassar College**, Poughkeepsie, NY

**BA French and History**, General and Departmental Honors in French and History, May 2003

Undergraduate Honors and Awards:

Award for Excellence in European History, May 2003

Phi Beta Kappa, May 2003

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Full-time Lecturer**, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT (August 2022 – present)

- **Elementary French I** (French 1100), Fall 2022 and 2023; Spring 2024
- **Elementary French II** (French 1200), Fall 2024 and Spring 2025
- **Intermediate French I** (French 2100), Fall 2022, 2023, and 2024
- **Intermediate French II** (French 2200), Spring and Fall 2023; Spring 2024
- **French Kiss** (WLIT 096 and HCOL 086: French literature in translation and French film, Spring 2023; WLIT1400: Spring 2025)

**Part-time Instructor**, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA (January 2021 - May 2021)

- **French Kiss: Love, Sex, France**, Spring 2021 (synchronous online, 2 sections of 3 cr.): Created teaching materials, assignments, and evaluations on French literature in translation (Middle Ages to present) and French film. Created and maintained course website; curated weekly student discussion boards; provided individualized writing assignment feedback to 60 students from a range of majors and minors. This undergraduate course fulfills a diversity requirement for gen ed.

**Part-time Lecturer**, California State University, Long Beach, Long Beach, CA (August 2020 - December 2020)

- **Reading French Women Writers**, Fall 2020 (synchronous online, 3 cr.): Created new syllabus, teaching materials, and assignments on works by French women writers from the Middle Ages to the eighteenth century. Maintained course website and curated student discussion board. 3-hour seminar course cross-listed as a graduate level course for M.A. students in French and as an advanced undergraduate course.
- **Survey of French Literature I**, Fall 2020 (synchronous online, 4 cr.): Created new teaching materials and assignments for advanced undergraduate course on French literature from the Middle Ages to the eighteenth century. Maintained course website, provided individualized writing feedback, and moderated class discussion in French.

**Adjunct Professor**, Norwich University, Northfield, VT (August 2015 – May 2018)

- **Intermediate French II**, Spring 2017 and Spring 2018: Selected new textbook and created new syllabus; developed homework assignments and teaching and examination materials on topics in contemporary francophone society, such as globalization, immigration, and free speech.
- **Intermediate French I**, Fall 2017: Selected new textbook and created new syllabus; developed homework assignments and teaching and examination materials on topics in contemporary francophone society, such as education, technology and social media, and gender equality.
- **Beginning French II**, Spring 2017 and Spring 2016: Developed teaching material and quizzes on Parisian geography and landmarks, food and dining, and travel and transportation; assisted program director in editing and updating examinations.
- **Beginning French I**, Fall 2016 and Fall 2015: Developed teaching material and quizzes on the family, weather, and sports; assisted program director in editing and updating examinations.
- **Intermediate French I**, Fall 2016 and Fall 2015: Developed exams, quizzes, homework assignments, and teaching material on housing, cinema and theater, and topics in French history.

**Teaching Assistant** (2009-2010) / **Teaching Fellow** (2011-2013), University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

- **Intermediate French I**, Spring 2013 (two sections): Developed teaching material and quizzes on friendship, technology, and gender equality.
- **Approaches to French Literature** (third-year course for majors and minors), Fall 2012: Created syllabus and coursework for introduction to French literary studies course. Developed course units on poetry, the short story, the novel, the graphic novel, and theater. Organized class visit to “The School for Lies” (an adaptation of *Le Misanthrope*) at the Charity Randall Theater in Pittsburgh.
- **French Conversation** (third-year course for majors and minors), Spring 2012: Created syllabus, coursework, and examination material on emotions, relationships, and family for advanced-level conversation course.
- **Intermediate French II**, Fall 2011 (two sections): Developed teaching material and quizzes on globalization, immigration, and bilingualism.
- **Intensive French for Reading I**, Summer Term I, 2010 and Summer Term I, 2011: Created syllabus, coursework, and examination material for graduate students in the humanities working on French reading and translation skills in literary and theoretical texts.

- **Intermediate French I**, Spring 2010: Developed teaching material and quizzes on friendship, reality television, and gender equality.
- **Elementary French I**, Fall 2009: Developed teaching material and quizzes on housing, the family, and everyday life.

### OTHER EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

**Paraeducator**, Horizons Alternative High School Program, Burlington, VT (Sept. 2021 – June 2022)

- Provide academic support to high school students working to recover credits and graduate from high school
- Support students on Individualized Education Programs through scribing and supporting access to assistive technologies
- Supervise and support students in independent study work
- Assist teachers and administrators in providing social and emotional support to students and access to mental health services
- Assist special educator in creating coursework and activities for special education English class
- Building Substitute: teach Science, English, Social Studies, Special Education, and Art as needed (on average one day per week)
- Participate in community-building social and emotional activities and field trips with students, teachers, and administrators (attending weekly community meetings and occasional field trips with students and staff)
- Participate in staff meetings: building school community rapport, troubleshooting academic and social issues in concert with teachers and mental health staff
- Work with teachers to create an Academic and Career Forum to highlight students' academic success, college admissions, and career and vocational activities

**English teacher**, French Ministry of Education, Primary schools, Besançon, France, (October 2003 – June 2004)

- Taught English to children in three schools in the city. Created lesson plans and activities.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICE

**De-escalation training**, Crisis Prevention Institute, Burlington, VT: Attended full-day training seminar to learn strategies to de-escalate students experiencing stress and becoming aggressive, Feb. 11, 2022

**New England Medieval Conference**: Steering committee member for organization of annual conference, three-year term, 2015-2017

**Norwich University French Club**: Assisted program director in organizing weekly and ongoing activities, 2015 - 2017

### PUBLICATIONS

“Kissing Cousins: Incest and Sex Change in *Tristan de Nanteuil*.” *Newberry Essays in Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 7 (2013): 41-53. <http://www.newberry.org/sites/default/files/textpage-attachments/2013Proceedings.pdf>

### CONFERENCES AND PAPERS

**“Saints and Demons in *Tristan de Nanteuil*,”** Religion, Saints, and Sex: A Symposium in Honor of Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski, University of Pittsburgh, September 20, 2019.

**“After Sex Change: Recognition and Kinship in *Tristan de Nanteuil*,”** Vermont Medieval Midsummer Summit, Middlebury College, June 4, 2018.

**“Reimagining Kinship through Sex Change in *Tristan de Nanteuil*,”** Transforming Bodies Conference, Cornell University, April 21-22, 2017

**“Masculinity, Saintliness, and Sex Change in Two Medieval French Texts,”** College of Liberal Arts Colloquium, Norwich University, January 26, 2017

**“Surrogate Parents in *Le Roman de Silence*,”** NeMLA 2014, Harrisburg, PA, April 3-6, 2014

**“Sainly Sex Change in *Tristan de Nanteuil*,”** Vagantes Medieval Graduate Student Conference 2013, University of Wisconsin – Madison, March 21-23, 2013

**“Kissing Cousins: Incest and Sex Change in *Tristan de Nanteuil*,”** Newberry Center for Renaissance Studies 2013 Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Conference, Chicago, IL, January 24-26, 2013

**“Incestuous Bloodlines in the Medieval Epic Poem *Tristan de Nanteuil*,”** “Blood,” University of Pittsburgh French and Italian Graduate Student Conference, October 18-19, 2012

**“Savage Rites: Old and New World Cannibalism in the Works of Jean de Léry,”** “Martyred Bodies and Religious Communities in Medieval and Early Modern Europe,” Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Colloquium of the Medieval and Early Modern Institute at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, February 26-27, 2010

#### CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

**“Blood,” University of Pittsburgh French and Italian Graduate Student Conference,** October 18-19, 2012, Primary Organizer; invited and organized visit of keynote speaker, Dr. Peggy McCracken (University of Michigan)

**Vagantes Medieval Graduate Student Conference,** University of Pittsburgh, March 3-5, 2011, Co-Organizer

**“Relationship Status: It’s Complicated,” University of Pittsburgh French and Italian Graduate Student Conference,** February 24-25, 2011, Co-Organizer

**“In the Shadow of the City: Banlieue and Periferia,” University of Pittsburgh French and Italian Graduate Student Conference,** April 1-2, 2010, Co-Organizer

#### ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

**Teaching Fellowship,** University of Pittsburgh, August 2011 – April 2013

**Arts and Sciences Fellowship,** University of Pittsburgh, August 2010 – April 2011. This fellowship funded the study of German while I also pursued my French graduate courses and PhD comprehensive exams.

**Newberry Library Grant,** (\$2400) French Paleography Seminar, Chicago, IL, June – July 2010

**Teaching Assistantship,** University of Pittsburgh, August 2009 – April 2010

**Arts and Sciences Summer Research Fellowship,** (\$3000) University of Pittsburgh, Summer 2009. This fellowship funded a research project at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France in Paris.

**Arts and Sciences Fellowship,** University of Pittsburgh, August 2008 – April 2009

#### LANGUAGES

English: native

French: near-native