

Dr Henry Ravenhall

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Appointments

- 2023– Assistant Professor of French, University of California, Berkeley.
2021–23 British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Cambridge.
2020–21 Postdoctoral Fellow, with *Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective*, Freie Universität Berlin.
2020 Postdoctoral Research Associate, King's College London.

Education

- 2020 PhD French, King's College London. Dissertation: "The Anachronic Manuscript: Voices of the Past in BnF fr. 17177". Directors: Simon Gaunt, Simone Ventura. Examiners: Miranda Griffin, Luke Sunderland. (Awarded 1 July 2020)
2016 MA French Literature and Culture, King's College London. Pass with distinction.
2015 BA French and History, King's College London. First class, distinction in oral French.

Book

Anachrony and Assemblage: Reading Manuscript Culture in Medieval Soissons (forthcoming with Cornell University Press).

Edited volume

The Values of the Vernacular: Essays in Medieval Romance Languages and Literatures in Dialogue with Simon Gaunt, co-edited with Hannah Morcos, Maria Teresa Rachetta, Natasha Romanova, and Simone Ventura (Rome: Viella, 2025).

Special issue

"Touching Troy", special issue of *Anglia: Journal of English Philology*, 142.3 (2024), co-edited with Andrew James Johnston and Wolfram R. Keller.

Peer-reviewed journal articles

"Le toucher et l'expérience herméneutique : l'exemple du *Roman de la Rose*", *Littérales*, 53 (forthcoming).

(with Giulia Boitani) "A Hospitaller Book in Fifteenth-Century Florence: Notes on the Owners of Cologny, Bodmer 147", *Medioevo Romanzo*, 48 (2024), 335–61.

"Was Drouart la Vache, author of the *Livre d'amour* (1290), 'le Roi de Soissons'?" *Romania*, 142 (2024), 365–82.

"Defacing Troy: From Shakespeare's *The Rape of Lucrece* to Medieval Manuscripts," *Anglia*, 142.3 (2024), 548–72.

(with Andrew James Johnston and Wolfram R. Keller) "Introduction: Touching Troy," *Anglia*, 142.3 (2024), 419–27.

“Gautier de Coinci’s *Miracles de Nostre Dame* and the Powers of Olfaction”, *New Medieval Literatures*, 24 (2024), 60–100. **Runner-up: Society for French Studies 2024 Malcolm Bowie Prize.**

“Veiled Reading, Reading Veils: Textile Curtains and the Experiences of Medieval French Manuscripts, 1200–1325”, *Digital Philology*, 12.2 (2023), 155–94.

“The Date, Author, and Context of the *Roman de Silence*: A Reassessment”, *Medium Ævum*, 91 (2022), 70–99.

“All Roads Lead to Rome: Revisiting the Pairing of the *Histoire ancienne jusqu’à César* and the *Faits des Romains* in the Thirteenth Century”, *Romania*, 139 (2021), 5–36.

“The Untimely Subject: Reporting Discourse and Bearing Witness in Villehardouin’s *La Conquête de Constantinople* and Yannick Haenel’s *Jan Karski*”, *Interfaces*, 7 (2020), 9–36.

Book chapters (peer-reviewed)

“Lectures affectives des *Faits des Romains* (XIIIe–XVe siècles)”, in ed. Anne Rochebouet and Rosa María Rodríguez Porto, *Lire et écrire l’histoire dans l’Occident médiéval / Writing and Reading History Books in the Medieval West* (Turnhout: Brepols, forthcoming).

“Reading Touch in Two Manuscripts of the *Roman de Troie* (with Jean-Luc Nancy): Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France, français 60 and Vatican City, Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Reginensis Latinus 1505”, in ed. Emma Campbell and Luke Sunderland, *The Horizons of Medieval French and Occitan: New Approaches to Manuscripts and Texts* (Leiden: Brill, 2026), 266–89.

“Assemblages and History in a Medieval French Manuscript from Corbie, ca. 1295: Copenhagen, Kongelige Biblioteket, GKS 487”, in ed. Johannes Junge Ruhland, *Making History with Manuscripts in Medieval and Early Modern Europe* (Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter, 2025), 23–46.

Conference proceedings

“L’expérience *The Values of French Language and Literature in the European Middle Ages*”, in ed. Marta Materni, “Autour du *Roman de Florimont*: Approches multidisciplinaires à la complexité textuelle médiévale”, *Quaderni di Francigena*, 2 (2020), 151–63.

Book reviews

Kathryn M. Rudy, *Touching Parchment: How Medieval Users Rubbed, Handled, and Kissed Their Manuscripts*, vol. 2: *Social Encounters with the Book* [*Medium Ævum*, 94.1, 2025, 236–37]

Kathryn M. Rudy, *Touching Parchment: How Medieval Users Rubbed, Handled, and Kissed Their Manuscripts*, vol. 1: *Officials and Their Books* [*Medium Ævum*, 93.1, 2024, 220]

Francesco Montorsi, *Mémoire des anciens: traces littéraires de l’Antiquité aux XIIe et XIIIe siècles* [*Medium Ævum*, 92.2, 2023, 395]

Anne Rochebouet, *Réécrire l’histoire de Troie: la cinquième prose du “Roman de Troie”, compilation et création* [*French Studies*, 77, 2023, 465]

Maud Burnett McInerney, *Translation and Temporality in Benoît de Sainte-Maure’s “Roman de Troie”* [*French Studies*, 76, 2022, 645]

Véronique Dominguez-Guillaume, Élisabeth Gaucher- Rémond (eds), *Expériences critiques. Approche historiographique de quelques objets littéraires médiévaux* [*Le Moyen Âge*, 125, 2020, 625–26]

Digital editions

The Histoire ancienne jusqu'à César: A Digital Edition; BNF, Fr20125 (interpretive edition): Orient II (8) and Alexander (9), ed. by Henry Ravenhall, Simon Gaunt, Simone Ventura, Maria Teresa Rachetta, Natasha Romanova and Hannah Morcos; technical ed. by Paul Caton, Ginestra Ferraro, Marcus Husar, and Geoffroy Noël (ISBN: 978-1-912466-15-3). Available at: <http://www.tvof.ac.uk/textviewer/>

The Histoire ancienne jusqu'à César: A Digital Edition; BNF, Fr20125 (semi-diplomatic transcription), ed. by Hannah Morcos, Simon Gaunt, Simone Ventura, Maria Teresa Rachetta, Henry Ravenhall, and Natasha Romanova; technical ed. by Paul Caton, Ginestra Ferraro, Marcus Husar, and Geoffroy Noël (ISBN: 978-1-912466-15-3). Available at: <http://www.tvof.ac.uk/textviewer/>

The Histoire ancienne jusqu'à César: A Digital Edition; BL, Royal 20 D I (semi-diplomatic transcription), ed. by Hannah Morcos, Simon Gaunt, Simone Ventura, Maria Teresa Rachetta, Henry Ravenhall, Luca Barbieri, and Natasha Romanova; technical ed. by Paul Caton, Ginestra Ferraro, Marcus Husar, and Geoffroy Noël (ISBN: 978-1-912466-15-3). Available at: <http://www.tvof.ac.uk/textviewer/>

Digital resources

The Histoire ancienne jusqu'à César: Alignment, by Maria Teresa Rachetta, Hannah Morcos, Simon Gaunt, Henry Ravenhall, Natasha Romanova and Simone Ventura; technical ed. by Paul Caton, Ginestra Ferraro, and Geoffroy Noël (ISBN: 978-1-912466-15-3). Available at: <https://tvof.ac.uk/histoire-ancienne/alignment>

Workshops and conferences organized

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| 2026 | France-Berkeley Fund Workshop at UC Berkeley, "Violence in the Domestic Sphere: Premodern Images, Texts, Artifacts." |
| 2022 | International Workshop at Freie Universität Berlin, "Spectral Temporalities/Spectral Communities: Thinking Hauntologically about Premodern Literature and Culture." |
| 2022 | International Workshop at Freie Universität Berlin, "Touching Troy: Mediation, Materiality, Intermediality." |
| 2019 | London Postgraduate French Conference, "Bearing Witness/ <i>Témoignages</i> ." |
| 2019 | TVOF conference, KCL & British Library, "Narrating History across Languages in Medieval Europe" |
| 2018 | TVOF international workshop on the <i>Histoire ancienne jusqu'à César</i> . |

Selected presentations

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| 2026 | Society for French Studies Annual Conference, University of Leicester. "Gautier de Coinci's Aquatic Imagination." |
| 2026 | Invited Paper, Princeton University, "Medieval Matters: Manuscript Culture and the Five Senses in the Middle Ages." " <i>Flamenca</i> and the Erotics of Book-Touching." |
| 2026 | Roundtable, UC Berkeley, "Translation in Medieval Studies." "Translating <i>Flamenca</i> : Prospects and Challenges." |
| 2026 | Workshop, UC Berkeley, "Violence in the Domestic Sphere: Premodern Images, Texts, Artifacts." "The Jealous Husband, or How Medieval Manuscripts Mediate Violence." |
| 2025 | Invited Lecture, Department of French Lecture Series, Columbia University, Maison Française. "Haptics, Reading, and the <i>Roman de la Rose</i> ." |
| 2025 | Workshop, University of Cambridge, "Sociology of Reading in Late Medieval Europe." "Bourdieu, Habitus, Manuscripts." |
| 2025 | Invited Lecture, Medieval Questions Seminar, University of Cambridge. "Why did readers touch images in manuscripts of the <i>Romance of the Rose</i> ?" |
| 2025 | Medieval Academy of America Annual Meeting, Harvard University. "Touch and the Subject of the <i>Roman de la Rose</i> ." |

- 2025 Invited Lecture, History of Art Department, University of Michigan. “Haptic Virtuality: Touching Illuminated Manuscripts of the *Roman de la Rose* and the *Faits des Romains*.”
- 2024 Berkeley Medieval Studies Symposium. “Touch and the Subject of the *Roman de la Rose*.”
- 2024 27th Congress of the International Arthurian Society, Université d’Aix-Marseille. “Traces de lecture affective dans un manuscrit d’*Yvain* (BnF français 1433)” (paper presented in French).
- 2024 Society for French Studies Annual Conference, University of Stirling. “What Their Fingers Knew: Mediating Touch in Three Medieval French Pocket Books.”
- 2024 Workshop, University of California, Berkeley, “Modeling Change”. “Scripta, hybridity, shelf-life: three manuscript-based approaches to historical change.”
- 2024 Medieval Academy of America Annual Meeting, University of Notre Dame. “Crises of Time, Compilation, and Medieval French *Alexandre* Manuscripts.”
- 2023 International workshop, Freie Universität Berlin, “Imperial Fictions: the Cultural Entanglements and Multiple Temporalities of Alexander’s Afterlives.” “Alexander and the Surviving Image: The Politics of Repetition in Paris, BnF, fr. 24364 (*Roman de toute chevalerie*)” (invited).
- 2023 International workshop, University of Bern and Monte Verità, Ascona, “The Senses: Present Issues, Past Perspectives”. “Touch, Animation, and the Virtual: The Interplay of Sensory and Aesthetic Experience in Medieval French Manuscripts.”
- 2023 International workshop, IEA Paris, “Lire et écrire l’Histoire dans l’Occident médiéval (1150–1500).” “Lectures affectives des *Faits des Romains* (XIIIe-XVe siècle)” (invited, in French).
- 2023 International workshop, University of Oxford, “Cultures of Use and Reuse. Towards a Terminological and Methodological Framework of Reframing and Recycling”. “Studying Cultures of Touch and Use in the Illuminated Manuscripts of the Medieval French Biography of Julius Caesar (*Faits des Romains*).”
- 2023 Conference, British Library (organized with Durham University), “Monsters of Alexander the Great’s Legends in World Cultures.” “The Experience of Monstrosity in Medieval French *Alexander* Manuscripts, 1250–1350” (invited).
- 2022 Cambridge Medieval Literature and Culture Seminar, University of Cambridge. “Gautier de Coinci’s *Miracles de Notre Dame* and the Powers of Olfaction” (invited).
- 2022 International Workshop at Freie Universität Berlin, “Spectral Temporalities/Spectral Communities: Thinking Hauntologically about Premodern Literature and Culture.” “Pressures Past: Spectral Touch and the Premodern Book.”
- 2022 International Workshop at Freie Universität Berlin, DFG-Research Group 2305, “Touching Troy: Mediation, Materiality, Intermediality.” “Touch and the Materiality of the *Roman de Troie*.”
- 2022 ICMS, Kalamazoo, USA (online). “Assemblages of Time and Matter: Making History in French Manuscripts, ca 1300.”
- 2022 Workshop in Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic at Uni. of Cambridge, “The Medieval Irish Lucan: Text and Context.” “The Old French *Li Fet des Romains*.”
- 2022 Cambridge Medieval English Research Seminar. “Bookish Attachments: Reading the Touch of Medieval French and Occitan Romance” (invited).
- 2021 Workshop “Körper in Gemeinschaft”, *Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective*, Freie Universität Berlin. “Touching Communities: *Corpus* and *Communauté* in Jean-Luc Nancy” (invited, with Simon Godart).
- 2021 St Andrews Medieval Institute Research Seminar (online). “Between Textual and Emotional Communities? Touch and Medieval French Literary Culture” (invited).
- 2021 Oxford Medieval French Research Seminar, Maison française d’Oxford. “Feeling Medieval French Literature: Touch, Experience, Materiality” (invited).
- 2021 Online Medieval French Seminar (hosted by Durham University). “Making Sense of the *Roman de Troie* (with Jean-Luc Nancy).”
- 2021 SFS annual conference (online). “What makes an image intolerable? The affective frames of medieval manuscripts.”
- 2021 ICLS British Branch conference, University of Cambridge (online). “Benoît in the Veneto: The *Roman de Troie* of Vatican, BAV, Reg. Lat. 1505.”

- 2020 *Dark Archives 20/20*, SSMLL/University of Oxford. “Beyond the Veil: Manuscript Curtains and the Reading Experience, Medieval and Modern.”
- 2019 International Workshop “Anonymity and Temporality”, Freie Universität Berlin. “The Untimely Speaker: Anonymity and Narrative Voice in BnF fr. 17177.”
- 2019 TVOF Seminar, London. “Le manuscrit anachronique: Les voix du passé dans le MS BnF fr. 17177” (in French).
- 2019 ICLS, University of Exeter. “The *Histoire atelier* at Soissons and its network”.
- 2019 SFS annual conference, Royal Holloway University of London. “Audible Pasts: Sense and Sound in Medieval French Rhymed Chronicles.”
- 2019 ICMS, Kalamazoo, USA. “The future perfect? Deconstruction, re-assembly and innovation in the manuscripts of the *Histoire ancienne jusqu’à César*.”
- 2019 Oxford Medieval Graduate Conference, Kellogg College. ““Tu ne sivismie la voie dou commencement”: Deviant Politics and Deviant Textuality around the Figure of Pierre de la Broce.”
- 2018 International conference, “Autour de *Florimont*. Textualité médiévale et textualité numérique”, Université Grenoble Alpes. “The Values of French Language and Literature in the European Middle Ages” (in French).
- 2018 IMS-Paris International Symposium “Truth and Fiction”, Paris. “Discours rapporté et la ‘vérité’ de l’histoire dans la *Chronique du Pseudo-Turpin*” (in French). **Winner: IMS-Paris PhD Student Prize.**
- 2018 Graduate workshop “Foreign Knowledge: Medieval Attitudes towards the Unknown”, Ruhr-Universität Bochum. “Foreign languages and the *Histoire ancienne jusqu’à César*.”
- 2018 TVOF international workshop on the *Histoire ancienne jusqu’à César*, London. “La narration de l’histoire” (roundtable in French with Michelle Szkilnik & Nicola Morato).
- 2018 SFS postgraduate conference, UCL. “L’Histoire se répète: Anachronistic speech in the *Eneas* of the *Histoire ancienne jusqu’à César*.”

Awards, honors, grants

- 2026 Society of Hellman Fellows Award, UC Berkeley (\$23,778.88).
- 2025 France-Berkeley Fund, “Visualizing Gender from Manuscript to Household in the Middle Ages” (\$14,980, with Maud Pérez-Simon, Sorbonne Nouvelle).
- 2025 Runner-up, Society for French Studies 2024 Malcolm Bowie Prize, “awarded for the best article published in the preceding year by an early-career researcher in the broader discipline of French Studies.”
- 2024 Advancing Faculty Diversity in the Arts and Humanities Fellowship, UC Berkeley.
- 2022 Early Career Research Fellowship at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge.
- 2021 Three-year British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship (1 of 45; worth £299,572)
- 2021 Three-year Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship (declined).
- 2020 Six-month Postdoctoral Fellowship from Freie Universität Berlin.
- 2019 Associate Fellowship, Advance HE, UK (formerly Higher Education Academy).
- 2018 IMS-Paris prize for PhD students (worth €350) for best paper proposal.
- 2017 Full PhD funding (worth £24,000 p/a) awarded by ERC studentship with *The Values of French Language and Literature in the European Middle Ages*.
- 2015 LAHP Research Preparation Studentship for Modern Languages (1 of 5; full award of fees and stipend for MA at doctoral rate).
- 2015 Sévigné Studentship – full award of MA funding (1 of 1; declined).
- 2015 Associateship of King’s College (AKC) with distinction in 2015.
- 2013, 2015 Commendations from Head of French department.
- 2013 King’s myScholarship (worth £1,800) for academic achievement.
- 2013 John Taylor Book Prize for highest score in 2nd-year French literature course.

Courses taught at UC Berkeley

Undergraduate

- FR43 Exploring Medieval France Through Things

FR102	Advanced Reading and Writing Workshop in French
FR103	Sex, Monsters, and the Margins in the Francophone Premodern
FR112	Gender, Space, and Diversity in Medieval French Literature
FR121	Aquatic Imaginations: Medieval to Modern
FR141	Ecocriticism in French: History, Culture, Theory, Politics

Graduate

FR210	Affect, Experience, Sensation: Reading Medieval French Literature in Manuscripts
FR210	Voice in Medieval French and Occitan Literature
FR281	Touch: Philosophy, Art, Literature, Film

Graduate mentoring at UC Berkeley

Member of Ph.D. dissertation committees

2024-	Saagar Asnani (Music)
2024-26	Michael Lawson (Scandinavian)

Member of qualifying examination committees (completed)

2024	Michael Lawson (Scandinavian)
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Previous teaching

King's College London (2017–20)

- 4AFFF120 Core French Language
- 5AFFF200 Core French Language
- 5AFFF238 The Practice of Translation
- 5AFFF253 Death & Desire: Love in French Literature before 1700

University of Cambridge (2021–22)

- FRB2 Translation from French
- FR1 Introduction to French Literature, Film and Thought

Other teaching experience

- English and French High School Teacher, Happy Chandara School, Cambodia (2016–17)
- Summer TEFL teaching (2012–16)

Service

Profession

2024-	Manuscript peer reviewer for <i>Diacritics</i> , <i>Digital Philology</i> , <i>Manuscripta: A Journal for Manuscript Research</i> , <i>PMLA</i> , <i>Public Humanities</i> , and <i>Viator</i>
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Campus

2024-	Advisory Committee, Medieval Studies Program
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Department

2025-26	Search Committee, Specialist of Francophone Africa
2025-26	Head Graduate Advisor, RLL-French
2024-26	Executive Committee, Romance Languages and Literatures
2023-24	Member, Graduate Committee
2023-25	Member, Library Committee

Languages

Modern: English (native), French (near-native), Italian (advanced)

Medieval: Old and Middle French (expert), Latin (reading), Occitan (reading)

Professional memberships

Society for French Studies, Modern Language Association, Medieval Academy of America, International Arthurian Society, Society for the Study of Medieval Languages and Literature