

Chris Chism

My research, teaching, and professional service aims to broaden the conception of the medieval period, and globalize treatments of its culture and literature by encompassing Mediterranean, Asian, and African circuits of encounter, violence, and transmission. Trained in the literature and drama of the British Middle Ages, fifteen years ago I received a Mellon New Direction Grant to study Arabic languages, and the broader history of premodern Islamic cultures to which it opens doors. My current work explores connectivities between these cultural traditions, investigating questions not only of transculturation but also of periodization. I joined the faculty of UCLA in 2009, after holding positions at Rutgers University and Allegheny College. Since completing my first book, *Alliterative Revivals* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2002), I have been working on several projects. *Mortal Friends: The Politics of Friendship in Medieval England*, forthcoming from Penn, explores the social force of friendship in a range of late medieval texts. A second project, *Strange Knowledge: Translation and Cultural Transmission in the Arabic and English Middle Ages*, treats the ways that writers conveyed materials from different cultures into Arabic and into English discourse. I have also published on medieval Arabic and European travel narratives, and the Middle English and Arabic Alexander romances, and on Salah al-Din. Recently I edited the second, medieval-themed volume of the five-volume Wiley Blackwell *Companion to World Literature*, under the general editorship of Ken Seigneurie,