

*Curriculum Vitae*

**DALLAS GEORGE DENERY II**

History Department  
Bowdoin College  
9900 College Station  
Brunswick, Maine 04011-8499  
E-mail: [ddenery@bowdoin.edu](mailto:ddenery@bowdoin.edu)  
(207) 725-3671

***Education:***

Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley, History, 1999.  
M.A., Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, Philosophy, 1995.  
(with honors)  
B.A., University of California, Berkeley, Philosophy, 1986.  
(with honors)

***Areas of Concentration:***

Medieval Europe  
History of Religion  
Intellectual/Cultural History

***Publications:***

**Monographs:**

*Bad History*  
(in progress)

*The Devil Wins: A History of Lying from the Garden of Eden to the Enlightenment.*  
Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2015. Paperback, 2016 (Arabic translation,  
Al-Aali Publishing House, 2024)

*Seeing and Being Seen in the Late Medieval World: Optics, Theology and the  
Religious Life.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005. Paperback, 2009.

**Edited Volumes:**

*A Cultural History of Ideas in the Medieval Age*. Bloomsbury Publishing Plc: London, 2022.

*Uncertain Knowledge: Scepticism, Relativism and Doubt in the Middle Ages*. Edited by Dallas G. Denery II, Kantik Ghosh and Nicolette Zeeman. Turnhout: Brepols Publishers, n.v., 2014.

**Essays:**

“Jean Hardouin: History, Heritage, and the Danger of Scholarship.” In *Conspiracy and Conspiracy Theory in Premodern Europe*. Edited by Jay Rubenstein. Turnhout: Brepols, forthcoming.

“Truth, Lies, and the Good Life in Michel de Montaigne, Madeleine de Scudéry, and several others.” In *Being Untruthful. Lies, Fictionality and Related Nonfactualities*. Edited by Stephan Packard and Monika Fludernik. Frankfurt: Ergon Verlag, 2021.

“Vision and Visual Error in the Later Middle Ages.” In *Vision and Theory of Perspective*. Edited by Nicolas Temple and Cecilia Panti (SISMEL 2021)

“Introduction.” In *The Cultural History of Ideas: The Middle Ages*. Bloomsbury Publishing Plc: London, 2022.

“Lying.” In *Speculum* 93:1 (January 2018), 72-77.

“John of Salisbury, Academic Skepticism and Ciceronian Rhetoric.” In *The Oxford Companion to the Reception of Classical Literature in England*. Edited by Rita Copeland. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016, 377-390.

“Uncertainty and Deception in the Medieval and Early Modern Court.” In *Uncertain Knowledge in the Middle Ages: Scepticism, Relativism and Doubt in the Middle Ages*. Edited by Dallas G. Denery II, Kantik Ghosh and Nicolette Zeeman. Turnhout: Brepols Publishers, n.v., 2014: 13-36.

“Introduction: Varieties of Uncertainty.” Co-written with Nicolette Zeeman and Kantik Ghosh. In *Uncertain Knowledge in the Middle Ages*. Edited by Dallas G. Denery II, Kantik Ghosh and Nicolette Zeeman. Turnhout: Brepols Publishers, n.v., 2014: 1-12

“Christine de Pizan on Misogyny, Gossip and Possibility.” In *The Middle Ages in Texts and Texture*. Edited by Jason Glenn. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2011: 309-21.

“Protagoras and the Fourteenth-Century Invention of Epistemological Relativism.” In *Visualizing the Invisible: Visionary Technologies in Religious and Cultural Contexts*. Edited by Lisa Bitel. A special issue of *Visual Resources: An International Journal of Documentation* XXV: 1-2 (2009): 29-51.

“Christine de Pizan Against the Theologians: The Virtue of Lies in *The Book of the Three Virtues*.” In *Viator: Medieval and Renaissance Studies* 39: 1 (2008): 229-247. (Reprinted: *Classical and Medieval Literature Criticism*, vol. 139, Edited by Lawrence J. Trudeau. Detroit: Gale Cengage Learning, 2014: 253-66.

“Biblical Liars and Medieval Theologians.” In *The Seven Deadly Sins: From Individuals to Communities*. Edited by Richard Newhauser. Leiden: Brill, 2007: 111-28.

“The Preacher and His Audience: Dominican Conceptions of the Self in the Thirteenth Century.” In *Public Performance/Public Ritual*. Edited by Laurie Postlewaite and Wim Huskens. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2007: 17-34.

“Nicholas of Autrecourt on Saving the Appearances.” In *Nicolas d'Autrecourt et la Faculté des arts de Paris (1317-1340)*. Edited by Stephan Caroti and Christophe Grellard. Cesena: Stilgraf, 2006: 65-84.

“From Sacred Mystery to Divine Deception: Robert Holkot, John Wyclif and the Transformation of Fourteenth-Century Eucharistic Discourse.” *Journal of Religious History*, June 2005: 129-44.

“The Appearance of Reality: Peter Aureol and the Experience of Perceptual Error.” *Franciscan Studies*, 55 (1998): 27-52.

### **Misc. Publications:**

“The Cat’s Out of the Bag, or On the Writing of ‘A Kitty Kat Christmas.’” In *Bowdoin Magazine*, Fall 2025: 20-21.  
<https://www.bowdoin.edu/news/2025/11/the-cats-out-of-the-bag.html>

“Medieval Optics.” In *Oxford Bibliographies in Medieval Studies*. Ed. Paul E. Szarmach. New York: Oxford University Press, posted Jan. 2019).  
<http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780195396584/obo-9780195396584-0260.xml>

“Lies, Lying: Middle Ages and Reformation.” In *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. Christine Helmer, et al. eds. (De Gruyter Online, 2018).  
<https://www.degruyter.com/view/db/ebr>

“Can God Lie?” In *Aeon Magazine*, February 26, 2015.

<http://aeon.co/magazine/philosophy/how-science-made-an-honest-man-of-god/>

“Dallas Denery on Deceit”

Five Books (posted March 20, 2015)

<http://fivebooks.com/interviews/dallas-denery-on-deceit-0>

“The True History of Lying.” In *The Irish Times On-Line*, January 28, 2015.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/culture/books/the-true-history-of-lying-1.2081531>

“A Kitty Kat Christmas.” In *I Love Cats Magazine* (Dec. 1991).

### Reviews:

Andrew Hadfield. *Lying in Early Modern English Culture: From the Oath of Supremacy to the Oath of Allegiance* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017). In *The Spencer Review* 48.2.8 (Spring-Summer 2018).

Cornel Zwierlein, *The Dark Side of Knowledge: Histories of Ignorance, 1400-1800* (Leiden: Brill, 2016). In *Renaissance Quarterly* 70:4 (Winter, 2017), 1489-91.

A. Mark Smith, *From Sight to Light: The Passage from Ancient to Modern Optics* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015). In *Speculum* 92:2 (April 2017): 584-586.

Marcia Colish, *Faith, Fiction & Force in Medieval Baptismal Debates* (Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2014). In *Speculum* 91:1 (January, 2016): 191-92.

Amanda Power. *Roger Bacon and the Defense of Christendom*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013. In *The American Historical Review* 119:4 (October, 2014): 1336-37.

Peter of Limoges, *The Moral Treatise on the Eye*. Richard Newhauser, trans. In *Isis* 104:2 (June 2013): 391-92.

Stuart Clark, *Vanities of the Eye: Vision in Early Modern European Culture* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007). In *The Journal of the History of Philosophy*, 48:1 (2010): 103-04.

Samuel Edgerton, *The Mirror, the Window, and the Telescope: How Renaissance Linear Perspective Changed our Vision of the Universe* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2009). On [H-German \(October 2009\)](#).

Sarah Stanbury. *The Visual Object of Desire in Late Medieval England* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007), On [H-Albion \(December, 2008\)](#).

Roberta J.M. Olson, ed. *The Biography of the Object in Late Medieval and Renaissance Italy*, (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2006). In *Sixteenth-Century Journal* XXXIX (Winter 2008): 1124-25.

Lina Bolzoni, *The Web of Images: Vernacular Preaching from its Origins to St. Bernardino da Siena* (Aldershot, Eng.: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2004). In *Speculum*, 83:3 (2008): 666.

Elizabeth Eva Leach, *Sung Birds: Music, Poetry, And Nature in the Later Middle Ages*. Cornell: Cornell University Press, 2006. In *The American Historical Review*, 112:5 (December 2007): 1596-97.

Maiju Lehmijoki-Gardner, ed. and trans., *Dominican Penitent Women* (New York: Paulist Press, 2005). In *Speculum*, 81:3 (July 2006): 877-78.

Christophe Grellard, *Croire et Savoir: Les principes de la connaissance selon Nicolas d'Autrécourt*. Paris: J. Vrin, 2005. In *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, 44:1 (January 2006): 119-20.

### **Talks and Presentations:**

“Two Histories of Lying and a Third”

Presented at *From Socrates to Trump: Truth and Lies Through History*  
Engelsberg Seminar, Engelsberg, Sweden, March 2026

“Jean Hardouin and Conspiracy”

Presented at the Borchard Symposium, Missillac, France, June 2023.

“Truth, Lies, and the Good Life” (Plenary Address)

Presented at “Lying and Related Fictions.”  
University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany, February 2019.

“Vision and Visual Error in the Later Middle Ages”

Presented at “Arabic and Latin Science of Vision and the Beginnings of Perspective in Early Renaissance Florence.”

International Society for the Study of Medieval Latin, Florence, Italy, September 2018.

“Lying Then and Lying Now: The History of Lying and Why It Matters Today”

Presented at Sage/Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

University of Southern Maine, September 2015

“How We Learned to Live with Lies”

Presented at Karofsky Faculty Encore Lecture  
Bowdoin College, January 2015

“How We Learned to Live with Lies”

Presented at Medieval Studies Lecture Series  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, October 2014

“From the Serpent to Society, or How We Learned to Live with Lies”

Presented at NYU Medieval and Renaissance Center, Distinguished Lecture Series  
New York University, New York City, October 2014

“A History of God’s Lies”

Presented at Colloquium on Religion  
Stanford University, Stanford, November 2013

“A Brief History of Lying, 395-1723”

Presented at Consortium for the Study of Religion  
University of California, Berkeley, November 2013

“Vision and Skepticism before Alberti”

Presented at *Science, Ethics and the Transformations of Art in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Century*  
Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts, September 2013.

“On the Disunity of the Middle Ages”

Presented at Delaware Valley Medieval Association Annual Meeting  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, April 2013

“Rhetoric, Skepticism and the Disunity of the Middle Ages.”

Presented at Oxford University, Oxford, January 2013

“The Devil Wins: A History of Lying from the Garden of Eden to the Enlightenment.”

Presented at Work-in-Progress Seminar  
King’s College, Cambridge, January 2013

“Uncertainty and Deception in the Medieval and Early Modern Court”

Presented at Center for Human Values  
Princeton University, Princeton, October 2012

“Prudence, Probability and Periodization.”

Presented at Medieval Academy of the Pacific Annual Meeting  
Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, California, February 2012.

“Flatterers, Wheedlers and Gossip-Mongers: Lying in Pre-Modern Europe”  
Presented at Kennedy Center European Studies Lecture  
Brigham Young University, Provo, September 2011

Organizer/Presenter, [\*Uncertain Knowledge in the Middle Ages\*](#)  
Cambridge University, Cambridge, April 2011.

“Uncertainty and Deception in the Medieval and Early Modern Court.”  
Presented at *Uncertain Knowledge in the Middle Ages*  
Cambridge University, Cambridge, April 2011.

“What the Devil Doesn’t Know”  
Presented at College Art Association Annual Conference  
New York City, February 2011

Organizer, [\*Faith, Reason and Evolution: A Public Colloquium\*](#).  
Presented at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, October and November, 2008.

“From Adam and Eve to Extra-Terrestrial Reptilian Astronauts: Making Sense of  
Genesis.”  
Presented at Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, October, 2008.

Organizer, *Medieval Relativism and its Legacy*:  
An international conference sponsored by Bowdoin College and Université Paris I  
Paris, June, 2008.

“Preaching the Perils of Perspective”  
Presented at Art and Morality in the Renaissance  
National Gallery, London, November 2007.

Comment, “Philosophers and Theologians on the Seven Deadly Sins”  
Presented at Sewanee Medieval Colloquium  
University of the South, Sewanee, March 2007.

“The Virtuous Lie: Christine de Pizan Against the Theologians”  
Presented at Sewanee Medieval Colloquium  
University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, March 2007.

“Vision and Relativism in the Fourteenth Century”  
Presented at Medieval Association of the Pacific  
University of California, Los Angeles, California, March 2007.

“The Moral Eye and the Natural Appearances: Some Religious Contexts For Nicholas of Autrecourt's Philosophy of Vision”

Presented at Colloque: Nicholas d’Autrecourt et la faculté des arts de Paris  
Université de Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, May 2005.

“Liars, Hypocrites and Priests.”

Presented at International Congress on Medieval Studies  
Kalamazoo, May 2005.

“Vision, Image and Perspective During the Later Middle Ages.”

Presented at Meeting of the College Art Association of America  
Atlanta, March 2005.

“Preaching the Perils of Perspective in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Centuries”

Presented at Meeting of the American Historical Association  
Seattle, WA, January 2005.

“Deceiving Gods and False Visions: The Limits of Medieval Conceptions of Order.”

Presented at Annual Meeting of the Maine Medievalist Association  
Bowdoin College, Brunswick, November 2003.

“Between Idolatry and Truth: Divine Deception, Real Presence and the Desire to See the Host during the Fourteenth Century”

Presented at Meeting of the American Historical Association (presenter and panel organizer)  
San Francisco, January 2002.

“Curiosity, Idolatry and the Eucharist: Bonaventure on How to View a Miracle”

Presented at Texas Medieval Association  
Trinity College, San Antonio, September 2001.

“Self as Self-Presentation in Early Dominican Religious Life”

Presented at Barnard College Medieval and Renaissance Conference  
Barnard College, New York City, December 2000.

“Peter of Limoges, Perspectivist Optics and the Displacement of Vision”

Presented at University of California Medieval History Seminar  
Huntington Library, San Marino, November 1999.

“The Medieval Science of Perspective and the Optics of the Self”

Presented at Intellectual History and Practice: A Workshop  
University of California, Berkeley, October 1998.

“Late Medieval Contributions to Early Modern Modes of Thought: Peter Aureol, Nicholas of Autrecourt and Rene Descartes”  
Presented at Spring Philosophy Colloquium  
University of San Francisco, San Francisco, April 1998.

“Probability and Perspective:  
Peter Aureol and Nicolas of Autrecourt on the Importance of Appearances”  
Presented at Medieval Academy of America, annual meeting  
Stanford University, Stanford, March 1998.

“Confession, Deception and Self-Knowledge”  
Presented at International Medieval Conference at Leeds, annual meeting  
University of Leeds, Leeds, July 1997.

### ***Interviews:***

#### **Radio and Podcasts:**

Politics in a Fallen World: Lying Fact-Checkers, and the Future of Civilization, in  
*Religion Dispatches*, Oct. 19, 2016 (<http://religiondispatches.org/devil-wins-qa/>)

*Moncrieff*, Newstalk (Irish Radio), January 28, 2015

*Maine Calling*, WMPBN (Maine Public Radio), February 5, 2015

*Consider This*, KZYX (Mendocino/Ukiah Public Radion), February 27, 2015

*Deep Cover with Damien Dynan*, 93.1 FM (Cork, Ireland), March, 2015

*Raj Persaud in Conversation*

<http://rajpersaud.libsyn.com/can-god-lie-dallas-denery-discusses-his-new-book-the-devil-wins>

*On Point with Tom Ashbrook*, WBUR Boston/NPR, May 27, 2015.

### ***Honors and Awards:***

Course Development Award  
Bowdoin College, September 2018

Faculty Research Grant  
Bowdoin College, October 2017

Karofsky Faculty Encore Lecture

Bowdoin College, January 2015

Laurance S. Rockefeller Visiting Fellowship  
Center For Human Values, Princeton University, 2012-13

Course Development Award, Bowdoin College, Spring 2008

Kenan Fellowship, Bowdoin College 2005

NEH Summer Seminar, Cambridge University, Summer 2004

Fellow in the Humanities, Stanford University, 2000-2001

Mellon Dissertation Write-Up Fellowship, U.C Berkeley, 1997-98

Koret Chair Fellowship, U.C. Berkeley, 1994, 1996-97

Summer Mellon Research Grant, U.C. Berkeley, 1995

### ***Teaching Experience:***

#### Bowdoin College

July 2002 to June 2008 as Assistant Professor

July 2008 to June 2015 as Associate Professor

July 2015 to present as Professor

Courses Taught: *Medieval Europe; Medieval Culture and Thought; Science, Magic and Religion; A History of the Body; Monsters, Marvels and Messiahs; The History of History; Early Modern Europe; Cultures of Deception; Genesis and its Interpreters and On the Origins of Modernity; Medieval, Renaissance and Reformation Europe; History: What, How Why?; The Good Life; The Renaissance; Everything is Wrong! A History of Doubt.*

#### Stanford University

Acting Assistant Professor of Medieval History

September 2001 – June 2002

Courses Taught: *Medieval Europe: From Christian Rome to the Renaissance and Reformation; Medieval Intellectual History: Practices, Contexts, Ideas and Graduate Research Seminar.*

#### Stanford University

Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities, Lecturer

January 2000 – June 2001

Courses Taught: *Ten Days that Shook the World* and *The Self, The Sacred and The Human Good*.

University of California, Berkeley

History Department, Teaching Assistant

1996-1999

Courses Taught: *Ancient History* and *Medieval Europe*.

University of San Francisco

Philosophy Department, Lecturer

1992 - 1999

Courses taught: *Philosophy of Man Person* and *Great Philosophical Questions*.

**Other Professional Experience:**

Book Review Editor. *Speculum* (2018-2021)

Consultant, AP European History curriculum and test revision (2012)

Editorial Board for *Disputatio*, Brepols Publishers, Turnhout. Belgium (2008-14)

College on the Seine: Stanford Travel/Study Program  
Faculty Lecturer, July 2002.

University of California, Berkeley, Art History Department  
Research Assistant for Harvey Stahl, 1997.

University of California, Berkeley, History Department  
Research Assistant for Amos Funkenstein, 1994.