

TALIN TAHAJIAN

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EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIPS

Yale University (New Haven, CT)

2022–

Ph.D., English (Medieval) • A.B.D. • Doctoral Committee: Professor Jessica Brantley (chair), Professor Naomi Levine, Professor Emily Thornbury, Professor Nicolette Zeeman (King's, Cambridge)

Committee Member, Graduate Student Advisory Committee (GSAC), 2022–2024 • IvyPlus Exchange Scholar, Harvard University (Spring 2024)

Trinity College, University of Cambridge (Cambridge, UK)

July 2021

M.Phil., Medieval and Renaissance Literature • Overall mark: Pass with Distinction • Supervisor: Professor Nicolette Zeeman (King's)

Dissertation (best-in-cohort): "Penance in St Augustine's garden: 'polyngē'-ness and sonic ductus across two Middle English lyrics in Oxford, New College MS 88, fol. 181r–v"

First Place, John Kinsella and Tracy Ryan Prize, Churchill College, 2021

Awarded the Gould Studentship in English Literature, a competitive graduate bursary that covers all course fees and includes a maintenance allowance

Helen Zell Writers' Program, University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI)

May 2019

M.F.A., Creative Writing (Poetry) • GPA 4.0 • Thesis Directors: Professor Linda Gregerson and Professor Khaled Mattawa • Preliminary examination for candidacy: "High Pass" (Distinction)

First Place, Hopwood Graduate Poetry Award, University of Michigan, 2018 (selected by external judges Carmen Gimenez-Smith and Alan Shapiro) • Helen S. and John Wagner Prize, University of Michigan, 2018

Program admits ten students in poetry and twelve in fiction from an applicant pool of roughly 1,000 and includes full tuition remission, a monthly stipend, summer funding, and healthcare benefits • Received a Zell postgraduate writing fellowship, including a living stipend worth \$29,000 (2019–2020)

Sidney Sussex College, University of Cambridge (Cambridge, UK)

June 2017

B.A. Hons. (Cantab.), English • Overall mark: Double Starred First • "Topped Tripos" (rank 1/195) • Part II (2016–2017): Class I with Distinction (Starred First) • Part I (2014–2016): Class I with Distinction (Starred First)

Mrs Claude Beddington Prize, Faculty of English, 2017 • Austin Dobson Prize, Faculty of English, 2017 • Winifred Georgina Holgate Pollard Memorial Prize, Chairs of Examiners, 2017 • Ronald Bentham-Green Prize for Academic Excellence in University Examinations, Sidney Sussex College, 2017 • William Barcroft Scholar in English, Sidney Sussex College, 2015–2017 • College Subject Representative in English, 2015–2016

Specializations and coursework topics: manuscript studies and late medieval alliterative verse (especially the Cotton Nero A.x.); John Donne's Songs and Sonnets;

Thomas Kyd's Spanish Tragedy; the rhetoric of Elizabeth I; Sarah Kane's stage plays; the contemporary installation poetry of Robert Montgomery

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Part-Time Acting Instructor (PTAI)

2025–2026

Yale College

Instructor of record (IOR) for a section of English 1014, “Mysticism and Composition,” a first-year writing seminar. Class meets twice a week. Responsible for syllabus design and all grading. Teaching a 1-1 course load.

Teaching Fellow (TF)

2024–2025

Yale College

Served as a Teaching Fellow (TF) for Professor Feisal Mohamed in his undergraduate lecture, English 160: Milton (Fall 2024), and for Professor Langdon Hammer in his undergraduate lecture, English 3840: Poetry Since 1950 (Spring 2025). Taught one section, graded papers and other assignments, and offered weekly office hours.

Teaching Fellow (TF)

Spring 2024

Harvard Divinity School

Served as a Teaching Fellow (TF) for Professor Amy Hollywood's graduate seminar, “Mourning, Melancholia, and Mysticism” (Religion 1458/HDS 2628). Graded papers and provided in-depth feedback; offered weekly office hours.

Summer Workshop Instructor (Poetry)

2023–

Ellipsis Writing

Wrote an original curriculum and co-taught “Who's the ‘You’?: The Art of Poetic Address,” an eight-week online advanced poetry workshop to high school students, with Sam Bailey (Harvard, Religion), in summers 2023–2024. In 2025, I taught a new course, “Inhabiting Images.”

Graduate Student Instructor (GSI)

2018–2019

Department of English Language and Literature, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Taught a 1-1 course load, including English 125: Writing on the Surreal (Fall 2018), a first-year composition course, and English 223: Elements of Poetic Craft (Winter 2019), an introductory course in creative writing. As instructor of record (IOR) of both courses, was responsible for designing syllabi, grading essays, hosting regular office hours, and running class meetings for eighteen students twice a week. Participated in intensive pedagogical training as well as various department-sponsored teaching colloquia throughout the year. Named an “Honored Instructor,” a student-nominated award granted for “invaluable contribution to student learning.”

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Graduate Student Co-Coordinator, Poetics Working Group

2023–

Department of English, Yale University

Involved in programming and facilitating all events, including visits from guest speakers, dissertation chapter and article workshops, and reading groups. A working group funded by the Whitney Humanities Center and sponsored by Professor Naomi Levine (English) and co-coordinated with Julian Durkin (English), Josy Raheem (English and Film & Media Studies), and Celine Vezina (English).

Judge (Poetry), Cadigan Prize for Younger Writers

January 2024

Stadler Center for Poetry & Literary Arts, Bucknell University

Read through all poetry submissions for the Cadigan Prize for Younger Writers, the internal undergraduate poetry prize at Bucknell University, and selected a first-place winner, a second-place winner and one honorable mention in a timely fashion. Wrote short write-ups for each winning packet.

Graduate Student Coordinator, Medieval British Cultures (“Scriptorium”)

2023–2024

Department of English, Yale University

Organize and facilitate all events. Responsible for catering as well as creating and maintaining the relevant listserv and disseminating email announcements and invitations. Manage a yearly budget. A working group funded by the Whitney Humanities Center and co-sponsored by Professors Jessica Brantley (English), Ardis Butterfield (English & French) and Emily Thornbury (English).	
Social Coordinator (“Fun Czar”), Committee of Graduate Students (COGS) Department of English, Harvard University	2021–2022
Organized all social events, both in-person and virtual, for graduate students in the Department, such as coffee and bagel hours and happy hours. Was responsible for creating and maintaining the relevant listserv and disseminating email announcements and invitations. Managed a yearly budget.	
Graduate Student Co-Coordinator, Poetry and Poetics Workshop (P&PW) Department of English Language and Literature, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	2018–2020
Coordinated and facilitated—including email announcements, poster design and other forms of publicity and communications, updating and maintaining our listserv and list of participants, interfacing with professors, catering and room reservations, and inputting details into the department-wide calendar—our termly roundtable series, which included dissertation chapter workshops, article workshops, and reading groups. Managed a yearly budget of \$7,000, including funds from the Department and the Rackham Graduate School. Curated and organized visits from visiting scholars, including providing introductions at events, booking hotels, flights, ground transportation, and meal reservations, and administering financial paperwork. Applied for additional funding from other departments and facilitated co-sponsorships between various interest groups and other RIWs. Created and maintained the P&PW website. Drafted language for our mission statement and upcoming events. Responsible for yearly re-applications for funding and submitting an end-of-year report, including a narrative account of events and financial report. Sponsored by Professor Gillian White (English) and co-coordinated with Zoey Dorman (English). During my tenure with P&PW, guests included Professor Virginia Jackson (UC-Irvine), Professor Jahan Ramazani (UVA), Professor Harris Feinsod (Northwestern), and Professor Margaret Ronda (UC-Davis) and Professor Lynn Keller (UW-Madison), whose visits were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.	

SELECTED EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Mark: A Journal of Christian Poets

Associate Editor	2024–
Read submissions and help process them, edit prose statements and interviews by the editors, responsible for digital design and maintenance (website and social media). <i>Mark</i> is a new journal of Christian poetry edited by Emma De Lisle (Religion, Harvard) and Sam Bailey (Religion, Harvard) and published and distributed by Staircase Books (Cambridge, MA).	

The Yale Review

Assistant Editor (Poetry)	2022–
“Pod Leader” in poetry (senior role). Review poetry submissions and sort through the slush. Process all high-profile “VIP” submissions. Send rejections and recommend for publication. Work closely with senior editors. Correspond with contributors and perform in-house edits on accepted pieces. Contribute at “ideas,” editors’, and all-hands meetings. Weekly in-office hours.	

Senior Reader (Poetry)	2021–2022
Commented and voted on poetry submissions as part of a weekly quota. Forwarded publishable submissions onward to editors; rejected low-scoring packets. Attended staff meetings.	

The Adroit Journal

Poetry Editor	2013–2021
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Helped to oversee a global editorial staff. Provided commentary on poetry submissions. Led staff meetings/discussions. Managed a team of readers. Corresponded with contributors and submitters. At the time I left the journal, it had an acceptance rate of less than 1% and had received over 65,000 submissions for consideration. Work first published in *Adroit* had been recognized by *The Pushcart Prize* series, *Best American Nonrequired Reading*, *Poetry Daily*, *Best of the Net*, *Verse Daily*, *Best New Poets*, NPR, and other international platforms.

PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES AND ENGAGEMENTS

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| Hynes Convention Center (Boston, MA) | November 2025 |
| “How to Pay Attention: The Early European Sciences and Aesthetics of Attention,” American Academy of Religion (AAR) | |
| <i>Paper, “Vidimus enim stellam eius in oriente et venimus adorare eum: Attending to the Sign in a Late Medieval English Sermon on the Epiphany,” in conversation with Rebekah Rosenfeld (panelist; Chicago Divinity School), Sherah Bloor (panelist; Religion, Harvard), Ella Wilhelm (panelist; Germanic Studies, Chicago), and Ryan Coyne (respondent; Chicago Divinity School) and organized by Danica Cao (Chicago Divinity School)</i> | |
| Yale University (New Haven, CT) | February 2024 |
| Medieval Colloquium, English Department | |
| <i>Respondent to the work of Professor Eric Weiskott (English, Boston College)</i> | |
| Bucknell University (Lewisburg, PA) | August 2024 |
| Bucknell Hall, Stadler Center for Poetry & Literary Arts | |
| <i>Guest reader, West Branch Reading, and panelist at an undergraduate-focused lunchtime talk about literary careers, also featuring Arman Chowdhury, Tobi Kassim, and Michelle Mariano</i> | |
| University of Leeds (Leeds, UK) | July 2024 |
| “Textual, Contextual, and Intertextual Crises in Early Medieval England, I” (Session 1533), Leeds International Medieval Congress (IMC) | |
| <i>Paper, “‘Dominion,’ ‘Presence’ and Syntactic Process: Some Medieval Latin and English Variants of Genesis 1:26–28,” in conversation with Daniel Thomas (panelist; Queen’s College, Oxford), Francisco Rozano-García (panelist; English and Digital Humanities, University College Cork), and Claire Poynton-Smith (moderator; English, Trinity College Dublin), and organized by Tom Revell (English, Oxford) and Francisco Rozano-García (Old English, National University of Ireland, Galway)</i> | |
| King’s College, University of Cambridge (Cambridge, UK) | May 2024 |
| Medieval Literary Theory and Practice: New Directions: A Symposium Celebrating the Work of Nicolette Zeeman | |
| <i>Paper, “A New Transcription of a Prayer in John of Grimestone’s Preaching Book”</i> | |
| Yale University (New Haven, CT) | February 2024 |
| Medieval Colloquium, English Department | |
| <i>Respondent to the work of Professor Shannon Gayk (English, Indiana University, Bloomington)</i> | |
| Harvard University (Cambridge, MA) | March 2023 |
| Vagantes Conference on Medieval Studies | |
| <i>Reader, “Contemplative/Contemporary: A Poetry Reading,” also featuring Sam Bailey (Harvard, Religion), Emma De Lisle (Harvard, Religion), Andrew Maxwell (Harvard, English), and Madeleine Scott (Harvard, Religion)</i> | |
| University of Michigan, Ann Arbor | November 2019 |
| “Critical Conversations” Series, Department of English Language and Literature | |
| <i>Panelist, also featuring comments from Kyle Frisina (U-M, American Culture), Michael Hoffman (U-M, English and Education), and Sunhay You (U-M, English and Women’s Studies), and chaired Professor John Whittier-Ferguson (U-M, English)</i> | |

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor February 2019

Medieval Lunch Series, Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS)

Paper, “‘As hit cleve schulde’: Auralty, Hendiadic Confusion, and Sonic Syntax in the Pearl Poet”

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor November 2018

“What is genre?”, Department of English Language and Literature

Panelist, also featuring comments from Professor Virginia Jackson (UC-Irvine, English), Annie Bolotin (U-M, English), and Annika Pattenaude (U-M, English), and moderated by Professor Gillian White (U-M, English)

AWARDS AND RESEARCH GRANTS

Participant Scholarship in Poetry, Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference, Middlebury College	August 2025
GSAS Professional Experience (GPE) Fellowship, Yale University (<i>The Yale Review</i>)	Spring 2025
YoungArts Microgrant, National YoungArts Foundation	March 2025
IvyPlus Exchange Scholarship, English Department, Harvard University	Spring 2024
MacMillan Center International Conference Travel Grant, Yale University	Summer 2024
MacMillan Center Summer Fellowship for Language Study Award, Yale University	Summer 2023
YoungArts Microgrant, National YoungArts Foundation	March 2023
Dr. Carolann S. and George Najarian Scholarship, Armenian International Women’s Association (AIWA)	2022–2023
Religious Studies Scholarship, Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU)	2021–2023
International Scholarship (UK), Taniel & Alice Zaroukian Scholarship Fund, Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU)	2020–2021
Mary V. Toumayan Scholarship, Armenian International Women’s Association (AIWA)	2020–2021
YoungArts Microgrant, National YoungArts Foundation	Spring 2019
Rackham Conference Travel Grant, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	March 2019
Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	Winter 2018–2019
Rackham International Research Award, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	May–July 2018

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Reviews and critical work

<i>Poetry Daily</i> , “Talin Tahajian on Frank Bidart’s ‘Half-Light’”	July 2024
<i>The Kenyon Review Online</i> , “‘A deep well of love’: On Fiona Benson’s <i>Vertigo & Ghost</i> ”	May/June 2020
<i>The Kenyon Review Online</i> , “‘This is what we’re doing’: On Eileen Myles’s <i>Evolution</i> ”	July 2019

Poems and creative work

<i>AGNI</i> , “If You Asked Me To I Would” and “Annunciation, Part III”	<i>forthcoming</i>
<i>Oxford Poetry</i> , “Null Value Psalm”	<i>forthcoming</i>
<i>The Georgia Review</i> , “Sick Goat”	<i>forthcoming</i>
<i>The Iowa Review</i> , “Lobotomy,” “Open Source Psalm,” “The Pit,” and “This Is the Patron Saint of New Haven”	<i>forthcoming</i>
<i>The Florida Review</i> , “Maggot”	<i>forthcoming</i>
<i>Annulet</i> , “Measurer,” “Larva,” and “I Am a Girl”	<i>forthcoming</i>
<i>Kismet</i> , “Psalm 6”	November 2025
<i>Fine Print</i> , “Killdeer, Part II”	October 2025
<i>Bat City Review</i> , “Enter the Horse, Darkroom Door, Part I”	Spring 2025
<i>The Missouri Review</i> , “Enter the Horse, Darkroom Door, Part II”	May 2025
<i>Verse Daily</i> , “The Most Beautiful Bathtub in the World” (via <i>The Adroit Journal</i>)	April 2025
<i>Peripheries</i> , “Psalm of the Fifth Brain”	Spring 2025
<i>The Adroit Journal</i> , “The Most Beautiful Bathtub in the World” and “Give Up If You Think You Can Choose”	April 2025
<i>The Georgia Review</i> , “Your Dream of My Life, You Who Now Own It”	April 2025

<i>Poetry Daily</i> , “Bad Debt” (via <i>Blackbox Manifold</i>)	January 2025
Mark, “Detroit Sonnets” and “The Clam”	December 2024
Mizna, “Seraph Zone” and “Birthday”	Fall 2024
<i>The Missouri Review</i> , “Priory Rd.,” “Goodbye Dirt,” “Obsession/The Edge,” and “Mass Ave.”	Fall 2024
<i>Blackbox Manifold</i> , “Bad Debt”	August 2024
<i>The Drift</i> , “Cape Neddick”	July 2024
<i>Poetry Daily</i> , “Distractions” (via <i>West Branch</i>)	November 2023
<i>West Branch</i> , “July” and “Distractions”	Summer 2023
<i>bath magg</i> , “Lent”	Spring 2023
<i>Pleiades</i> , from <i>New year poem</i>	Summer 2021
<i>TriQuarterly</i> , from <i>New year poem</i> and “After returning to King’s College Chapel”	January 2021
<i>BOAAT</i> , from <i>New year poem</i>	August 2020
<i>Narrative</i> , “The keepers”	March 2020
<i>Poetry Magazine</i> , “Bad classics”	February 2020
<i>Narrative</i> , (“Poem of the Week” feature), “Türkenmarkt”	November 2019
<i>Copper Nickel</i> , “Tragedy”	October 2019
<i>Slice Magazine</i> , “My suburbs my forgotten land”	Fall/Winter 2019
<i>Iowa Review Online</i> , “Earth usually has more than one moon, study suggests”	April 2018
<i>The Rumpus</i> , “Çuprululu (‘In this new country’)”	April 2018
<i>Black Warrior Review</i> , “Barn Point”	February 2018
<i>Nashville Review</i> , “Landscape”	July 2017
<i>Passages North</i> , “Spring rain”	Spring 2017
<i>Cosmonauts Avenue</i> , “No steeple”	March 2017
<i>Indiana Review</i> , “Hibernation”	Fall 2016
<i>The London Magazine</i> , “I don’t live in a mountainous country”	July 2016
<i>Sixth Finch</i> , “Perseids”	Spring 2016
<i>Birdfeast</i> , “Open letter to the boy with the red umbrella”	Winter 2016
<i>Kenyon Review Online</i> , “Image as fishmongers”	Fall 2015
<i>Indiana Review</i> , “Remedies”	Summer 2015
<i>Columbia Poetry Review</i> , “Explanation after sex”	Spring 2015
<i>Salt Hill Journal</i> , “Scenes from the corner of 19th and Fulton”	Spring 2015
<i>Devil’s Lake</i> , “Mussel” and “Baptism”	Spring 2015
<i>Boxcar Poetry Review</i> , “Dream sequence for birds”	March 2015
<i>Diagram</i> , “Give me a topic”	December 2014
<i>Washington Square Review</i> , “Agronomy”	Summer/Fall 2014
<i>The Adroit Journal</i> , “Farm Boys”	Summer 2014
<i>Pank Magazine</i> , “Scenes from the urban dumpster,” “Boardwalk November,” “Carcinoma,” and “Livestock”	February 2014

SELECTED NOMINATIONS AND AWARDS (POETRY)

Nominee, Pushcart Prize (via <i>Fine Print</i>)	Fall 2025
Shortlisted, Oxford Poetry Prize, <i>Oxford Poetry</i>	Fall 2025
Finalist, Loraine Williams Poetry Prize, <i>The Georgia Review</i>	Summer 2025
Finalist, <i>Iowa Review</i> Award in Poetry	Summer 2025
Finalist, Patricia Goedicke Prize in Poetry, <i>CutBank Literary Magazine</i>	Spring 2025
Finalist, Gregory Djanikian Scholars Program, <i>The Adroit Journal</i>	Spring 2025
Finalist, Loraine Williams Poetry Prize, <i>The Georgia Review</i>	Summer 2024
Longlisted, Robert Watson Literary Prize (Poetry), <i>The Greensboro Review</i>	Winter 2023
Finalist, Jeffrey E. Smith Editors’ Prize (Poetry), <i>The Missouri Review</i>	Winter 2023
Shortlisted, Bridport Prize (Poetry)	Summer 2022
Longlisted, Bridport Prize (Poetry)	Summer 2021
Nominee, Best of the Net (via <i>Black Warrior Review</i>)	Fall 2018
Finalist, <i>Iowa Review</i> Award in Poetry	Summer 2018
Nominee, Best New Poets (via the <i>Nashville Review</i>)	Spring 2018
Second Place, <i>Cosmonauts Avenue</i> Poetry Prize, selected by Eileen Myles	March 2017

Selected, <i>Best New Poets</i> , Samovar Press/ <i>Meridian</i> , guest ed. Mary Szybist	Fall 2016
Nominee, Pushcart Prize (via <i>Wildness</i>)	Fall 2016
Finalist, <i>Indiana Review</i> Poetry Prize	May 2016
Finalist, Button Poetry Chapbook Prize	Spring 2016
Nominee, Pushcart Prize (via <i>Dialogist</i>)	Winter 2015
Nominee, <i>Bettering American Poetry</i> (via <i>Muzzle Magazine</i>)	Winter 2015
Finalist, <i>Black Warrior Review</i> Poetry Contest	September 2015
Semi-Finalist, “Discovery”/ <i>Boston Review</i> Poetry Contest	April 2015
Shortlisted, Jane Martin Poetry Prize, Girton College, University of Cambridge	April 2015
First Place, PBS National Student Poetry Competition, Poetry Book Society (UK)	February 2015
Finalist, Black River Chapbook Competition, Black Lawrence Press	January 2015
National Winner, Silver Level, YoungArts Winner in Poetry, National YoungArts Foundation	December 2014
Selected, <i>Best New Poets</i> , Samovar Press/ <i>Meridian</i> , guest ed. Dorianne Laux	Summer 2014
Finalist, <i>Indiana Review</i> Poetry Prize	May 2014

LANGUAGES

Ancient Greek, *basic reading proficiency*
 Latin, *reading proficiency (doctoral reading language)*
 Old English, *reading proficiency*
 Middle English, *reading proficiency*
 French, *basic reading proficiency, basic conversational ability*
 German, *reading proficiency, conversational ability (doctoral reading language)*