Daniel Paul O'Donnell

Curriculum Vitae

Education

Summary O'Donnell completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto in English and Medieval Latin, followed by an MA and PhD at Yale University in English. His doctoral research focused on variation in Old English poetry, supervised by Fred C. Robinson.

1996 **Ph.D. in English**, *Yale University*, Andrew W. Mellon Fellow; SSHRC Doctoral Fellow; Yale University Fellow
Dissertation: *Manuscript Variation in Multiple Recension Old English Poetic Texts: The Technical Problem and Poetical Art*
Supervisor: Fred C. Robinson
Reviewed in *Linguistica e Filologia* 9 (1999): 156

1991 **M.A. in English**, *Yale University*, Andrew W. Mellon Fellow; Yale University Fellow

1989 **B.A. in English Language and Literature (with Distinction)**, *St. Michael's College, University of Toronto*, Various Prizes
Specialization: English Language and Literature
Minor: Medieval Latin (requirements also met for minor in Celtic Studies)

Languages

Summary O'Donnell works in a range of modern and historical languages relevant to medieval studies and digital scholarship. These include English (native), Dutch (spoken and read), French (reading and conversational), and German (reading), as well as a variety of medieval and classical languages, such as Old English, Old Norse, Latin, Old Frisian, and Gothic.

Modern
- English (native)
- Dutch (preparing for CERF C2 certification)
- French (preparing for CERF B2 certification)
- German (reading)

Historical Old English, Old Norse, Latin, Old Frisian, Gothic

Academic Positions

Summary Since 1997, O'Donnell has held a continuing faculty position at the University of Lethbridge, where he currently holds the rank of Professor. He has also taught at Louisiana State University, the University of York, and Yale University, and has held adjunct and affiliate roles at the University of Saskatchewan and within the University Library. At the University of Toronto, he was the first undergraduate to hold a research position at the Dictionary of Old English.

2020–	**Affiliate Member**, *Prentice Institute for Global Population, University of Lethbridge*
2019–2024	**Adjunct Professor**, *College of Postgraduate and Postdoctoral Studies, University of Saskatchewan*
2018	**Professor of English (Offered and Declined)**, *University of Saskatchewan*
2015–	**Associate Member**, *University Library Academic Staff, University of Lethbridge*
2010–	**Professor of English (Tenured)**, *University of Lethbridge*
2002–2010	**Associate Professor of English (Tenured)**, *University of Lethbridge*
1997–2002	**Assistant Professor of English**, *University of Lethbridge*
1997	**Tutor**, *Department of English and Related Literatures, University of York (UK)*
1997	**Tutor**, *Workers' Educational Association (UK)*
1994–1995	**Visiting Assistant Professor**, *Department of English, Louisiana State University*
1991–1992	**Teaching Fellow**, *Department of English, Yale University*
1987–1989	**Research Assistant**, *Dictionary of Old English, University of Toronto*

Academic Leadership

Summary O'Donnell has led multiple academic and professional organisations, including CAFA, ULFA, Force11, GO::DH, and the TEI. He has chaired major digital infrastructure and policy boards, founded scholarly and advocacy groups, and served as department chair at Lethbridge. In these roles, he has consistently taken leadership during moments of structural transition and policy change.

2005–2008, 2023–	**Department Chair**, Department of English, University of Lethbridge. *Led department through curriculum overhaul, review, and hiring plan during institutional crisis; implemented new governance model.*
2024–2025	**Past President**, Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations (CAFA). *Continued strategic advocacy. Helped establish quarterly meetings with Deputy Minister and Staff at Ministry of Advanced Education (Alberta). Co-presenter to "Expert Panel on Post-Secondary Institution Funding and Alberta's Competitiveness (Mintz Panel).*
2023–2024	**President**, CAFA. *Assumed role immediately following loss of major member (2/3 of income). Rebuilt organisation and expanded connections to other post-secondary and civil society organisations in province and western Canada as well as nationally. Redesigned public and government relations practices, resulting in improved press-coverage and regular meetings with government officials. Build successful inter-sectoral lobbying effort on Bill 18 (with Rural Municipalities of Alberta and University of Alberta. Helped found Western Regional Council.*
2023–2024	**Past President**, University of Lethbridge Faculty Association (ULFA). *Supported transition to new leadership. Advised on grievance resolution, governance, member relations, communications, and bargaining. Negotiated MoU extending ULFA/U of L collective agreement to cover faculty at ULethbridge International College Calgary (UICC), a new Navitas/University of Lethbridge collaboration. This is the first agreement nationally to extend Collective Agreement protections completely to instructors in Navitas-led college.*
2021–2023	**President**, ULFA. *Led Association communications and preparations for job action during two years of negotiations. Oversaw Association during six-week job action in February and March of 2022 (92% strike vote, 91% ratification). Led restoration of management-union relations post-strike.*

2020–2021	**Vice-President**, ULFA. *Assisted president in major grievance cases while leading bargaining.*
2018–2021	**Chief Spokesperson and Bargaining Chair**, ULFA. *Negotiated multiple collective agreements (including Navitas MOU); launched and secured approval for job action fund.*
2018–2019	**President**, Force11 (Future of Research Communications and E-scholarship). *Oversaw launch of FORCE11 Scholarly Communication Institute (FSCI); expanded global FAIR and Open Science policy advocacy).*
2013–2017	**Vice-President**, Force11. *Built global partnerships in scholarly communication and infrastructure.*
2015–2017	**Founding Director**, Lethbridge Centre for the Study of Scholarly Communication. *Created institutional centre supporting interdisciplinary research and publication innovation in Open Science and scholarly communication.*
2012–2015	**Founding Chair**, Global Outlook::Digital Humanities (GO::DH). *Founded equity-centred digital humanities network credited with leading the "Global Turn" in Digital Humanities Research. Initiated multilingual and regional DH programs.*
2010–2013	**Co-President**, Canadian Society for Digital Humanities (CSDH/SCHN). *Coordinated national DH strategy and membership growth.*
2010–	**Editor-in-Chief**, *Digital Studies/Les champs numériques* (DSCN). *Assumed editorial leadership of national journal in DH studies at the end of volume 2. Established alternate funding model to preserve Open Access status. Oversaw approval for membership in the Open Library of the Humanities (OLH).*
2009–2012	**Chair**, Digital Initiatives Advisory Board, Medieval Academy of America (MAA). *Guided MAA infrastructure strategy; advised on journal and archive digitisation.*
2006–2011	**Chair and CEO**, Text Encoding Initiative (TEI). *Restructured TEI governance; launched member-led consortium; published revised TEI Guidelines.*
2003–2009	**Founding Director**, Digital Medievalist (DM). *Established pioneering digital community of practice for medievalists working with digital media. Built infrastructure and journal.*

Current Major Projects

Summary	O'Donnell is Principal Investigator (PI) on several research initiatives focused on scholarly communication, data infrastructure, and academic governance, and early medieval culture. These projects are supported by internal and external funding from various programmes. The training of Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) is an important element in all these projects.
Resistance to Data	Humanities Approaches to Research Classification and Infrastructure (2022–) **Funding:** SSHRC Insight Grant 2025–2029, PI, $300,000; SSHRC PDG 2022–2025, PI, $200,000. *Umbrella initiative investigating epistemic and institutional resistance to structured data in the humanities. Builds on the earlier projects* Good Things Come in Small Packages *and* Humanities Data Inquiry (HDI) *projects.*

#safespaces?	Academic Freedom and Inclusivity in an Age of Polarisation (2024–) **Funding:** SSHRC Insight Development Grant (applied for), PI. *Examines how political polarisation and campus speech discourses intersect with evolving understandings of academic freedom.*
Lethbridge Journal Incubator	Using Open Access publication to provide work-integrated-learning opportunities to graduate students (2012–) **Funding:** SSHRC Aid to Scholarly Journals (PI); School of Graduate Studies; School of Graduate Studies, Strategic Opportunities Fund (SOF). *Training and mentorship program in scholarly publishing. Provides graduate students with editorial and infrastructure experience.*
Visionary Cross	Modelling the Ruthwell Cross, Bewcastle Cross, and Brussels Cross (2005–). **Funding:** Chinook Summer Student Grant 2025 ($6,000); Mitacs Global Interns; SSHRC Insight Grant 2014–2017 ($282,190); SSHRC SRG 2005–2008. *A digital edition and visualization of the Ruthwell Cross and related artifacts. Combines philology, archaeology, and imaging. Includes multi-format outputs and graduate training.*

Funding and Prizes

External Research Grants and Prizes

Summary O'Donnell has received approximately CA$4 million in research funding as Principal Investigator and Co-applicant from external agencies since 2000, including approx. CA$1.4 million as PI (the University of Lethbridge's top-earner from SSHRC-funded programmes). His work spans scholarly communication, early Medieval English studies, research infrastructure, and innovation in academic publishing.

2025	**SSHRC Impact Prize (Connections)** (780-2025-00021), Nominee. $50,000 (under review)
2025–2027	**SSHRC Insight Development Grant**, *#safespaces?: Academic Freedom and Inclusivity in an Age of Polarisation*, PI, $78,000 (under review)
2025–2029	**SSHRC Insight Grant** (435-2025-0705), *Resistance to Data: Understanding Data Use, Data Management, and Data Infrastructure in the "Traditional" Humanities through Historical, Comparative, and Ethnographic Study*, PI, $300,000
2021–2026	**SSHRC Insight Grant**, *Canterbury Tales Project*, Co-applicant, $340,000
2021–2023	**SSHRC Partnership Development Grant** (890-2020-0095), *Good Things Come in Small Packages: A Grassroots Community of Practice for Open and FAIR Humanities Data Practices*, PI, $200,000
2022–2025	**SSHRC Aid to Scholarly Journals** (651-2021-0150), *Digital Studies / Les champs numériques*, PI, $30,000
2019–2022	**SSHRC Aid to Scholarly Journals** (651-2018-0062), *Digital Studies / Les champs numériques*, PI, $90,000
2020–2021	**SSHRC Connections Grant** (611-2019-0499), *Canada-LATAM Workshop on Open and Inclusive Access to research*, PI, $25,000
2020–2021	**Sloan Foundation** (G-2020-13999), *REPO: Reimagining Education Practices for Open. Developing Open Science during the COVID emergency: A community-based investigation and support network*, PI, US$50,000
2017–2019	**SSHRC Partnership Development Grant** (890-2016-0081), *Future Commons: Transforming Scholarly Communication through Collective Action*, PI, $200,000

2017–2019	**CFI John R. Evans Leadership Fund** (JELF) (32819), *What Goes Around: The Visionary Cross Digital Library*, PI, $86,937
2015–2019	**SSHRC Insight Grant** (435-2015-1119), *What Goes Around: Editing the Anglo-Saxon Visionary Cross Cultural Matrix*, PI, $233,224
2017–2018	**Mellon Foundation**, *Reading Peer Review*, Co-PI, US$99,000
2014–2017	**SSHRC Aid to Scholarly Journals** (651-2014-0138), *Digital Studies*, PI, $46,225
2013–2017	**SSHRC Insight Grant**, *Canterbury Tales Project Phase 2*, Co-applicant, $471,000
2015	**Helmsley Charitable Trust** (via Force11), Drafting applicant, US$424,000
2015	**Mitacs GlobalLink**, *Visionary Cross*, In-kind
2014–2015	**Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation**, *Force11*, Co-applicant, US$150,000
2014–2015	**GRAND Startup Grant** (G-CI-14-LB-01), *DigiCultH: Engaging with Digital Cultural Heritage Objects*, Co-PI, $9,640
2010–2014	**SSHRC Standard Research Grant (SRG)** (410-2010-1474), *Crossroads: Editing the Visionary Cross Matrix in Anglo-Saxon England*, PI, $62,430
2008	**Mellon Foundation** (GP1.2008), *TEI Tite: Creating a Benefit of Membership to Support Standards Development*, PI, US$30,723
2005–2006	**SSHRC Image, Text, Sound, and Technology (ITST)** (849-2003-0003), *The Digital Medievalist Project: A Community of Practice Network for Image, Text, Sound and Technology Research*, PI, $27,490

Awards, Fellowships, and Honours

Summary O'Donnell received honorable mention in the MLA prize competition for the most-distinguished scholarly edition, the first time a digital critical edition had been recognised in this competition. As a graduate student, he was a Mellon Fellow in the Humanities (1989–1991; 1993–1994); a SSHRC Doctoral Fellow (1992–1994); Yale University Fellow (1989–1993); and UCLA Fellow (declined). He was University of Lethbridge Teaching Award Nominee in 2015–2016 and 2016–2017 and won several undergraduate awards.

2015–2017	University of Lethbridge Teaching Award, Nominee
2007	Honourable Mention, MLA Prize for a Scholarly Edition (Cædmon's Hymn)
1993–1994	Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities (Dissertation Fellowship), US$11,000
1992–1994	SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship, CA$14,000/year
1992–1993	Yale University Fellowship, US$16,000 + tuition
1989–1993	UCLA University Fellowship, US$36,000 + tuition (declined)
1989–1991	Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities, US$22,000 + tuition
1989–1991	Yale University Fellowship, US$16,000 + tuition (declined)
1988–1989	C.L. Burton In-course Scholarship, St. Michael's College, University of Toronto, CA$1,500 (declined)
1987–1988	In-course Scholarship, St. Michael's College, University of Toronto, CA$1,500 (declined)

Publications

Knowledge Mobilisation

Conference Organisation

Lectures and Presentations

Teaching and Supervisory Experience

Summary Daniel Paul O'Donnell has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in English literature, medieval studies, English linguistics, textual scholarship, management information studies, mathematics, computer science, and the digital humanities. His appointments have included Yale, LSU, the University of Lethbridge, and other institutions. He has supervised more than thirty graduate students, including work in scholarly publishing and DH.

Postdoctoral Supervision

2021– Nathan Woods. Humanities data.

PhD Supervision

2025– Shara Merrill. Artificial Intelligence and Ethics. Co-supervisor, CPST.

2024– AKM Iftekhar Khalid. Tagorian English vs LLMs. Co-supervisor, CPST.

2023– Frank Onuh. Hate speech and discourse analysis. Co-supervisor, CPST.

2022– Davide Pafumi. Medieval English discourse analysis. Co-supervisor, CPST.

MA Supervision

2024– Josephine Tabiri. Linguistic Landscapes and Language use in Ghana. Supervisor, English

2022– Morgan Pearce. Chaucer. Co-supervisor, English.

2021–2023 Kirandeep Kaur. Language tech. Supervisor, English.

2021–2023 Iftekhar Khalid. English in Bangladesh. Supervisor, English.

2015–2018 Virgil Grandfield. Creative Non-fiction. Supervisor, Multidisciplinary (withdrawn).

2014–2017 Gurpreet Singh. Sikh text editing. Supervisor, Multidisciplinary (withdrawn).

2013–2016 Rylan Spenrath. Monstrous fiction. Supervisor, English.

2011–2014 Heather Hobma. Ruthwell Kirk. Supervisor, English.

2005–2008 Tania Bigthroat. Residential Schools. Co-supervisor, NAS.

2004–2006 Shelley Stigter. Native American verbal art. Supervisor, English.

Committee Memberships (MA/MSc)

2015–2019 Mahsa Miri. Global film crediting. Modern Languages/Film.

2012–2014 Titi Babalola. Absurd Realism. English.

2012–2014 Jessica Bay. Fan Fiction. English.

2013– Fatima Rahman. Region queries. Computer Science.

2013–2015 Cody Rioux. Text extraction. Computer Science.

2009–2011 Kent Aardse. Digital Literature. English.

2009–2011 Drew Luby. Renaissance magic. English.

2007–2009 Leanne Little. Shakespeare & masculinity. English.

2006–2007 Rob Meckelborg. Blake and Satan. English.

2004–2006 Angela Mlynarski. Text summarization. Computer Science.

2002–2004 Laura Cappello. Jane Austen. English.

✉ daniel.odonnell@uleth.ca   •   ○ caedmon5

ⓘ https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0127-4893

University of Lethbridge (1997–)

Undergraduate English 1900, 2100, 2450, 2810, 2900, 3401, 3450, 3601, 3901, 3990, 4400, 4600, 4900

Graduate English 5400 (New Humanities, Digital Humanities, Scholarly Communication), 5600 (Beowulf), 5990 (Independent Studies)

Other Meeting of Minds Journal supervision; Management 4900 (Database Design)

University of York (1996)

Undergraduate Middle English Paper

Louisiana State University (1994–1995)

Undergraduate Chaucer, History of English

Graduate Old English, Beowulf

Yale University (1991–1992)

TA Introduction to the Novel, Age of Johnson, History of English

Other

1996 Workers' Educational Association: Dark Age Tales

2009 ISAS PhD Workshop (co-led with Martin Foys)

✉ daniel.odonnell@uleth.ca • ⌂ caedmon5
ⓘ https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0127-4893