

C21 Editions Interview Questions

Here are some ideas of questions/prompts that you may be asked in your interview for the C21 Editions project. This is quite an exhaustive list, so there will not be time to discuss all of these and other questions may naturally arise in conversation. You will not be expected to prepare anything in advance, but do let me know if you would like to talk about any specific topics/cover anything else.

Teaching background

- What is your teaching background/experience of Chaucer's literature/language?
- Which modules do you convene/teach on which cover Chaucer?
- Do you cover Chaucer for the whole module or part of it (and if so, why)?
- What Chaucerian texts do you cover and why?

Studying Chaucer today

- What do you think are the main reasons why it is important for undergraduate students to learn about Chaucer today?
 - What do you think are the most important themes/concepts in Chaucer's texts and do you cover any of these in your classes?
 - Or, what are the main linguistic features of the text that you analyse and why are these important for the study of linguistics generally?
 - Why are these necessary for students, now?

Specific texts/tales

- [If the teacher has experience teaching Pardoner's Prologue and Tale (PPT), ask this set of Qs. Alternatively, discuss a tale/text they have covered.]
 - What do you teach with regard to PPT/other text or tale?
 - What are the main aspects of the tale that you cover, and why?
 - What are some aspects of the tale relevant to the present day that you have noticed, and that might be interesting for students learning about his works today?

Benefits/challenges

- Are you aware of any aspects of Chaucer's language/literature that students find challenging or take some time to learn?
 - On the flip side, what are some of the aspects that students find enjoyable?

Resources

- Which physical/digital editions of Chaucer do you primarily use yourself, and do you use any of these in your teaching?
 - Are there any interactive/helpful websites that you use in your lessons?
 - What additional resources do you use alongside reading Middle English?
 - Do you have any thoughts about the current digital resources out there? What works and what doesn't work?
 - Do you know of/use any other physical/digital resources and why?

- o Do you think it is important for students to view the original manuscript alongside the edition and do you incorporate this into your teaching? Does this differ depending on the level of study?
- o Depending on the level of study, is it important for students to be able to work with both Middle English adaptations and Modern English translations of the tale? What features of either might students appreciate?

Creating editions

- Overall, what do you think would be the main challenges involved when creating an edition of Chaucer?
 - o What might students and teachers appreciate during this process?
 - o How might students/teachers be involved in the editing process? Would you want to have a say in the process? (e.g. what is included in the edition, how it would be used, guides on learning Chaucer today, specific topics/themes covered)