

Contents

Acknowledgements	page vii
Preface	ix
1 Run silent, run deep: heresy and alchemy as medieval versions of utopia	1
2 Undoing substantial connection: the late medieval attack on analogical thought	19
3 The politics of allegory in the fourteenth century	42
4 The romance of kingship: <i>Havelok the Dane</i>	61
5 Rewriting woman good: gender and the anxiety of influence in two late-medieval texts	74
6 'Mothers to think back through': who are they? The ambiguous example of Christine de Pizan	88
7 Clerks and quitting in <i>The Reeve's Tale</i> : social structure as a source of irony	104
8 Strategies of silence in the Wife of Bath's recital	112
9 The haunted work: politics and the paralysis of poetic imagination in <i>The Physician's Tale</i>	130
10 'Mulier est hominis confusio': the anti-popular Nun's Priest's Tale	141
11 Women, nature and language: Chaucer's <i>Legend of Good Women</i>	151
Notes	166
Texts cited	178
Index	189