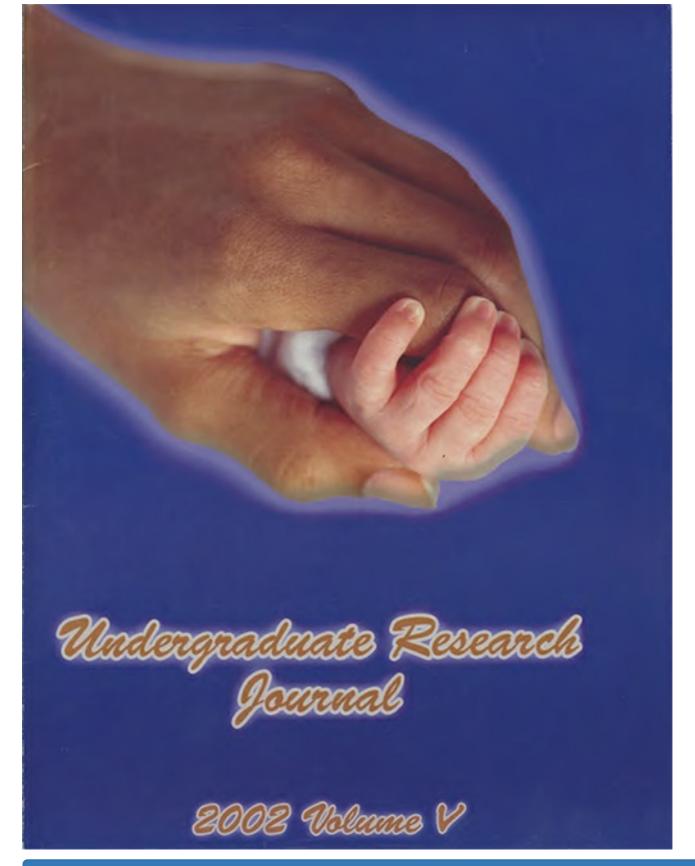
The Wife of Bath's Prologue: One Woman's Response to Early Diatribe and Misogynist Views.



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The Wife of Bath's Prologue: One Woman's Response to Early Diatribe and Misogynist Views



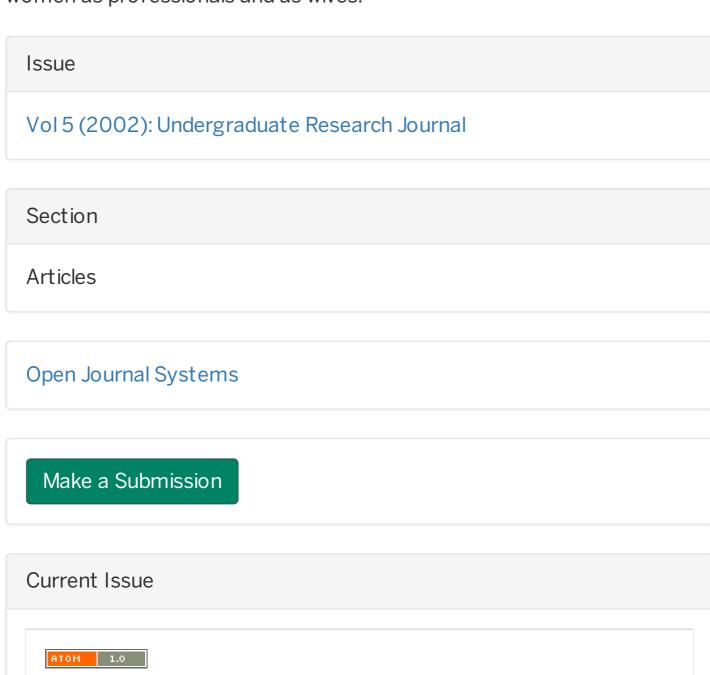
PDF

Laurie Jacobs

Abstract

This paper provides an in-depth portrait of a woman's rebellion against the early anti-feminist diatribe of 15th century England, explored through

Chaucer's "The Wife of Bath's Prologue" and "The Wife of Bath's Tale". The prologue paints a realistic portrait of a widow (the Wife of Bath) who has turned her bequeathed weaving business into an international success. Her rights to continue her business depend on her marital status, which leaves questions as to the clarity of women's roles in the Middle Ages. In the complimentary text, "The Wife of Bath's Tale", Arthurian legend is turned on its head in order to draw the two texts together philosophically. The pieces are used to illustrate the sharp double standard society held for women as professionals and as wives.



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