

# Benjamin S.W. Barootes

Centre for the Arts in Society  
Faculty of Humanities  
Leiden University  
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## Current Employment

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**Leiden University, Leiden, The Netherlands** **2020–Present**  
Assistant Professor, Medieval English Language and Literature

## Education

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**Pontifical Institute of Mediæval Studies, Toronto, Ontario** **2018–Present**  
Candidate, Licentiate in Mediæval Studies

**McGill University, Montreal, Quebec** **2015**  
Ph.D., English Literature  
Dissertation: “The Poetics of the Elegiac Dream Vision in Middle English Literature”

**Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia** **2007**  
M.A., English Literature  
Governor-General’s Gold Medal (best graduate thesis of the 2006–2007 academic year)

**Luther College, University of Regina, Regina, Saskatchewan** **2006**  
B.A. (High Honours), English Literature

## Publications

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### Journal Articles (peer-reviewed)

“‘In fourme of speche is change’: Final *-e* in *Troilus and Criseyde* II.22–28.” *The Chaucer Review* 53.1 (2018): 102–11.

“Your *eigning bert*: A Hapax Legomenon in *Cursor Mundi*, line 28339.” *Neophilologus* 102.2 (2018): 279–84.

“Number Symbolism in *Pearl*: Lines 720–21.” *Studia Neophilologica* 89.1 (2017): 34–40.

“‘O perle’: Apostrophe in *Pearl*.” *Studies in Philology* 113.4 (2016): 739–64.

“Whence the *buf*? Chaucer’s Philological Burp.” *Neophilologus* 98.3 (2014): 495–501.

## Book Chapters (peer-reviewed)

- “A Grieving Lover: The Work of Mourning in Charles’s First Ballade Sequence.” In *Charles d’Orléans’s English Aesthetic: The Form, Poetics, and Style of “Fortunes Stabilnes”*, edited by R.D. Perry and Mary-Jo Arn, 101–119. Woodbridge, Suffolk: D.S. Brewer, 2020.
- “Idleness, Chess, and Tables: Recuperating Fables in Chaucer’s *Book of the Duchess*.” *Chaucer’s Book of the Duchess: Context and Interpretations*, edited by Jamie C. Fumo, 29–50. Woodbridge, Suffolk: Boydell, 2018.
- “‘He chanted a song of wizardry’: Words with Power in Middle-earth.” *Tolkien in the New Century: Essays in Honor of Tom Shippey*, edited by John Wm. Houghton et al., 115–31. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2014.
- “Nobody’s Meat: Freedom through Monstrosity in Contemporary British Fiction.” *Monsters and the Monstrous: Myths and Metaphors of Enduring Evil*, edited by Niall W.R. Scott, 187–200. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2007.

## Other publications (all by invitation)

- “Review: *Approaches to Teaching the Middle English Pearl*, edited by Jane Beal and Mark Bradshaw Busbee (MLA, 2017).” *Journal of English and Germanic Philology*. Forthcoming.
- “Review: *The Signifying Power of Pearl: Medieval Literary and Cultural Contexts for the Transformation of Genre*, by Jane Beal (Routledge, 2017).” *Speculum* 94.2 (2019): 500–2.
- “Elegy.” In *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Medieval British Literature*, edited by Siân Echard and Robert Rouse, 735–41. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2017.
- Interactions of Script and Print in the Nineteenth Century: A Digital Exhibition*. Co-curated with Tom Mole. Interacting with Print Research Group and McGill University Library, 2010.  
<http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/isp/index.php>

## Works in Progress

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- “*et in calculo nomen novum scriptum: Pearl and the Holy Name of Jesus.*” Article in preparation.
- “*Humiliavit: The Cult of the Five Wounds and Sir Gawain and the Green Knight.*” Article in preparation.
- Opening the Beauchamp Missal: A Window on Intellectual Life in the Age of Chaucer.* Monograph in preparation.

## Research and Teaching Interests

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Medieval English literature; Middle English language; Geoffrey Chaucer and the Chaucerian tradition; the *Pearl*-poet; dream visions; elegy and genre studies; medieval liturgy; book history and print culture; heroic and chivalric literature; Arthurian romance; J.R.R. Tolkien; modern medievalisms

## Teaching Experience

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### Current Term:

**Leiden University, Faculty of Humanities** (Leiden, The Netherlands)  
 Philology 1: Introduction to Middle English Language and Literature  
 Philology 3: History of the English Language  
 International Studies: Introduction to Cultural Studies

### Sole Instructor:

**Brock University, Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies** (St. Catharines, ON)  
 MARS 2P95: Reading the Middle Ages: The Heroic and the Chivalric  
 Winter semester 2016, 2018, 2019

**Wilfrid Laurier University, Faculty of Liberal Arts** (Brantford, ON)  
 ENGL 214: Medieval Poetry of the Fantastic  
 Autumn semester 2016

**McGill University, Department of English** (Montreal, QC)  
 ENGL 311: Poetics  
 Autumn semester 2012

**Luther College, University of Regina** (Regina, SK)  
 ENGL 110: Critical Reading and Writing II – Heroic Literature (2 sections)  
 Winter semester 2008

### Visiting Co-Instructor:

**Acadia University, Department of English** (Wolfville, NS)  
 ENGL 2173-X1: Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* (with Dr K.S. Whetter)  
 Autumn semester 2019

### Teaching Assistant:

**McGill University, Department of English** (Montreal, QC)  
 ENGL 346: Sociology and Materiality of the Text (Winter 2012, Winter 2010)  
 ENGL 358: Chaucer's Courtly Poetry (Autumn 2011)  
 ENGL 357: Canterbury Tales (Winter 2011)  
 ENGL 331: Romantics I (Autumn 2010)  
 ENGL 316: Milton (Autumn 2009)  
 ENGL 203: Departmental Survey II: 1750 to mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century (Winter 2009)  
 ENGL 200: Non-Departmental Survey I: Beginnings to 1750 (Autumn 2008)

### Guest Lectures and Seminars

“J.R.R. Tolkien's ‘Leaf by Niggle.’” Guest lecture, ENGL 438: The Literary Fairy Tale (D. Bray), McGill University, Montreal, QC. April 4, 2011; April 9, 2013; April 8, 2014.

“*Pearl*: Elegy and the Eucharist.” Guest seminar, ENGL 500: The *Gawain*-poet (J. Fumo), McGill University, Montreal, QC. February 13, 2013.

## Presentations and Conference Activity

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### Recent Conference Papers

- “Some Known Men: The Affinity of William Beauchamp, Lord Bergavenny (c. 1343–1411).” The 54<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. May 12, 2018. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI.
- “‘in fair and fresche atyre’: *The Squire’s Tale* as a Source for *The Kingis Quair*.” The 21<sup>st</sup> Biennial Congress of the New Chaucer Society. July 13, 2018. University of Toronto, Toronto, ON.
- “Enclosure and Release: Structural Mourning in Charles d’Orléans’ *Fortunes Stabilnes*.” The 53<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. May 11, 2018. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI.
- “West Midlands Devotion and the Beauchamp Missal (Oxford, Trinity College MS 8).” Material Matters: The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Atlantic Medieval Association. September 23, 2017. Dalhousie and St Mary’s Universities, Halifax, NS.
- “‘*et in calculo nomen novum scriptum*’: *Pearl* and the Holy Name of Jesus.” The 52<sup>nd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. May 11, 2017. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI.
- “Chess and Fables: *Cursor Mundi* as a Source for Chaucer’s *Book of the Duchess*?” Making Early Middle English. September 25, 2016. University of Victoria, Victoria, BC.
- “‘He might have been a gallant knight of old’: Romancing *True Grit*.” The 15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Romance in Medieval Britain Conference. August 18, 2016. University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC.
- “‘Je ne sui pas Orpheüs’: Repetition and the Trap of Lyric in Chaucer’s *Book of the Duchess* and Froissart’s *Paradys d’amour*.” The 51<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. May 12, 2016. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI.
- “An Elf by Any Other Name: Naming, Language, and Loss in Tolkien’s Legendarium,” in “In Honor of Verlyn Flieger (A Roundtable).” The 51<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. May 12, 2016. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI.
- “The Hunt for Fixed Language in Dream Vision Elegies.” The 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial Congress of the New Chaucer Society. July 26, 2012. Portland State University, Portland, OR.
- “The Doul-Doungoun: Elegy and the Limits of Language in *Pearl*.” The 46<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. May 14, 2011. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI.
- “Pre-packaged Medievalism in the Literary Annuals,” in “Teaching Medievalisms (A Roundtable).” The 46<sup>th</sup> Congress on Medieval Studies. May 14, 2011. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI.
- “The Genres of *The Hobbit*,” in “Teaching Tolkien (A Roundtable).” The 45<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. May 16, 2010. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI.
- “Fortune’s Quill: Tracing the Poet’s Development in *The Kingis Quair*.” The 45<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. May 14, 2010. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI.

## Invited Talks

- “‘My dreme is turned al amis’: Dream Visions in Medieval Literature.” Brock University Medieval and Renaissance Society. March 22, 2018. Brock University, St. Catharines, ON.
- “‘in the ston a newe nam writen’: Devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus in Late-Medieval England.” September 8, 2017. Champion College, Regina, SK.
- “Lyric and Narrative Tensions in Chaucer’s *Book of the Duchess*.” McGill Medievalists Works-in-Progress Lecture Series. February 26, 2014. McGill University, Montreal, QC.
- “These Fading Days: Language, Loss, and Recovery in Tolkien’s Legendarium.” The Tolkien Society’s inaugural Christine Davidson Memorial Lecture. The Return of the Ring: Celebrating Tolkien in 2012. August 19, 2012. Loughborough University, Loughborough, United Kingdom.

## Conference Sessions Organised

- “The Provincial Aristocratic Household in Late-Medieval England.” The 53<sup>rd</sup> and 54<sup>th</sup> International Congresses on Medieval Studies. May 13, 2018; May 9–12, 2019. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI.
- “Charles d’Orléans: Form and Genre.” (Co-organised with Boyda Johnstone, Fordham University.) The 53<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. May 11, 2018. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI.
- “*Ihesu dulcis*: Devotion to the Holy Name in Medieval Europe.” The 52<sup>nd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. May 11, 2017. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI.
- “The Consolations of Philology.” The 51<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. May 13, 2016. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI.

## Select Academic Honours, Awards, and Fellowships

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Postdoctoral Fellowship, Mellon Foundation (Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies) \$40,000	2018–2019
Visiting Professor Fellowship, Harrison McCain Foundation (Acadia University) \$9,375	2018–2019
Research Travel Bursary, Society for the Study of Medieval Languages and Literature (Oxford) £700	2017
Postdoctoral Fellowship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada \$81,000	2016–2018
CGS Doctoral Scholarship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada \$105,000	2009–2012
Arts Insight Research Grant, Interacting with Print Research Group, McGill University \$4,000	2009
McGill Entrance Awards (Department-, Faculty-, and University-level), McGill University \$39,600	2008
CGS Masters Scholarship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada \$17,500	2006–2007

## Other Previous Employment

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<b>Canadian Institute for Public Safety Research and Treatment, Regina, Saskatchewan</b>	<b>2019–2020</b>
Postdoctoral researcher and writer (funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research)	
<b>Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia</b>	<b>2018–2019</b>
Harrison McCain Foundation Visiting Professor (non-stipendiary)	
<b>Pontifical Institute of Mediæval Studies, Toronto, Ontario</b>	<b>2018–2019</b>
Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow	
Project: “Devotion to the Holy Name in the West Midlands, 1375-1425: The Material Evidence”	
<b>University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario</b>	<b>2016–2018</b>
Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Medieval Studies	
Project: “ <i>In nomine meo</i> : The Texts and Contexts of Oxford, Trinity College MS 8”	
<b>Fire &amp; Ash Publishers, Toronto, Ontario</b>	<b>2014–2016</b>
Managing Editor	

## Service

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### Service to the Scholarly Community

Co-organiser (with R. Lutton), Pfaff at 50: Celebrating <i>New Liturgical Feasts</i>	<b>1–2 July 2021</b>
Peer Reviewer, Boydell & Brewer	<b>2020</b>
President, International <i>Pearl</i> -poet Society	<b>2019–2021</b>
Peer Reviewer, Tolkien 2019: 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference of the Tolkien Society	<b>2019</b>
Vice-president, International <i>Pearl</i> -poet Society	<b>2017–2019</b>
Peer Reviewer, <i>JLAS: Journal of the International Arthurian Society</i>	<b>2017</b>
Postdoctoral applications mentor, Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto	<b>2016</b>
Webmaster and assistant organiser, McGill Medievalists, McGill University	<b>2012–2014</b>

### Committee Service

Bursary Committee, Tolkien Society	<b>2018–Present</b>
Curriculum Committee, Department of English, McGill University	<b>2011–2012</b>
Nominating Committee, Department of English, McGill University	<b>2009–2011</b>
Department of English Representative, Graduate Students Association, Acadia University	<b>2006–2007</b>

## **Professional Affiliations**

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Atlantic Medieval Association; Canadian Society of Medievalists; International Arthurian Society; International *Pearl*-poet Society; New Chaucer Society; Sheffield Institute for Interdisciplinary Biblical Study; Society for the Study of Medieval Languages and Literature (Medium Ævum); Tolkien Society

## **Languages of Research**

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Middle English; Old English  
Modern French; Middle French; Old French (Anglo-Norman)  
Latin