

# Benjamin S.W. Barootes

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## Current Employment

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**Grenfell Campus, Memorial University of Newfoundland** 2021–Present  
Assistant Professor (tenure-track), Medieval English Literature

## Other Previous Employment

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**Leiden University, Leiden, The Netherlands** 2020–2021  
Assistant Professor (Universitair Docent), Medieval English Language and Literature

**Canadian Institute for Public Safety Research and Treatment, Regina, Saskatchewan** 2019–2020  
Postdoctoral researcher and writer (funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research)

**Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia** 2018–2019  
Harrison McCain Foundation Visiting Professor (non-stipendiary)

**Pontifical Institute of Mediæval Studies, Toronto, Ontario** 2018–2019  
Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow  
Project: “Devotion to the Holy Name in the West Midlands, 1375-1425: The Material Evidence”

**University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario** 2016–2018  
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Medieval Studies  
Project: “*In nomine meo*: The Texts and Contexts of Oxford, Trinity College MS 8”

**Fire & Ash Publishers, Toronto, Ontario** 2014–2016  
Managing Editor

## 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

## 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”  
Supervisor: Michael Van Dussen  
Examiners: Julia Boffey (external); Faith Wallis (internal); Maggie Kilgour (departmental)
- 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, 102–21. 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: D.S. Brewer, 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* 120.2 (2021): 249–52.

“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.

## Presentations and Conference Activity

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### Selected Conference Papers

“Joan Bohun and the Spread of Vernacular Religious Practice? Oxford, Trinity College 8 and London, British Library, Harley 2787.” The 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Early Book Society. July 14, 2021. Bangor University, Wales (online).

“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, 2019. 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.

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- “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.
- “‘He chanted a song of wizardry’: Words with Power in Middle-earth.” The 44<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. May 10, 2009. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI.

### Invited Talks

- “‘My dreme is turned al amis’: Dream Visions in Medieval Literature.” Brock University Medieval and Renaissance Society. Brock University, St. Catharines, ON. March 22, 2018.
- “‘in the ston a newe nam writen’: Devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus in Late-Medieval England.” September 8, 2017. Campion 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.

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## 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 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.

## Teaching Experience

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### Instructor

**Grenfell Campus, Memorial University of Newfoundland** (Corner Brook, Newfoundland)

#### Autumn 2021

English 1000: Intro to English I

English 2005: Literary Survey I (Beginnings to 1700)

**Leiden University, Faculty of Humanities** (Leiden, The Netherlands)

#### Winter 2021

Philology 2: Introduction to Old English Language and Literature – 30 students

Philology 6: Middle English Literature and Culture – 19 students

Philosophy of Science (International Studies programme, The Hague) – 39 students

#### Autumn 2020

Philology 1: Introduction to Middle English Language and Literature – 26 students

Philology 3: History of the English Language – 43 students

Introduction to Cultural Studies (International Studies, The Hague) – 36 students

**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

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**Luther College, University of Regina** (Regina, SK)

ENGL 110: Critical Reading and Writing II – Heroic Literature (2 sections)

Winter semester 2008

**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)

**Select Guest Lectures and Seminars**

“Archive Love: Making the Most of Research Trips.” Guest seminar, Graduate Pro-seminar (S. Johnston), University of Regina, Regina, SK. September 13, 2017.

“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.

**Select Academic Honours, Awards, and Fellowships**


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Extra Resources Grant, Centre for the Arts in Society (Leiden University)	<b>2020</b>
€2,840	
Postdoctoral Fellowship, Mellon Foundation (Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies)	<b>2018–2019</b>
\$40,000	
Visiting Professor Fellowship, Harrison McCain Foundation (Acadia University)	<b>2018–2019</b>
\$9,375	
Research Travel Bursary, Society for the Study of Medieval Languages and Literature (Oxford)	<b>2017</b>
£700	
Postdoctoral Fellowship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada	<b>2016–2018</b>
\$81,000	
CGS Doctoral Scholarship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada	<b>2009–2012</b>
\$105,000	
Arts Insight Research Grant, Interacting with Print Research Group, McGill University	<b>2009</b>
\$4,000	
McGill Entrance Awards (Department-, Faculty-, and University-level), McGill University	<b>2008</b>
\$39,600	
CGS Masters Scholarship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada	<b>2006–2007</b>
\$17,500	

## Service

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### Service to the Scholarly Community

Co-organiser (with R. Lutton), Pfaff at 50: Celebrating <i>New Liturgical Feasts</i>	July 2022
Peer Reviewer, <i>Nottingham Medieval Studies</i>	2021
Peer Reviewer, Boydell & Brewer	2020–2021
President, International <i>Pearl</i> -poet Society	2019–2021
Peer Reviewer, Tolkien 2019: 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference of the Tolkien Society	2019
Vice-president, International <i>Pearl</i> -poet Society	2017–2019
Peer Reviewer, <i>JLAS: Journal of the International Arthurian Society</i>	2017
Postdoctoral applications mentor, Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto	2016
Webmaster and assistant organiser, McGill Medievalists, McGill University	2012–2014

### Committee Service

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

## Professional Affiliations

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Atlantic Medieval Association; Canadian Society of Medievalists; Early Book Society; 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

## References

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Professor Jamie Fumo, Florida State University  
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Professor Richard Firth Green, Ohio State University  
Department of English  
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Professor Ann Hutchison, Pontifical Institute of Mediæval Studies  
University of Toronto  
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Dr Michael Van Dussen, McGill University  
Department of English  
McGill University  
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Professor Kevin Whetter, Acadia University  
Department of English & Theatre  
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