

# Benjamin S.W. Barootes

English Programme  
School of Arts and Social Science  
Grenfell Campus  
Memorial University of Newfoundland  
20 University Drive  
Corner Brook, NL  
Canada A2H 5G4

[bbarootes@mun.ca](mailto:bbarootes@mun.ca)

[bswbarootes.com](http://bswbarootes.com)

## Current Employment

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

## Previous Employment

2020–21        **Leiden University (Leiden, The Netherlands)**  
Assistant Professor (three-year LTA), Medieval English Language and Literature

2019–20        **Canadian Institute for Public Safety Research and Treatment (Regina, SK)**  
Postdoctoral researcher and writer (Canadian Institutes for Health Research)  
“[Research 101 for Public Safety personnel: Course Development and Pilot Testing](#)” (PI: Dr Michelle McCarron)

2018–19        **Acadia University (Wolfville, NS)**  
Harrison McCain Foundation Visiting Professor (non-stipendiary)

2018–19        **Pontifical Institute of Mediæval Studies (Toronto, ON)**  
Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow  
“Devotion to the Holy Name in the West Midlands, 1375-1425: The Material Evidence” (PI)

2016–18        **Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto (Toronto, ON)**  
Postdoctoral Fellow (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council)  
“*In nomine meo*: The Texts and Contexts of Oxford, Trinity College MS 8” (PI)

## Research and Teaching Interests

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

## Education

- 2019– Pontifical Institute of Mediæval Studies (Toronto, ON)**  
 Licentiate in Mediæval Studies  
 Thesis: “Devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus in the West Midlands, c. 1400:  
 William Beauchamp and the Beauchamp Missal as a Case Study”  
 Supervisor: Ann M. Hutchison  
 Examiner: Rachel M. Koopmans
- 2015 McGill University (Montreal, QC)**  
 Ph.D., English Literature  
 Thesis: “[The Poetics of the Elegiac Dream Vision in Middle English Literature](#)”  
 Supervisor: Michael Van Dussen  
 Examiners: J. Boffey (external); F. Wallis (internal); M. Kilgour (departmental)
- 2007 Acadia University (Wolfville, NS)**  
 M.A., English Literature  
 Thesis: “Fallen Away: Post-lapsarianism in Tolkien’s *Saga of Jewels and Rings*”  
 Supervisor: K.S. Whetter  
 Governor-General’s Gold Medal (best graduate thesis of the 2006–7 academic year)
- 2006 Luther College, University of Regina (Regina, SK)**  
 B.A. (High Honours), English Literature

## Publications

### Journal Articles and Notes (peer-reviewed)

- “On the Marriage of William Beauchamp and Joan FitzAlan: Some New Information.” *Medium Ævum* 93.1 (2024): 162–74. [approx. 6755 words]
- “On the Lost Years of William Beauchamp, first Baron Bergavenny (c. 1343–1411): Some Overlooked Life-Records.” *Florilegium* 37 (2020 [pub. 2024; submitted 2022]): 79–94. [approx. 8855 words]
- “A Note Clarifying the Date of the Last Will and Testament of Richard FitzAlan, earl of Arundel (d. 1397).” *Notes & Queries* 69.1 (2022): 13–15. [approx. 1445 words]
- “‘In fourme of speche is chaunge’: Final –e in *Troilus and Criseyde* II.22–28.” *The Chaucer Review* 53.1 (2018): 102–11. [approx. 7235 words]
- “Your *eigning bert*: A Hapax Legomenon in *Cursor Mundi*, line 28339.” *Neophilologus* 102.2 (2018): 279–84. [approx. 2150 words]
- “Number Symbolism in *Pearl*: Lines 720–21.” *Studia Neophilologica* 89.1 (2017): 34–40. [approx. 3450 words]
- “‘O perle’: Apostrophe in *Pearl*.” *Studies in Philology* 113.4 (2016): 739–64. [approx. 8105 words]
- “Whence the *buf*? Chaucer’s Philological Burp.” *Neophilologus* 98.3 (2014): 495–501. [approx. 3275 words]

## 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. D.S. Brewer, 2020. [approx. 9980 words]
- “Idleness, Chess, and Tables: Recuperating Fables in Chaucer’s *Book of the Duchess*.” In *Chaucer’s Book of the Duchess: Context and Interpretations*, edited by Jamie C. Fumo, 29–50. D.S. Brewer, 2018. [approx. 10570 words]
- “‘He chanted a song of wizardry’: Words with Power in Middle-earth.” In *Tolkien in the New Century: Essays in Honor of Tom Shippey*, edited by John Wm. Houghton et al., 115–31. McFarland, 2014. [approx. 9255 words]
- “Nobody’s Meat: Freedom through Monstrosity in Contemporary British Fiction.” In *Monsters and the Monstrous: Myths and Metaphors of Enduring Evil*, edited by Niall W.R. Scott, 187–200. Rodopi, 2007. [approx. 5105 words]

## 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. 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.

## Works in Progress

- “‘Byhold specialy in þe fyue mooste notable woundes’: Oxford, University College MS 97 and Devotion to the Five Wounds c. 1400.” In *Multiplicacioun of Manye Bookis*, edited by Nathalie Calder and Hannah Schuhle-Lewis (Liverpool University Press). Forthcoming. [An essay collection from the Whittington’s Gift project.]
- “Someone Else’s Eyes: A Previously Unrecorded Use of *Sparkle*, v. (1970).” Article under review at *Neophilologus*.
- “Hiding in Plain (Digital) Sight: A Previously Unnoticed Copy of a Middle English Testamentary Lyric.” Article under review at *Notes & Queries*.
- Of Marys and Marthas: Women’s Writing and Devotion in the Late Middle Ages and Early Modern Period* | *A Festschrift in Honour of Ann M. Hutchison*. Co-edited with Alison More. Under review with the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies Publications. [12 essays]

## Presentations and Conference Activity

### Conference Papers (since 2010)

- “*in lingua materna*: The Vernacular, New Devotions, and the Circle of Joan Bohun, Dowager Countess of Hereford and Essex.” The 60<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. 10 May 2025. Forthcoming.
- “Did John Clanvowe Own a Lollard Bible?” The International Medieval Congress 2024. University of Leeds, Leeds, UK. 2 July 2024.
- “Devotion to the Five Wounds of Christ in Gawain Country.” Canadian Society of Medievalists Annual Meeting. McGill University, Montreal, QC. 12 June 2024.
- “Non-Biblical Sources in John Clanvowe’s *The Two Ways*.” The 59<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. 10 May 2024.
- “A Tale of Two Joans: Strong FitzAlan Women in Ricardian and Lancastrian Women,” in “Strong Women in Courtly Culture (A Roundtable).” The 59<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. 9 May 2024.
- “Re-evaluating John Clanvowe’s Sources for *The Two Ways*.” The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Atlantic Medieval Association.. Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS. 11 November 2023
- “Re-reading John Clanvowe’s *The Two Ways* with Anne Middleton.” The 17<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Courtly Literature Society. University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC. 24 July 2023.
- “Byhold specialy in þe fyue mooste notable woundes’: Oxford, University College MS 97 and Devotion to the Five Wounds c. 1400.” Whittington’s Gift: A Symposium. Queen’s University Belfast, Northern Ireland (online attendance). 8 July 2023.
- “Pfaff for Pfocus and Pfinesse: Exploring New Liturgical Devotions in the Beauchamp Missal (Oxford, Trinity College MS 8).” Pfaff at 50: New Devotions and Religious Change in Later Medieval England. University of Nottingham, United Kingdom. 2 July 2022.
- “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. Bangor University, Wales (online attendance). 14 July 2021.
- “Some Known Men: The Affinity of William Beauchamp, Lord Bergavenny (c. 1343–1411).” The 54<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. 12 May 2019.
- “‘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. University of Toronto, Toronto, ON. 13 July 2018.
- “Enclosure and Release: Structural Mourning in Charles d’Orléans’ *Fortunes Stabilnes*.” The 53<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. 11 May 2018.

- “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. Dalhousie and St Mary’s Universities, Halifax, NS. 23 September 2017.
- “‘et in calculo nomen novum scriptum’: *Pearl* and the Holy Name of Jesus.” The 52<sup>nd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. 11 May 2017.
- “Chess and Fablis: *Cursor Mundi* as a Source for Chaucer’s *Book of the Duchess*?” Making Early Middle English. University of Victoria, Victoria, BC. 25 September 2016.
- “‘He might have been a gallant knight of old’: Romancing *True Grit*.” The 15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Romance in Medieval Britain Conference. University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC. 18 August 18 2016.
- “‘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. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. 12 May 2016.
- “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. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. 12 May 2016.
- “The Hunt for Fixed Language in Dream Vision Elegies.” The 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial Congress of the New Chaucer Society. Portland State University, Portland, OR. 26 July 26 2012.
- “The Doule-Doungoun: Elegy and the Limits of Language in *Pearl*.” The 46<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. 14 May 14 2011.
- “Pre-packaged Medievalism in the Literary Annuals,” in “Teaching Medievalisms (A Roundtable).” The 46<sup>th</sup> Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. 14 May 2011.
- “The Genres of *The Hobbit*,” in “Teaching Tolkien (A Roundtable).” The 45<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. 16 May 2010.
- “Fortune’s Quill: Tracing the Poet’s Development in *The Kingis Quair*.” The 45<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. 14 May 2010.

## Invited Talks

- “‘Alle his afaunce vpon folde’: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* and the Cult of the Five Wounds.” Medieval and Early Modern Studies. Nexus Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences Research. Memorial University of Newfoundland, St John’s Campus, St John’s, NL. 27 March 2025. (Forthcoming)
- “‘My dreame is turned al amis’: Dream Visions in Medieval Literature.” Brock University Medieval and Renaissance Society. Brock University, St. Catharines, ON. 22 March 2018.
- “‘in the ston a newe nam writen’: Devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus in Late-Medieval England.” Idle Talk Lecture Series. Campion College, Regina, SK. 8 September 2017.
- “Lyric and Narrative Tensions in Chaucer’s *Book of the Duchess*.” McGill Medievalists Works-in-Progress Lecture Series. McGill University, Montreal, QC. 26 February 2014.

“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. Loughborough University, Loughborough, United Kingdom. 19 August 2012.

## Departmental and Institute Talks and Seminars

“‘That Cryst kaught on the croys’: The Five Wounds Devotion and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.” Out of the Annex: An Arts and Humanities Speaker Series. School of Arts and Social Science, Grenfell Campus, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Corner Brook, NL. 18 September 2024.

“A deere Ihesu, whider may I flee?” Holy Name Devotion in the West Midlands in the Late Middle Ages.” Mellon Fellow Seminar. Pontifical Institute of Mediæval Studies, Toronto, ON. 3 April 2019.

“*In veneratione nominis dilecti*: William Beauchamp, His Missal, and Devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus.” Mellon Fellow Seminar. Pontifical Institute of Mediæval Studies, Toronto, ON. 24 October 2018.

## Conferences and Conference Sessions Organised

### Conference

Pfaff at 50: *New Devotions and Religious Change in Late Medieval England*. Co-organised with Rob Lutton (History, U. Nottingham). Sponsored by the Society for the Study of Medieval Languages and Literature and hosted the annual Medium Ævum lecture. 1–2 July 2022.

### Conference Sessions

“English Heterodoxy and (Para)Liturgical Developments.” (Co-organised with Rob Lutton, University of Nottingham.) The 60<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. 10 May 2025. (Forthcoming.)

“Crises in English Heterodoxy.” The International Medieval Congress 2024. University of Leeds, Leeds, UK. 2 July 2024.

“The Provincial Aristocratic Household in Late-Medieval England.” The 53<sup>rd</sup> and 54<sup>th</sup> International Congresses on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. 13 May 2018; 12 May 2019.

“Charles d’Orléans: Form and Genre.” (Co-organised with Boyda Johnstone, Fordham University.) The 53<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. 11 May 2018.

“*Ihesu dulcis*: Devotion to the Holy Name in Medieval Europe.” The 52<sup>nd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. 11 May 2017.

“The Consolations of Philology.” The 51<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. 13 May 2016.

# Teaching Experience

## Full-time Positions

### Memorial University of Newfoundland, Grenfell Campus (Corner Brook, NL)

#### Winter 2026 (planned)

English 1001: Intro to English II (Poetry & Drama)

English 3050: Romantic Literature I

#### Autumn 2025 (planned)

English 2005: Literary Survey I (Beginnings to 1700)

English 3395: History of the English Language

English 4601: Medieval Romance Literature

#### Winter 2025

English 1001: Intro to English II (Poetry & Drama) – 19 students

English 3600: Chaucer (Courtly Poetry) – 13 students

#### Autumn 2024

English 1001: Intro to English II (Poetry & Drama) – 21 students

English 2005: Literary Survey I (Beginnings to 1700) – 25 students

English 2600: Introduction to Middle English – 7 students

#### Winter 2024

English 1001: Intro to English II (Poetry & Drama) – 37 students

English 4701: Literature and Devotion in the Middle Ages – 4 students

#### Autumn 2023

English 1000: Intro to English I (Prose) – 35 students

English 2005: Literary Survey I (Beginnings to 1700) – 18 students

English 3395: History of the English Language – 10 students

#### Winter 2023

English 1001: Intro to English II (Poetry & Drama) – 24 students

English 4601: Medieval Romance Literature – 12 students

#### Autumn 2022

English 2005: Literary Survey I (Beginnings to 1700) – 19 students

English 3600: Chaucer (Courtly Poetry) – 10 students

#### Winter 2022

English 1001: Intro to English II (Poetry & Drama) – 37 students

English 3395: History of the English Language – 14 students

#### Autumn 2021

English 1000: Intro to English I (Prose) – 35 students

English 2005: Literary Survey I (Beginnings to 1700) – 13 students

### 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

(continued)

**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

**Per-Course Instructor Positions**

**Brock University, Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies** (St. Catharines, ON)

**Winter 2016, 2018, 2019**

MARS 2P95: Reading the Middle Ages: The Heroic and the Chivalric

**Wilfrid Laurier University, Faculty of Liberal Arts** (Brantford, ON)

**Autumn 2016**

ENGL 214: Medieval Poetry of the Fantastic

**McGill University, Department of English** (Montreal, QC)

**Autumn 2012**

ENGL 311: Poetics

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

**Winter 2008**

ENGL 110: Critical Reading and Writing II—Heroic Literature

**Teaching Assistant**

**McGill University, Department of English** (Montreal, QC)

**2008–12**

ENGL 358: Chaucer's Courtly Poetry  
 ENGL 357: Canterbury Tales  
 ENGL 346: Sociology and Materiality of the Text  
 ENGL 331: Romanticism I  
 ENGL 316: Milton  
 ENGL 203: Departmental Survey II: 1750 to mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century  
 ENGL 200: Non-Departmental Survey I: Beginnings to 1750

**Select Academic Grants, Fellowships, Scholarships**

<b>2024–2025</b>	Sassoon Fellowship, Bodleian Library (University of Oxford) £2,200
<b>2024</b>	Grenfell Campus Research Fund (Memorial University of Newfoundland) \$2,000
<b>2023</b>	SSHRC Exchange Travel Grant (Memorial University of Newfoundland) \$2,500

(continued)



2022	Grenfell Campus Research Fund (Memorial University of Newfoundland) \$1,900
2022	Extra Resources Grant, Centre for the Arts in Society (Leiden University) €2,840
2019–20	Postdoctoral Fellowship, Canadian Institute for Health Research (University of Regina) approx. \$48,000
2018–19	Postdoctoral Fellowship, Mellon Foundation (Pontifical Institute of Mediæval Studies) \$40,000
2018–19	Visiting Professor Fellowship, Harrison McCain Foundation (Acadia University) \$9,375 (non-stipendiary)
2017	Research Travel Bursary, Society for the Study of Medieval Languages and Literature £700
2016–18	Postdoctoral Fellowship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada \$81,000
2009–12	CGS Doctoral Scholarship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada \$105,000
2009	Arts Insight Research Grant, Interacting with Print Research Group, McGill University \$4,000
2008	McGill Entrance Awards (Department-, Faculty-, and University-level), McGill University \$39,600
2006–7	CGS Masters Scholarship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada \$17,500

## Service

### Service to the Scholarly Community

2025	Peer Reviewer, <i>The Chaucer Review</i>
2023	Peer Reviewer, <i>English Studies</i>
2022	Peer Reviewer (monograph), Fairleigh Dickinson University Press
2021	Peer Reviewer, <i>Nottingham Medieval Studies</i>
2021	Peer Reviewer (essay collection; 19 essays), D.S. Brewer
2019–21	President, International <i>Pearl</i> -poet Society
2019	Peer Reviewer, Tolkien 2019: the 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference of the Tolkien Society
2017–19	Vice-president, International <i>Pearl</i> -poet Society
2017	Peer Reviewer, <i>JLAS: Journal of the International Arthurian Society</i>
2016	Postdoctoral applications mentor, Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto

## Select Committee Service (last 15 years)

2025	SSHRC Masters Canadian Graduate Scholarships Adjudication Committee, Memorial University of Newfoundland
2025–	Committee for Academic Programming, School of Arts and Social Science Memorial University of Newfoundland, Grenfell Campus
2024	SSHRC Doctoral Canadian Graduate Scholarships Adjudication Committee, Memorial University of Newfoundland
2024–25	Hiring Committee, English programme, School of Arts and Social Science, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Grenfell Campus
2023–	Student Academic Affairs Committee, School of Arts and Social Science Memorial University of Newfoundland, Grenfell Campus
2023–	Senate Committee on Research, Memorial University of Newfoundland
2022–	Research Committee, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Grenfell Campus
2022–24	Community Engagement Committee (chair), School of Arts and Social Science Memorial University of Newfoundland, Grenfell Campus
2022	Hiring Committee, English programme, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Grenfell Campus
2018–	Bursary Committee, Tolkien Society
2011–12	Curriculum Committee, Department of English, McGill University
2009–10	Nominating Committee, Department of English, McGill University

## Professional Associations

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