

# Rebecca Brackmann, PhD

Associate Professor of English

## Biography

Rebecca Brackmann received her B.A. in English from Illinois Wesleyan University and her M.A. and Ph.D. in English from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; she has been teaching English at LMU since 2006. She is the author of *The Elizabethan Invention of Anglo-Saxon England* as well as numerous articles on topics ranging from Old English poetry to the works of J.R.R. Tolkien to the use of Twitter in the Chaucer classroom. Her most recent book, *Old English Studies in Early Modern England*, examines how studies of early medieval England in the 1640s and 1650s responded to the English Civil Wars and Interregnum (1640-1660). When she is not writing about early British texts, Dr. Brackmann spends her time binge-reading mystery novels, engaging in geeky cross-stitch projects, and most of all spending time with her family and pets.

## Teaching and Research Interests

Her field of study is medieval and early modern English literature; her research focuses on the post-medieval conception of the early Middle Ages.

## Representative Publications and Presentations

### Books

*Old English Scholarship in the Seventeenth Century: Medievalism and National Crisis*. Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer, 2023.

*The Elizabethan Invention of Anglo-Saxon England: Laurence Nowell, William Lambarde, and the Study of Old English*. Cambridge: D.S. Brewer, 2012.

### Articles and Essays

“‘It Will Help Him Wonderfully’: Placebo and Meaning Responses in Early Medieval English Medicine.” *Speculum: The Journal of the Medieval Academy of America* 97.4 (2022): 1012-1039

“Medievalism, Medicine, and William Somner’s *Dictionarium Saxonico-Latino-Anglicum*.” In *Source of Knowledge: Studies in Early Insular Literary Cultures in Honor of Charles D. Wright*. Brepols, forthcoming.

“King Cnut and His Laws in Early Modern English History and Drama” in *Languages of the Law in Early Medieval England: Essays in Honor of Lisi Oliver*. Ed. Andrew Rabin and Stefan Jurasinski. Leuven: Peeters Publishers, 2019.

“‘Dwarves Are Not Heroes’: Antisemitism and the Dwarves in J.R.R. Tolkien’s Writing.” *Mythlore: A Journal of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and Mythopoeic Literature* 109/110 (2010): 85-106.

### Conference Presentations

“All History of those times might as well be vilified”: Guy of Warwick and Pre-Conquest England in William Dugdale's *Antiquities of Warwickshire*.” Kentucky Philological Association. March, 2022.

“Failed Medievalism: *My Favorite Murder* Episode 22 and the Limits of Medievalized “True Crime” Narratives.” International Conference on Medievalism. Nov, 2021.

“Ðis bið god læcedom”: Placebo and Meaning Responses in Old English Medical Texts.” International Society of Anglo-Saxonists. Albuquerque, NM. July, 2019.

“Somner’s Leechbook: William Somner’s use of London, BL Royal 12 D.17 in the *Dictionarium Saxonico-Latino-Anglicum*.” International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, MI. May 2019.

### **LMU and other Professional Service**

Program Committee Chair, Kentucky Philological Association

Communications Coordinator, International Society for the Study of Medievalism

Faculty advisor for Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honors Society