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:

"'The Saxons Live Again.'" *History Today* 76.7 (2026): 62-73.

"'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:

"William L'Isle's 1623 *Saxon Treatise*: Looking Backwards at Ælfric's *Letter to Sigeweard*." Ælfric's Afterlives. Leiden University, Leiden, The Netherlands. June, 2025.

"'And so down to the Saxon': Old English Laws in John Milton's *Of Education*." International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, MI. May, 2024.

"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