

## Leila K. Norako

Department of English  
A101 Padelford Hall  
University of Washington  
Seattle, WA 98195-4330  
[lnorako@uw.edu](mailto:lnorako@uw.edu)

### CURRENT POSITION

---

Assistant Professor, English Department, University of Washington

### EDUCATION

---

**Ph.D., English Literature**, University of Rochester. Defense: Spring 2012.  
Dissertation: "The Crusading Imaginary of Late Medieval England."  
**MA, English Literature**, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, May 2009.  
**BA, English Literature; BA, Medieval and Renaissance Studies**, The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA, May 2004.

### PUBLICATIONS

---

- "Sir Isumbras and the Fantasy of Crusade." *Chaucer Review*, 28.4 (2013): 166-189.
- "Crusading Gone Global? The Icelandic *Magnussona Saga's* Visions of the World and Home." *Literature Compass* 11.7 (2014): 423-34. Eds. Geraldine Heng and Lynn Ramey.
- "Merlin, Odin, and Mountain Spirits: The Story of Gandalf's Origins" *The Hobbit and History*. Eds. Janice Liedel and Nancy R. Reagin. Nashville: Turner, 2014. 153-70.
- "[Unsticking Time](#)." *postmedieval Forum* V, "The Public Middle Ages." August, 2015.
- "The Crusades in Literature." *Encyclopedia of Medieval British Literature*. Eds. Siân Echard and Robert Rouse. Wiley-Blackwell, 2016.

### EDITORIAL WORK

General Editor. *What a World!*, *postmedieval: a journal of medieval cultural studies*, 9.1 (2018). A peer-reviewed special issue on aspects of world-building in medieval literature.

*Magnussona Saga: A Critical Edition*. Accepted for publication by The Consortium for the Teaching of the Middle Ages (TEAMS). Co-edited with Danielle M. Cudmore. 2018.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

---

### MONOGRAPH

*Imagining the Crusades in Late Medieval England*. The project will be completed by January, 2016. A proposal and sample chapters are currently available for review.

### DIGITAL INITIATIVES

*Recovering Richard Coer de Lyon*. Once complete, this project will provide online critical transcriptions of all extant versions (whole and fragmentary) of this medieval romance.

### ARTICLES

“The Mongols of Middle English Romance.”

“Reading *Richard Coer de Lyon* as a Multitext”

“Virtual Pilgrimage and Middle English Romance.”

### REVIEWS

“American Sniper and Medieval Romance.” To be published upon completion at *Medievally Speaking*.

## AWARDS

---

Dean’s Dissertation Fellowship, University of Rochester. 2010.

Travel Grant, New Chaucer Society. For travel to the Seventeenth Biennial Congress of the New Chaucer Society in Siena, Italy. 2010.

Dean’s Teaching Fellowship, University of Rochester. 2009.

Travel Grant, University of Rochester English Department. A grant to assist my studies in Modern Icelandic in preparation for my work in the critical edition of *Magnussona Saga*. 2009.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO ONLINE WORKS

---

Blogger, [In the Middle](#). 2016-present.

Creator, General Editor, and Contributor. [The Crusades Project](#), an online resource chronicling the representations of the crusades in British and American Literature. 2009-present.

Creator and Co-blogger (2008-2016). [In Romance as We Rede](#), which focuses on a range of topics related to medieval studies and academia.

[\*Morgan le Fay\*](#), a character profile for [The Camelot Project](#) at the University of Rochester. 2010.

[Avalon](#), a profile for [The Camelot Project](#) at the University of Rochester. 2007.

“[Brave](#)” (a review). Published at [Medievally Speaking](#), an open-access review journal on medievalism. August, 2013.

[The Crusades and Western Cultural Imagination](#). Curator (exhibit from February 2007 to August 2007), hosted by the University of Rochester’s Rossell Hope Robbins Library; now an electronic text hosted by the Robbins Library.

[The Crusades: An Annotated Bibliography for Teachers](#) (*The Once and Future Classroom*, Volume 5, Issue 2, 2007)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

**Department of English**

**ENG 321: Chaucer** (Autumn 2016)

STANFORD UNIVERSITY (Stanford, CA)

**Thinking Matters Program, Stanford Introductory Studies**

**THINK 43: What is Love?** (Autumn 2014, Autumn 2015). Faculty Members: Kathryn Starkey (German Studies) and David Lummus (Italian).

**THINK 49: Stories Everywhere** (Spring 2015, Spring 2016). Faculty Members: Adam Johnson (English, Creative Writing), and Blakey Vermeule (English).

NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR UNIVERSITY (Belmont, CA)

**ENG 1040: Classics of World Literature** (Spring 2013, Fall 2013)

**ENG 2000: Writing Center Instructor** (Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2014)

**ENG 2256: Mark Twain (advanced seminar)** (Spring 2014)

AMERICAN MILITARY UNIVERSITY (Online, Charlestown, WV, 2009-2012)

**ENG 101: Proficiency in Writing**

**ENG 102: Effectiveness in Writing**

**LITR 220: American Literature Before the Civil War**

**LITR 221: American Literature After the Civil War**

**LITR 405: Medieval European Literature**

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER (Rochester, NY)

### English Department

**ENG 380: Robin Hood: All-America Hero.** Co-instructed with Professor Thomas Hahn, Fall, 2009.

**ENG 118: Introduction to Media Studies.** Served as a teaching assistant for Professor Greta Niu, Spring, 2009.

### College Writing Program (Now the Writing Speaking and Argument Program)

**CAS 105: The Crusades and Pop Culture** (Fall 2006, Spring 2007)

**CAS 105: Inverted Dreams: Dystopia In Literature, Music and Film** (2007-2008)

**CAS 105E: Inverted Dreams: Dystopia In Literature, Music and Film** (extended version, catering to ESL students)

### LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

---

#### LECTURES AND TALKS

“Recovering *Richard Coer de Lion*.” Sponsored by Stanford’s CMEMS Workshop. 2015.

“Encountering the Mongols of Middle English Romance.” Sponsored by The Department of Medieval and Renaissance Studies at The College of William and Mary. 2012.

“The Mongols of Middle English Romance.” Sponsored by Undergraduate Medieval Society at the University of Rochester. 2011.

“Darkness Lay There Under the Sun: Fantasies and Fears of the East in *The Lord of the Rings*.” Sponsored by the University of Rochester’s Undergraduate Medieval Society. 2007.

#### CONFERENCE PAPERS

“Reading Richard Coer de Lyon as a Multitext.” The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Romance in Medieval Britain Conference. Vancouver, BC, 2016.

“(Ab)errant Heroics in *Richard Coer de Lyon*.” New Chaucer Society Congress, London. 2016.

“Virtual Pilgrimage and Middle English Romance.” The International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 2015.

“Vanishing Ice and *The House of Fame*: An Ecocritical Interrogation.” New Chaucer Society Congress. Reykjavík, Iceland. 2014.

“*Parcevals saga* and the Cultural Hermeneutics of Chivalry.” *The Arthur of the North*, The

- International Arthurian Society (Nordic Branch). Oslo, Norway. 2013.
- “*Pearl’s* Poetics of Grief.” The International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, MI. 2013.
- “Sir Isumbras and the Virtual Pilgrimage.” *Traveling Traditions: Pilgrimage Across Time and Cultures*. Annual Symposium for Pilgrimage Studies. The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA. 2012.
- “Chaucer and the Animated Book.” New Chaucer Society Congress, Portland, OR. 2012.
- “It’s Not Easy Eating Green: Hermeneutics of Feminine Consumption in *Sir Perceval of Galles*.” NEMLA Annual Convention, Rochester, NY. 2012.
- “Resistance Is Futile, You Will Be Assimilated: Exploring Conversionary Fantasies in *The Travels of Sir John Mandeville*.” MLA Convention. Seattle, WA. 2012.
- “Crusader Vikings and Far-faring Texts: Exploring the Nomadism of *Magnussona Saga*.” MLA Convention, Los Angeles, CA. 2011.
- “Politics of Wonder and Displacement: Domesticating the Tartars in Chaucer’s *Squire’s Tale* and *The King of Tars*.” New Chaucer Society Congress, Siena, Italy. 2010.
- “Jerusalem-Farer’s Journey: Perceptions of the Crusades in *Magnussona Saga*.” International Medieval Congress, Leeds (UK). 2010.
- “Imagining the Crusades in Medieval Iceland: An Exploration of *Magnussona Saga*.” The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Fiske Conference on Medieval Icelandic Studies. Cornell University, 2010.
- “‘Mixing Memory and Desire’: Themes of Crusading and Recovery in the Alliterative *Morte Arthure*.” The International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 2009.
- “‘Thenne three londes gunne they wynne / And crystenyd alle that was therinne / In romaunse as men rede’: Reading *Sir Isumbras* as a Crusades Fantasy.” *Remembering the Crusades: Myth, Image, and Identity*, Fordham University, New York, NY. 2008.
- “Exterminating the Other in Middle English Romance: Contextualizing *Sir Isumbras*.” *The Medieval West: Contemporary Views*. University of Rochester, Rochester, NY. 2007.
- “‘With his knyfe he share / A crosse on hys sholder bare’: Examining the Martial Pilgrimage of Sir Isumbras.” The International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, MI. 2007.

## **SESSIONS PRESIDED OVER AND ORGANIZED**

---

### **PRESIDER**

- “Charlemagne to Chaucer.” The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Romance in Medieval Britain Conference. Vancouver, BC, 2016.
- “Editing and the Cotton Nero A.x. Manuscript.” The International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, MI. 2013.

### **ORGANIZER AND PRESIDER**

- “Assembling Arthur.” The International Conference on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 2017.
- “Narrative Conduits” (two sessions). The New Chaucer Society Congress. London. 2016.
- “Performing Malory: The Tale of Arthur and Lucius, Emperor of Rome.” The International Conference on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, MI. 2015.

- “Northern Arthurs.” New Chaucer Society Congress. Reykjavik, Iceland. 2014.
- “Malory Interrupts: Sex and Love in the Morte Darthur” (A Reader’s Theatre Performance). The International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, MI. 2014.
- “What a World!” A session sponsored by The BABEL Working Group. International Congress for Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, MI. 2014.
- “Tales of the Unchivalrous in Malory’s Le Morte Darthur” (A Readers’ Theater Performance). The International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 2013.
- “Performing Malory Aloud: The Book of Sir Tristram” (A Readers’ Theater Performance). The International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 2012.
- “Performing Malory’s Morte D’Arthur: Tales of Sir Gawain.” The International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 2011.
- “Performing Malory: The Tale of Accolon and Arthur.” The International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 2010.
- “Reading Malory Aloud (A Performance).” The International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 2009.
- “The Influence of the Crusades on Middle English Literature,” The International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. 2008.

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY**

---

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, STANFORD, CA

**Course Coordinator**, THINK43 *What is Love* (Autumn 2015, Autumn 2016)

I serve as liaison between faculty members, fellow lecturers, and Thinking Matters Central Staff. Responsibilities include directing weekly team meetings, organizing class field trips and budget, and fostering equity and collaboration between sections through grade norming and material sharing.

**Technology Coordinator**, THINK49 *Stories Everywhere* (Spring 2015, Spring 2016)

In collaboration with our Academic Technology Specialist, I support the integration of course technology, including course websites such as Coursework and Lacuna Stories, microphones and clickers for lectures, and multimedia for student projects.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER, ROCHESTER, NY

**Library Assistant, The Rossell Hope Robbins Library.** Assisted patrons in their research projects, helped maintain the library, served as staff editor of the Camelot Project. Conceptualized, researched, and designed the Crusades Project (see above for details). 2005-2012.

**Assistant Editor, Cinderella Bibliography.** Composed and edited entries, converted entries into HTML formatting, and conducted research on the pervasiveness of the Cinderella narrative in contemporary culture. 2006-2008.

**Writing Placement Advisor, University of Rochester College Writing Program.** Reviewed and evaluated placement exams submitted by incoming freshmen and held meetings with them to aid them in their selection of a writing course. Summer, 2007.

**Editorial Assistant, The Middle English Texts Series.** Proofread, formatted, and fact-checked several critical editions of medieval texts. Compared original manuscripts to their pending critical edition. Formatted METS editions into HTML for online publication. 2005-2006.

## **DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

---

STANFORD UNIVERSITY (Stanford, CA)

**Pre-Major Advisor.** I mentor six incoming Freshmen, meeting with them at least once per quarter and providing tailored guidance as they adjust to life at Stanford and begin the process of selecting a major. (2015-).

**Judge, Boothe Prize.** Thinking Matters Program. Evaluated and judged all of the finalists' submissions. (Winter, 2015).

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER (Rochester, NY)

**Fourth Year Representative,** Steering Committee, University of Rochester English Department. 2008-2009.

**Recruitment Officer,** Steering Committee, University of Rochester English Department. Introduced prospective graduate students to the English Department and the Ph.D. program; organized and ran an orientation for all incoming masters and Ph.D. candidates. 2007-2008.

**First Year Representative,** Graduate Steering Committee, University of Rochester English Department. Attended monthly meetings, assisted in forging administrative dialogues between faculty and students, and helped organize social events. 2005-2006.

## **LANGUAGES**

---

French (proficient)  
Old English (reading)  
Middle English (reading)  
Middle Scots (reading)  
Modern Icelandic (reading)  
Old Norse (reading)

## **ACADEMIC ORGANIZATIONS**

---

Member, BABEL Working Group  
Member, International Arthurian Society  
Member, MEARCSTAPA  
Member, Medieval Academy of America  
Council Member, Medieval Association of the Pacific  
Member, Modern Language Association (MLA)

Member, New Chaucer Society (NCS)  
Member, Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East (SSCLE)

## REFERENCES

---

Thomas Hahn, Department of English, University of Rochester (Dissertation Director)  
[thomas.hahn@rochester.edu](mailto:thomas.hahn@rochester.edu) 585-275-5664

Suzanne Conklin Akbari, Department of English, University of Toronto  
[s.akbari@utoronto.ca](mailto:s.akbari@utoronto.ca) 416-978-5422

Kathryn Starkey, Department of German Studies, Stanford University  
[starkey@stanford.edu](mailto:starkey@stanford.edu) 650-724-3622

Russell Peck, Department of English, University of Rochester  
[russell.peck@rochester.edu](mailto:russell.peck@rochester.edu) 585-275-7157, 585-275-0110

Alan Lupack, Department of English, University of Rochester  
[alupack@library.rochester.edu](mailto:alupack@library.rochester.edu) 585-275-0110

Ellen Woods, Associate Vice Provost, SIS Co-Director, Stanford University  
[woods@stanford.edu](mailto:woods@stanford.edu) 650-723-9378

Parna Sengupta, Associate Director (Thinking Matters Program), Stanford University  
[parnas@stanford.edu](mailto:parnas@stanford.edu) 650-725-3984