

Nicholas Babich

Assistant Professor of Literature and Communications
Ave Maria University

910-603-1854
Nicholas.babich@avemaria.edu

ACADEMIC POSITIONS HELD

Assistant Professor of Literature and Communications – Ave Maria University	July 2025 – Present
Postdoctoral Fellow – University of Notre Dame	June 2024 – June 2025
Graduate Teaching Assistant and Instructor – University of Notre Dame	August 2019 – May 2024

EDUCATION

University of Notre Dame

PhD in the Department of English (Medieval) May 2024

Dissertation: *Narratives of Conversion and Conversion of Narrative
in Pre-Modern England*

Committee: Tim William Machan (Advisor), Susannah Monta, Ann W. Astell

MA in Latin through the Department of Classics May 2024

MA in English May 2022

Penn State University, University Park

BA in English (Hons) and Linguistics, Minor in Latin May 2019

Undergraduate Thesis: *Nam Virtus Perficitur in Infirmirate:
Christian Baptism of the Heroic Tradition and The Battle of Maldon*

PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCES

Monographs

In progress – Failure in Early Medieval England: Poetics and Prayer.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Invited/under review – “Tolkien’s Early Poetry and ‘Celtic Art.’” *Religion & Literature* (special issue). TBD

Forthcoming – “God in the Margins: Devotion Between and Around the Texts of Lincoln, Cathedral Library MS 91.” *Anglia*. Winter 2025

“‘Think on the Bludy Serk:’ Allegory and *Figura* in Henryson’s Minor Poem.” *Neophilologus* 108.3. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11061-024-09811-1> July 2024

Book Reviews

Forthcoming – “Mark Griffith, *The Battle of Maldon: A New Critical Edition*.” *Speculum*. Fall 2025

Public Humanities or Creative Publications

“Draining the Bitter Cup.” *The Harper Review* 1, Winter 2023, 38-39. Winter 2023

“Navigating between Reactionary Traditionalism and Naïve Modernism: Robert Hugh Benson’s Agnosticism.” *Church Life Journal*, June 9, 2022. <https://churchlifejournal.nd.edu/articles/navigating-between-reactionary-traditionalism-and-naive-modernism/>. June 2022

“On a Sunset.” *The Lamp: A Catholic Journal of Literature, Science, The Fine Arts, Etc.* 5, Septuagesima, 2020, 55. Spring 2021

“A Trifle.” *The Lamp: A Catholic Journal of Literature, Science, The Fine Arts, Etc.* 3, Christ the King, 2020, 46. Summer 2020

Select Conference Presentations

“Riddles Beyond *The Grave*: Deadly Poems Before and After the Twelfth Century.” *The International Society for the Study of Early Medieval England*. Düsseldorf, Germany. July 2025

“Spirituality in the Margins of Early English Readings of Boethius.” *The 12th Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies*. Saint Louis, MO. June 2025

“A Multitude of Consolations: Reading Narratives of Prayer in Alfred and Boethius.” *The International Congress on Medieval Studies*. Kalamazoo, MI. May 2025

“Tolkien’s Early Poetry and ‘Celtic Art.’” *Tolkien Colloquium*. Baylor, TX. The presentation delivered here will be published in a special issue of *Religion & Literature*. April 2025

“Between Heaven and Earth in the Lincoln Thornton Manuscript’s <i>Erthe</i> .” <i>The International Medieval Congress</i> . Leeds, UK.	July 2024
“God on the Margins: Robert Thornton’s Devotion and the Alliterative <i>Morte Arthure</i> .” <i>The International Congress on Medieval Studies</i> . Kalamazoo, MI.	May 2024
“ <i>At si nescit, quid caeca petit?</i> Meditation and the Rhetoric of Conversion in <i>The Consolation of Philosophy</i> .” <i>History of Philosophy Forum</i> . University of Notre Dame.	November 2024
“ <i>Think on the Bludy Serk</i> : Allegory and <i>Figura</i> in Henryson’s Minor Poem.” <i>The 17th International Conference on Medieval and Renaissance Scottish Languages, Literature and Culture</i> . St. Andrews, UK.	July 2023
“‘Pær us eall seo fæstnung standeþ.’ Boethian Meditation in <i>The Wanderer</i> .” <i>The International Medieval Congress</i> . Leeds, UK	July 2023
“The Poetics of Loss, Recovery, and Regret in <i>Sir Orfeo</i> .” <i>The 10th Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies</i> . Saint Louis, MO.	June 2023
“‘We have only known the back of the world:’ Victorian Realism, Fantasy, and the Supernatural in <i>The Man Who Was Thursday</i> .” <i>Catholicism, Literature, and the Arts III: The Poetics of Liturgy and Place</i> . London, UK.	July 2022
“Robert Hugh Benson and the Catholic Agnostic.” <i>NCA 107th Annual Convention</i> . Seattle, WA.	November 2021
“ <i>Think on the Bludy Serk</i> : On the Form of Moral and Moralizing in Henryson’s Poetic Corpus.” <i>The 16th International Conference on Medieval and Renaissance Scottish Literature and Language</i> . Digital attendance.	July 2021
“The environment of Old English Homorganic Lengthening: Evidence from the <i>Ormulum</i> .” <i>Germanic Languages Annual Conference (GLAC) 24</i> . Penn State University, PA.	May 2018

TEACHING

Ave Maria University

Rhetoric and Poetics I

Fall 2025

A required comparative literature survey extending from Homer until the early modern period. Draws on global traditions, including genres considered “non-literary,” including philosophical, rhetorical, and political texts and treatises. Includes several multimedia projects, focused on the

development of students in all majors as writers, readers, and communicators in different artistic and cultural landscapes

University of Notre Dame

The Fantastic in English Devotional Literature

Spring 2025

A literature elective of my design, focusing on the weird, wonderful, exciting, and challenging aspects of English devotional literature, from its beginnings in Old English to the present day. Students read texts whose plots, characters, and literary devices are strange, disconcerting, or captivating. We will question what function these texts and their stranger moments serve, and what unexpected connections we might find between the older texts and modern literary forms, be they secular or sacred. As a writing-intensive course, this class was devoted to analyzing style in the poetry and prose assigned, and to refining student writing.

Tolkien the Writer

Fall 2024

A co-designed and co-taught course examining the major works of J.R.R. Tolkien. The course examined Tolkien through the lenses of both modernisms and medievalisms. As a writing-intensive course, it focused on several paper assignments, requiring on rhetorical analysis and creative engagement with the modern popularity of Tolkien's legendarium. Students engaged in peer-editing projects and creative engagement with AI and other media connected to fantasy literature. Office hours are held regularly, with heavy editorial engagement with student papers.

University Writing and Rhetoric

Fall 2022

Designed and taught a syllabus based around Classical rhetoric and its contemporary applications. Encouraged students to see the ubiquity of rhetorical forms in all media, including contemporary social media and meme cultures. Assigned over 20 pages of graded writing, with a variety of in-class exercises ranging from business pitches to creative writing pop-quizzes. Held regular office hours and wrote several recommendation letters for student applications.

TA: Victorian Marriage Plots at University of Notre Dame

Spring 2021

TA: British Literature I at University of Notre Dame

Fall 2020

Indiana University South Bend

History of the English Language

Spring 2025

A required course at IUSB teaching English majors the history of the English language, from philological as well as social viewpoints. The syllabus is designed in collaboration with the previous models proposed by the Faculty of English at IUSB. Regular office hours held at IUSB, which is a local commuter campus of Indiana University.

First Year Writing

Fall 2024

An introductory writing course exploring a variety of compositional modes and forms. I modified a form of the required university syllabus, focusing on composition as a means of creating beauty and influencing social change. Over 20 pages of graded writing are assigned, with a variety of in-class exercises ranging from experiments with AI, to public speeches and opinion articles. Regular office hours held at IUSB, which is a local commuter campus of Indiana University.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Founder: Old English Reading Group, University of Notre Dame

Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

Managing Editor: *Religion & Literature*, University of Notre Dame

Fall 2021 – Fall 2023

FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND WORKSHOPS

Fellowships

Paul G. Tobin Dissertation Fellow: Nanovic Institute for European Studies

Fall 2022 – Spring 2023

Sorin Fellow: de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture

Fall 2021 – present

Awarded Gabriel Fellowship by the University of Notre Dame

Spring 2021

Scholarships and Workshops

Participant in the Old English Prose Workshop at the University of Oxford

May 2025

Participant in the University of Notre Dame Press Publishing Bootcamp

May 2024

Participant in the Lumen Christi Institute 2022 Summer Seminar:
The Thought of John Henry Newman. Merton College, Oxford.

July 2022

SELECT GRANTS AND RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Lynne Grundy Memorial Trust Award

Spring 2025

The Yorkist History Trust Research Award

Fall 2024

The Lynne Grundy Memorial Trust Award	Spring 2024
Research Travel Grant from the Nanovic Institute of European Studies	Summer 2023
Conference Travel Grant from the Nanovic Institute of European Studies	Summer 2023
Research Travel Grant from the Notre Dame Graduate Student Professional Development Awards	Summer 2023
Conference Travel Grants (2) from the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture	Summer 2023
Conference Travel Grant from the Notre Dame Department of English	Summer 2023
Research Travel Grant from the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture	Summer 2022
Conference Travel Grant from the Notre Dame Department of English	Fall 2021

LANGUAGES

Old English: Fluency, certified by the University of Notre Dame English Department.

Middle English: Fluency, certified by the University of Notre Dame English Department.

Latin: Fluency, certified by the University of Notre Dame Classics Department.

French: Reading proficiency, certified by the University of Notre Dame French Department.

Gothic: Reading proficiency. Devoted independent study to Wulfila's Gospels.

Old Norse: Reading proficiency. Devoted independent study to the *Elder Edda* and a selection of sagas.

Spanish: Reading proficiency.

REFERENCES

Tim William Machan – Dissertation Advisor
 Mary Lee Duda Professor of Literature
 Department of English
 233 Decio Hall
tmachan@nd.edu

Ann W. Astell – Dissertation Committee Member
 Professor of Theology
 Department of Theology

130 Malloy Hall
aastell@nd.edu

Susannah Brietz Monta – Dissertation Committee Member
Associate Professor of English
Department of English
233 Decio Hall
smonta@nd.edu

Romana Huk – *olim* Chief Editor at *Religion & Literature*
Associate Professor of English
Department of English
233 Decio Hall
rhuk@nd.edu