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Rafał Borysławski, PhD, DLitt, is an Associate Professor in the Institute of Literary Studies, University of Silesia, Poland and co-founder of the Centre of Old Norse and Old English Studies. His research focuses chiefly on Old English culture and literature, on the uses of apophatic philosophy in the early European Middle Ages, the issues related to medieval emotionology (with particular emphasis on fear and its derivatives), and on the questions of medieval culture associated with the field of social history and femininity. Borysławski's current research is devoted to the poetics and politics of fear in Old English literary tradition (conducted as National Science Centre OPUS grant under the same title, grant no.: 2022/45/B/HS2/03717). He has published a book on the idea of enigmaticity in Old English literature and over sixty papers discussing topics devoted to Old English emotional, philosophical, and cultural outlooks, literary depiction of royal power in the early English Middle Ages, Middle English romances and fabliaux, medieval French literature, and medieval visual culture. He has also co-edited seven volumes of scholarly papers related to medieval studies and the intersections of history, historiography, and philology, and he has co-authored a project resulting in a book of his poetry and computer art inspired by medieval culture. A member of ISSEME (International Society for the Study of Early Medieval England), he has so far lectured at the Universities of Cracow, Oslo, Reykjavik, Tarragona, Vilnius, Warsaw, York St. John, and in 2019 he was a visiting professor at the University of Alberta, Canada. As the supervisor of H/Story, a research group exploring interdependencies between literary and historical studies, he has organized several successful international conferences including, most recently, *Crypthistories*, *HistoRisus: Histories of Laughter*, *The Body In/Of History*, and *Emotions: Engines of History*. Currently, Rafał Borysławski holds the position of the Dean's Plenipotentiary for International Cooperation at the Faculty of Humanities.



Research Gate profile: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Rafal-Boryslawski>

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Rafał Borysławski's most recent publications include:

1. Rafał Borysławski, Alicja Bemben (eds.), *Emotions as Engines of History* (New York: Routledge, 2021), pp. 1-288. ISBN 978-0-367-89405-4
2. Jakub Morawiec, Rafał Borysławski (eds.), *Aspects of Royal Power in Medieval Scandinavia* (Katowice: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Śląskiego, 2018), pp. 1-168.
3. Rafał Borysławski, "'They Could Not Let Her Go With Dry Eyes...': Manifesting Emotions In the *Encomium Emmae Reginae*" in: Rafał Borysławski, Alicja Bemben (eds.), *Emotions as Engines of History* (New York: Routledge, 2021), pp. 113-131.
4. Rafał Borysławski, "The Monsters that Laugh Back: Humour as a Rhetorical Apophasis in Medieval Monstrosology" in: Hannah Burrows, Daniel Derrin (eds.), *The Palgrave Handbook of Humour, History, and Methodology* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020), pp. 239-256.
5. Rafał Borysławski, "Memory and the transformative fear in the Exeter Book riddles" in: Jennifer Neville, Megan Cavell (eds.), *Riddles at Work in the Anglo-Saxon Tradition: Words, Ideas, Interactions* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2020), pp. 146-160.
6. Rafał Borysławski, "Into the Darkness First: Neoplatonism and Neurosis in Old English Wisdom Poetry" in: Ruth Wehlau (ed.), *Darkness, Depression and Descent in Anglo-Saxon England* (Kalamazoo: Western Michigan University Press, 2019), pp. 146-160.
7. Rafał Borysławski, "Wundur wearð on wege 'a wonder happened on the way': Shifting shapes and meanings in Old English Riddles" in: Santiago Barreiro and Luciana Cordo Russo (eds.), *Shapeshifters in Medieval North Atlantic Literature* (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2018), pp. 21-42.
8. Rafał Borysławski, "Hlæfdige and Hlaford: Gendered Power and Images of Continuity in *Encomium Emmae Reginae*" in: Jakub Morawiec, Rafał Borysławski (eds.), *Aspects of Royal Power in Medieval Scandinavia* (Katowice: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Śląskiego, 2018), pp. 99-112.
9. Rafał Borysławski, "Pearl and the Psychosomatics of Dream: Parasomnias as Narrative Strategies in Medieval Dream Visions" in: Jacek Fisiak, Magdalena Bator, Marta Sylwanowicz (eds.), *Essays and Studies in Middle English* (Frankfurt am Main–Berlin–Bern–Bruxelles–New York–Oxford–Wien: Peter Lang Verlag, 2017), pp. 283-297.
10. Rafał Borysławski, Justyna Jajszczok, Jakub Wolff, Alicja Bemben (eds.), *Histories of Laughter and Laughter in History. HistoRisus* (Newcastle Upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2016), pp. 1-245.