

RACHEL SINGER, ABD*Curriculum Vitae*

Georgetown University Department of History
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EDUCATION

2022–2027, PhD, Environmental History, Georgetown University.

Committee: Timothy P. Newfield, J.R. McNeill, Robin Fleming (Boston College)

Dissertation topic: “The Diseased Landscapes of Early Britain and Ireland: Infection, Migration, and Disability in the First Millennium, CE”

2021–22, MPhil with distinction, Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic, University of Cambridge.

2018–21, AB *summa cum laude*, European History; Linguistics minor, Georgetown University.

PUBLICATIONS**Refereed Journal Articles**

2025, Janet E. Kay, István Koncz, Jordan Wilson, **Rachel Singer**, Lee Mordechai, Merle Eisenberg, and Timothy P. Newfield. “Burial Archaeology and the First Plague Pandemic.” *Speculum* 100, no. 2: 321–64. DOI: 10.1086/734521.

2024, “Contextualising Edix Hill: First-Pandemic Plague and Britain.” *English Historical Review* 139, no. 600: 992–1026. DOI: 10.1093/ehr/ceae204.

2022, “Gregory’s Forgotten Rebel: The Portrayal of Basina by Gregory of Tours and its Implications.” *Early Medieval Europe* 30, no. 2: 185–208. DOI: 10.1111/emed.12534.

2020, “The Black Death in the Maghreb: A Call to Action.” *Journal of Medieval Worlds* 2, no. 3–4: 115–23. DOI: 10.1525/jmw.2020.2.3-4.115.

Edited Volume Contributions

2026, Dagomar Degroot, **Rachel Singer**, Nicolas Gauthier, and Sarah Klassen. “Using Climate’s Past: An Analysis of History of Climate and Society Studies in the Fight Against Global Warming.” In *Bridging History and Policy: Essays on Resilience, Sustainability and Systems Modeling*, edited by John Haldon and Ricardo Fernandes. Cham: Springer.

Book Reviews

2026, review of Isabel Moreira, *Balthild of Francia: Anglo-Saxon Slave, Merovingian Queen, and Abolitionist Saint* (Oxford, 2024), *Journal of Religious History* 50, no. 2: 231–32. DOI: 10.1111/1467-9809.70080.

2025, review of Annalisa Marzano, *Plants, Politics and Empire in Ancient Rome* (Cambridge, 2022), H-Environment, H-Net Reviews, February 2025. <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=60741>.

2024, review of Colin P. Elliot, *Pox Romana: The Plague that Shook the Roman World* (Princeton, 2024), H-Sci-Med-Tech, H-Net Reviews, November 2024. [https://www.h-](https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=60741)

net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=60696.

Encyclopedia Entries

2023, “The Maghrebi Black Death.” In *The Encyclopedia of the Global Middle Ages*. Arc Humanities Press/Bloomsbury Publishing. DOI: 10.5040/9781350990005-126.

Conference Proceedings

2019, “Love, Sex, and Marriage in Ibn Battuta’s *Travels*.” *Proceedings of the Tenth Annual MadRush Conference: Best Papers*:
<https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/madrush/2019/love/1>.

Preprints

2025, Dagomar Degroot, **Rachel Singer**, Nicolas Gauthier, Sarah Klassen, Marcy Rockman, Pedro Conceição, and Sam White. “Learning More Effectively from Climate’s Past.” 08 July 2025, PREPRINT (Version 1) available at Research Square
[\[https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-6933425/v1\]](https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-6933425/v1)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2026, Conference Travel Grant, Georgetown University, \$350.
 2026, Global Medieval Studies Travel Award, Georgetown University, \$500.
 2026, American Society for Environmental History/National Science Foundation Travel Grant, \$450.
 2025–6, Medical Humanities Fellowship, Georgetown University, \$2,000.
 2025, Georgetown GradGov-Graduate School of the Arts and Sciences Research Project Award, \$425.
 2025, Medieval Academy of America CARA Summer Scholarship, \$835.
 2024, Global Medieval Studies Travel Award, Georgetown University, \$1,750.
 2023–24, Medical Humanities Fellowship, Georgetown University, \$2,000.
 2022–27, Environmental History Fellowship, Georgetown University.
 2022–23, Global Irish Studies Fellowship, Georgetown University, \$750.
 2022, Martlet Award for Achievement, St Edmund’s College, University of Cambridge, £200.
 2022, Elrington and Bosworth Prize, Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic, University of Cambridge, £100.
 2022, College Prize, St Edmund’s College, University of Cambridge, £150.
 2021, Louis McCahill Award, Georgetown College, Georgetown University, \$500.
 2021, Morris Historical Medal, Department of History, Georgetown University.
 2021, Global Medieval Studies Award for Academic Excellence, Georgetown University, \$500.
 2020, Kalorama Research Fellowship, Georgetown University, \$4,000.
 2019, Global Medieval Studies Travel Award, Georgetown University, \$500.

INVITED TALKS

2024, “Plague, Famine, and Plundering Pagans: Disaster in Gildas’ *De excidio Britonum*,” Late Antique, Medieval, and Byzantine Workshop, Princeton University, October 22, 2024.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Workshops Organized

2022, “Resilience to Climate Change, Past and Present,” Georgetown University, October 12–13, 2022. Co-organized with Dagomar Degroot.

Panels Organized

2023, “Reimagining the ‘End’ of the Western Roman Empire,” 136th American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, January 5, 2023. Co-organized with Janet E. Kay. Panel cancelled due to COVID-19 complications.

Papers Presented

2026, “Did Britain and Ireland have a Late Antique Little Ice Age? What we know (and what we don’t) about sixth-century climate change in Northwest insular Europe.” Ancient weather perspectives. Perceptions, representations and realities (400-700). Radboud University Nijmegen, Netherlands, June 24–26, 2026.

2026, “Paleogenomics and Landscapes of Disease: A Primer.” American Society for Environmental History, Kansas City, March 28, 2026.

2026, “Does Premodern History Need Its Own Ethics? A Case Study from Merovingian Gaul,” Symposium on the Ethics of Historical Research and Writing, Georgetown McDonough School of Business, March 20, 2026.

2024, “Disasters of Interdisciplinarity: Climate Change and Infectious Disease in Post-Roman Britain.” International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, July 1, 2024.

2024, “Lessons from the Past? How Studies in the History of Climate and Society Establish Relevance,” Resilience and Sustainability: Past Trajectories, Contemporary Directions, Policy Relevance, Princeton University, June 4, 2024. Co-presented with Dagomar Degroot.

2024, “Disasters of Interdisciplinarity: The History of Climate and Society in Early Medieval Britain,” American Society for Environmental History, Denver, April 4, 2024.

2023, “Plagued Assumptions in Post-Roman Britain,” North American Conference on British Studies, Baltimore, November 11, 2023.

2023, “Catastrophic Climate History in Post-Roman Britain,” Canadian Historical Association Annual Meeting, York University, Toronto, May 31, 2023.

2023, “Infectious Disease in Britain and Ireland in the First Millennium, CE: Limits and Possibilities,” Epidemic Millennium: Interdisciplinary Studies of Disease Before 1000, Georgetown University, April 22, 2023.

2023, “Interdisciplinary Disasters: Climate and Disease in Post-Roman Britain,” 98th Medieval Academy of America Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, February 23, 2023.

2023, “Disaster in Gildas’ *De excidio*,” 136th American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, January 5, 2023. Panel cancelled due to COVID-19 complications.

2022, “Devastation, Disease, and Disaster: An Interdisciplinary Reexamination of Gildas’ *De excidio Britonum*,” 41st Haskins Society International Conference, University of Richmond, October 29, 2022.

2022, “Captive Queens and Rebellious Nuns: A Reexamination of the ‘Scandal’ in Poitiers,” International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, July 6, 2022.

2022, “Plague in Gildas’ *De excidio*,” Oxford-Cambridge Celtic Colloquium, Jesus College, Oxford University, May 7, 2022.

2021, “‘Scandal’ in Poitiers? Differing Perspectives of a Medieval Nuns’ Rebellion,” 134th American Historical Association Annual Meeting, virtual, May 25, 2021.

CAMPUS TALKS

2025, “Coughing Cows, Mad Dogs, and Infected Bees: Making Sense of Animal Disease in Early Medieval Ireland,” Global Irish Studies Seminar, Georgetown University, March 27, 2025.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Georgetown University

2026 Spring, Teaching Assistant, “Climate Change in History,” in-person intro class. Taught two 20-student discussion sections across the 16-week semester and delivered two core course lectures.

SERVICE

2025, Peer review for the *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*.

2024–27, Environment and History Research Seminar Organizer, Georgetown University.

2024, Editorial assistant for *NASA and the Environment*, edited by Neil Maher and Brian C. Odom (Oxford University Press, forthcoming).

2024, Peer review for *Nature Communications*.

2021–22, MPhil Representative in faculty meetings, Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic, University of Cambridge.

2019–21, Assistant to the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Georgetown University Department of History.

MEDIA COVERAGE AND APPEARANCES

2025, Interviewed for “Burial Archaeology and the First Plague Pandemic,” The Multicultural Middle Ages *Speculum* Spotlight Podcast with co-authors Janet E. Kay and Jordan Wilson. April 2025.

2024, “Study Suggests Plague Reached Britain Earlier Than Thought,” *Medievalists.Net*, November 2024. <https://www.medievalists.net/2024/11/study-suggests-plague-reached-britain-earlier-than-thought/>. Coverage of 2024 *English Historical Review* article, “Contextualising Edix Hill.”

LANGUAGES

Native: English

Read, speak, write: French, German, Welsh

Read: Latin, Middle Breton, Middle Welsh, Old French, Old Irish, Old Norse, Spanish

Elementary skills: Modern Irish

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association
 American Society for Environmental History
 Medieval Academy of America

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2025, Level II Summer Latin Course, Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto, July 2–August 8, 2025.

2023, 2024. Intensive Introductory Workshop in the Palaeosciences for Pre-Modernists, Climate Change and History Research Initiative, Princeton University, January 16–25, 2023; January 17–19, 2024.

- Training in palynology, climate proxy interpretation, and radiocarbon date source criticism.

2023, European Society for Environmental History Summer School: Climate in History, Aeschi bei Spiez, Switzerland, August 17–20, 2023.

- Fully-funded summer school in climate history/paleoclimatology.

2022, Mediaeval and Modern Irish and Welsh Language and Literature Summer School, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, July 11–22, 2022.

2021, Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies Latin and Paleography School, Durham University, July 19–30, 2021.