

A Formschneider Demonstration-Workshop: Carving Caxton

Modality: In-Person

Organizer: Robert Simola (rsimola@yahoo.com)

Participants will have an introduction in the art and craft of being a formschneider. There will be a discussion on how long it takes to carve a block of wood, the types of wood that might have been used, and what tools can we use today to reproduce the work of medieval formschneiders. This workshop will give participants a chance at carving their own blocks with a focus on reproducing images in Caxton's second edition of *The Canterbury Tales*. Knives, gouges, wood, and instruction will be available for participants.

A Sensory History of Devotion in the Late Medieval Mediterranean World

Modality: Hybrid

Sponsor: Hagiography Society

Organizer: Emmarae Rita Stein

Claire E. Becker

Vittoria Magnoler

This panel invites papers on Christian devotional practices in the late medieval Mediterranean that foreground the senses. How did touch, sight, sound, smell, and taste shape how people encountered the divine? We welcome papers on themes such as material culture, gendered piety, cross-cultural devotional exchange, institutional attempts to regulate sensory worship, and the politics of embodied spirituality. Scholars working with diverse Christian communities and sources—from relics to processions, from tears to incense—are encouraged to apply. Together, we aim to explore how sensory experience made the sacred tangible between 1300 and 1550.

Abbey of Saint-Victor, Paris (1): Victorine Life, Thought, and Reform

Modality: Hybrid

Sponsor: Societas Victorina

Organizer: Grover A. Zinn (grover.zinn@oberlin.edu)

Andrew Benjamin Salzmänn (asalzmänn@benedictine.edu)

This session brings attention to Victorine developments in spiritual teaching and theological reflection which were major contributions to Church reform and to the twelfth-century renaissance of intellectual life, leading to further developments in the thirteenth and later centuries. Hugh, Richard, and Achard were masters in these two areas. Richard and Hugh, in particular, combine texts and (“structural”) images (especially Biblical, e.g. Ark of Noah, Ark of Moses, 12 stones in crossing the Jordan) in powerful narrative and transformative ways. Outstanding papers may be invited for publication in a proposed volume, if the presenter is interested.

Abbey of Saint-Victor, Paris (2): Victorine Influence and the Reception of Victorine Thought

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Societas Victorina
Organizer: Andrew Benjamin Salzmänn (asalzmänn@benedictine.edu)
Grover A. Zinn (grover.zinn@oberlin.edu)

This session brings attention to the influences on Victorine writers and the influence which Victorine writers had on later figures. Papers could address the influence of Greek or early Christian authors on the Victorines, or the influence of Victorine thinkers on medieval Scriptural interpretation, medieval rhetoric or geometry, medieval theology or spirituality, medieval theories of education or the liberal arts, among many other possible topics. This session welcomes all papers which explore the influences on, and the influence of, Victorine thinkers. Outstanding papers may be invited for publication in a proposed volume, if the presenter is interested.

Academic Publishing Now: A Roundtable Hosted by Exemplaria and postmedieval

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: postmedieval: a journal of medieval cultural studies, Exemplaria: Medieval / Early Modern / Theory
Organizer: Carissa M. Harris
Jason Jacobs

This roundtable is intended for an audience of early career scholars (including graduate students) and others aiming to publish innovative, theory-driven work in medieval studies. As the job market continues to tighten and resources for Humanities research diminish, scholars are not only under pressure to publish or perish, but also receive contradictory messages about where, how, and when to publish—but are perhaps not given necessary information about how to prepare a viable submission for an academic journal and what to expect from the process. Editors from leading medieval studies journals will seek to demystify how the publication process works now.

Adaptations of Tolkien: Medieval Traces in Movies, Games and Other Transmedial Texts (A Roundtable)

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Tales after Tolkien Society, Tolkien at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Rachel Sikorski
Yvette Kisor (ykisor@ramapo.edu)
Christopher Vaccaro (cvaccaro@uvm.edu)

This roundtable explores enduring medieval influences in adaptations of J.R.R. Tolkien's works across various media, including films and television, table-top and video games, and other transmedial texts. Roundtable panelists will examine how Tolkien's deep engagement with medieval literature, history, and mythology continues to shape modern interpretations, from the visual aesthetics and world-building in cinematic adaptations to the narrative structures and mechanics in interactive games and other media. Through interdisciplinary perspectives, the discussion will address ways medieval motifs are preserved, altered, or reimaged in these adaptations, considering both creative intentions and audience reception.

Adapting Medieval Monarchy in Novels, Film, and Public History

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Royal Studies Network
Organizer: Valerie E. Schutte

There is no shortage of works that adapt, fictionalize, and dramatize medieval royalty for modern audiences. This session welcomes proposals that explore any aspect of medieval adaptation, especially what adaptations demonstrate about the period in which they were created as well as the one in which they are set. Its goal is to critically investigate the phenomenon of adaptation in expected and unexpected places and forms, highlighting both well- and little-known examples across time, space, place, medium, and form, from novels to film, television, plays, museums, and heritage sites.

Advances in Medieval Zooarchaeology: New Questions, New Methods, New Perspectives on the Past

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Pam J. Crabtree (pc4@nyu.edu)
Erin Aisling Crowley-Champoux (eaccl@umd.edu)

Today, as in the medieval past, we exist in animal-worlds. Our understanding of nature, culture, and our place in the universe is structured by our relationships with animals. Zooarchaeology, the study of animal remains from archaeological sites, provides a unique perspective on how people lived with animals in the past. Through the analysis of animal remains, zooarchaeologists can reconstruct dietary practices, agricultural practices, and the role and status of animals in society. This session explores the ways that zooarchaeologists are developing new understandings of the medieval past using a host of traditional and novel methods.

Ælfric and His Copyists

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Richard Rawlinson Center
Organizer: Jana K. Schulman (jana.schulman@wmich.edu)
Nicole Guenther Discenza (ndiscenza@usf.edu)

Ælfric of Eynsham had many copyists, who simultaneously ensured the survival of his works and complicated our understandings of what he wrote and for whom. This session invites papers from scholars at any stage of their career on Ælfric's texts and their transmission. While scholars are invited to examine WMU's collection of Medieval Manuscript Variants in Aelfric of Eynsham's Catholic Homilies at <https://cdm16259.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16259coll3>, the session is open to other sources and approaches. Topics might include how to read collections that violate Ælfric's own admonitions about his texts, considerations for editing Ælfric, how later scribes handled Ælfric's language, and more.

Affect and Feeling in the Robin Hood and Outlaw Tradition

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: International Association for Robin Hood Studies (IARHS)
Organizer: Anna Czarnowus (annaczarnowus@op.pl)

We can discuss affect, feeling, and emotions in the Robin Hood and outlaw tradition, since affect studies, the discussion of feeling (including religious feeling), and the history of emotions allow us to see the plots and the characters in the narratives in question in a new light. This session will explore which affective strategies are adopted in specific texts, films, graphic novels, and games, and how emotional communities are constructed in them. Engaging with these emotional communities, presenters might consider which types of affect, feelings, and emotions should be propagated and which should be suppressed.

Affect in Anchoritic Contexts

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: International Anchoritic Society
Organizer: Michelle M. Sauer
Rachel C. S. Duke

This session will explore both the presence of emotions as well as their intensity, duration, and impact on medieval practitioners, authors, and readers. This includes the way emotions are expressed through language, actions, and bodily responses—and most especially how they are constructed in the anchoritic Rules.

Alfredian Texts and Contexts

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Nicole Guenther Discenza (ndiscenza@usf.edu)

The name “Alfred the Great” has been highly evocative for over 1100 years. Whether or not Alfred personally translated anything or even sponsored much of the work connected with his name, his court and reign are associated with advances in vernacular writing, governance, law, art, warfare, and more. Later writers and kings celebrated him, sometimes in ways his contemporaries would not have recognized. “Alfredian Texts and Contexts” invites submissions on the circle of Alfred and developments associated with it from newcomers and established scholars, and the session welcomes proposals from any discipline or a combination.

Aljamiado Afterlives

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Ibero-Medieval Association of North America (IMANA)
Organizer: Donald W. Wood

“Afterlives” can be interpreted as the state of existence that follows the death of the mortal body or the next life of the soul. Aljamiado-Morisco narratives are rich in depictions of Aljanna (Paradise) and Jahannam (Hell), the rewards or punishments that await the soul in the next life, and even the terms of Death negotiated between prophets and the Angel of Death. Papers may also explore the process of death or dying, including the extraction of the soul from the body or the interrogation of the recently deceased by the angels Munkar and Nakīr.

Ambition in the Middle Ages

Modality: In-Person

Organizer: Adam Davis (davisaj@denison.edu)

This session invites papers exploring ambition in the Middle Ages—its representations, experiences, and moral evaluations. How did medieval thinkers and communities understand ambition in relation to virtue, vice, and social order? We welcome discourses about ambition, anti-ambition, and magnanimity across contexts, including monasticism, courtly life, commerce, education, sainthood, and clerical careers. How did gender shape access to, or critiques of, ambition? By examining ambition beyond the related sins of pride or avarice, this session aims to uncover new perspectives on medieval selfhood, hierarchy, and desire. Papers from any disciplinary angle are welcome, including literature, theology, history, philosophy, and art.

An Encyclopedia of Games (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person

Sponsor: Game Cultures Society, De Gruyter Brill

Organizer: Paul Milliman

Sarah J. Sprouse (ssprouse@wtamu.edu)

As the editors begin working on Brill's encyclopedia on games in the Middle Ages, we would like to know what you think should be included in such a reference volume. We hope to make this volume global in coverage, interdisciplinary, and chronologically more expansive than traditional medieval studies. So, we need your help. We hope for a lively discussion between potential contributors both on the panel and in the audience willing to share their research in their areas of expertise in a volume based on a macropaedia-micropaedia approach--a mix of long, thematic essays and shorter entries.

Anchorites and the Archives

Modality: Hybrid

Sponsor: International Anchoritic Society

Organizer: Michelle M. Sauer

David Carrillo-Rangel

This session seeks to ask: How do different archival genres construct or conceal anchoritism? What archival absences or silences surround figures who withdraw from life? What can we learn from tracing it across administrative, spiritual, and affective registers and infrastructures? By focusing on the archival infrastructures that preserve traces of retirement, abdication, and non-linear careers, we aim to shed light on medieval concepts of labor, rest, hierarchy, and institutional memory. Contributions may take the form of case studies, theoretical interventions, or methodological reflections on archival work related to anchorites and other form of religious life.

Animals and the Global Turn in Medieval Studies

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Medieval Ecocriticisms
Organizer: Todd Preston (preston@lycoming.edu)
Karl Steel (ksteel@brooklyn.cuny.edu)

Medieval Ecocriticisms invites papers on Animals and the Global Turn in Medieval Studies. The “global turn” in medieval studies has been a relatively recent and productive approach to the field that represents an expansion of scholarly focus beyond the bounds of Europe to include consideration of this time period in Africa, Asia, the Americas, and beyond. This session engages with the conversation surrounding the “global turn” through focusing on the role of animals across the medieval world. We invite paper proposals treating on how the perceptions, uses, and/or representations of animals participate in the construction of a global Middle Ages.

Annual Journal of Medieval Military History Lecture

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: De Re Militari: The Society for Medieval Military History
Organizer: Valerie Eads (veads@sva.edu)

The annual lecture sponsored by De Re Militari and the Journal of Medieval Military History is given by a recognized scholar in medieval military history. The choice of topic rests with the invited speaker. Session includes a response by a scholar with recognized expertise in the lecture topic and a question-answer period. The lectures are published in JMMH the the following year.

Apocryphilia: Biblical Apocrypha in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Association of the Midwest (MAM), North American Society for the Study of Christian Apocryphal Literature (NASSCAL)
Organizer: Amity Reading (amityreading@depauw.edu)

The North American Society for the Study of Christian Apocryphal Literature (NASSCAL) and the Medieval Association of the Midwest (MAM) seek proposals for a session titled "Apocryphilia: Biblical Apocrypha in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages" at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in 2026. We seek to encourage new research on the subject and to bring together scholars from diverse fields (for example, scholars of early Judaism, early Christianity, early Islam, medieval Europe, and Byzantine studies). Papers might focus on text-critical work, translation studies, reception history, theory, or other approaches.

Archaeology in the Medieval Past

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Journal of Early Medieval Northwestern Europe (JEMNE)
Organizer: Deanna Forsman
Heather Flowers

This session invites contributions focused on archaeological approaches to the medieval past. We hope to broaden the conversation around the unique insights archaeological methods provide into the material culture and lived environments of medieval societies. We welcome all proposals, including updates and insights emerging from current projects, applications of innovative methodologies (both theoretical and applied), and fresh approaches to traditional methods.

Art and Architecture in Cistercian and Monastic Culture

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Cistercian and Monastic Studies
Organizer: Jason R. Crow (Jason.crow@monash.edu)
Tyler Sergent (sergentf@berea.edu)

Cistercian and monastic contributions to the disciplines of art and architecture are widely recognized and studied; however, it has been over a decade since the Cistercian and Monastic Studies group has sponsored a session at ICMS that directly addresses the disciplines. In the interim, established scholars have continued to develop and present papers on monastic art and architecture. Emerging relevant and innovative research on the aesthetic concerns on monastics is of renewed interest to the group. This panel seeks to support new voices in the history of art and architecture, who are studying the disciplines in monastic culture.

Arthurian Emotions

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Arthurian Literature
Organizer: K. S. Whetter (kevin.whetter@acadiau.ca)

Arthurian Literature invites submissions for papers on "Arthurian Emotions." We consider Emotions here in the widest and most accessible terms, welcoming studies of Arthurian texts, contexts, or histories through the lens of emotional affect; analyzing the emotions of characters; studying the positive or negative emotions in stories; analyzing whether characters who emote are somehow weaker or less heroic; or looking at the emotions generated in an audience. All topics with some sort of emotional aspect are welcome, as are all methodologies.

Arthurian Vulnerabilities

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Arthurian Literature
Organizer: K. S. Whetter (kevin.whetter@acadiau.ca)

Arthurian Literature invites submission for papers on "Arthurian Vulnerabilities." Vulnerability might involve risk or threat or risky or threatening behaviour such as evil customs or chivalric failings, but it might also involve openness or porousness: being open to such vulnerabilities as interpersonal connections, intimacy, emotions, or persuasion. There are also the potential vulnerabilities attendant upon traditional perils like combat, climate, and dispute. Emotions, too, might create or be affected by vulnerability. We thus imagine "Arthurian Vulnerabilities" in the widest possible framework and welcome all literary-critical approaches, traditional, theoretical, codicological, historical, or otherwise.

Bad Letters: Pseudo-Scripts and Forgeries

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Studies, Purdue Univ.–Fort Wayne, Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography
Organizer: Damian Fleming

This session invites papers on pseudo-scripts and other mysterious writing forms in the middle ages as well as modern uses of medieval-inspired scripts and writing systems, including deliberate forgeries, cryptographs, and other manifestations of "dirtbag medievalism."

Bad Medieval/ism: Mis/Uses of the Medieval in Contemporary Fiction

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Tales after Tolkien Society
Organizer: Rachel Sikorski

This session seeks to examine the misuses and misapplications of the medieval within any fictional media from 1974 forward. Sometimes, accessibility to contemporary audiences requires deviation from what is known to scholarship; sometimes, narrative demands impose changes to particular interpretations of source material. Sometimes, however, things are flatly wrong. Effects on audiences differ, but it is clear that many audiences and authors use contemporary fiction as a means to understand earlier periods. This session seeks to explore what they get right, what they get less right, and why it matters to our ongoing understanding of the belief about the medieval.

Bede: Connections

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Old English Newsletter
Organizer: Paul Hilliard
Sharon M. Rowley (srowley@cnu.edu)
Stephen J. Harris

We invite papers that explore influences on the Venerable Bede and Bede's influence on his contemporaries and on later authors. The focus need not be on sources, per se; we encourage examinations of less demonstrable aspects of cross-pollination such as style, historical and theological arguments, identity, politics, and monastic culture. We welcome papers from any area of specialization—history, literature, art history, paleography & codicology, archaeology, and numismatics.

Between Flesh and Faith: Reimagining Sex, Sexuality, and Gender in Medieval Iberia

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: La corónica: A Journal of Medieval Hispanic Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, Society for Queer and Trans Medieval Studies (SQTMS)
Organizer: Alexander Korte
Felipe E. Rojas (felipe.rojas@westliberty.edu)

This is an interdisciplinary panel exploring sex, sexuality, and gender in Medieval Iberia. Long viewed through heteronormative and cisnormative frameworks, this complex cultural space demands renewed critical attention. We seek contributions that interrogate how sex and gender were constructed, performed, regulated, and/or resisted across Iberian communities. We especially welcome interventions that amplify marginalized voices and examine what remains unsaid or illegible in the archive. Scholars across disciplines are encouraged to submit proposals that challenge, diversify, and complicate dominant narratives.

Beyond the Blazon: Materializing Medieval Heraldry (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Royal Heraldry Society of Canada
Organizer: Sarah Ganzel

The Royal Heraldry Society of Canada invites proposals for papers exploring object-based approaches to medieval heraldry, including investigations into the materiality and “lives” of armorial objects and their significance in medieval artistic expressions, literary portrayals, material culture, and historical accounts. Potential topics may include but are not limited to rolls of arms, wax seals and coats of arms on legal documents, heraldic badges, fictive heraldry in medieval literature and tournament armor, and armorial objects as surrogates for personal, family, and community identity. We welcome contributions from diverse academic disciplines to foster a multifaceted dialogue.

Boccaccio and Boccaccian Medievalisms: Representations of Gender in Storytelling

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Italian Studies@Kalamazoo
Organizer: Anna Dini

This session seeks to interrogate representations of gender inspired by the works of Giovanni Boccaccio. In the proem of the Decameron, the Boccaccio-narrator promises that his hundred short stories will ease Fortune’s blows to the delicate donne who - according to him - suffer from the trials of heartache. Beyond the text, the cento novelle and its themes have been adapted into visual form. From painted cassoni to Federico Fellini’s towering Anita Ekberg in Boccaccio ‘70, the Decameron continually informs medievalisms of gender, including themes like sartorial disguise, social structure and domesticity, and labor.

Body, Mind, and Matter in Medieval Scandinavia (1): New Critical Approaches to Medieval Norse Personhood

Modality: Virtual
Organizer: Mariusz Mayburd

This session invites close readings/revaluations of Old Norse narratives dealing with experiencing supranormal phenomena, putting the spotlight upon the implicit human subjects (whether inside the texts as characters or outside-of-texts as contemporary audiences) and using these narrative moments for interrogating Old Norse constructions of personhood and sensory perceptions. Such phenomenological approaches open the notoriously terse Old Norse sagas to studies of premodern self-experiences, bypassing purely “literalist” readings and recognizing supranormal experiences as integral to Old Norse self-concepts and self-narrations. New approaches engaging disability studies, queer theory, and critical race studies are especially welcome.

Body, Mind, and Matter in Medieval Scandinavia (2): Supernatural Entities and More-than-Human Ecologies

Modality: Virtual

Organizer: Mariusz Mayburd

This session invites revaluations and creative re-interpretations surrounding literary constructions, narrations, and depictions of otherworldly, other-than-human, and otherwise ambiguous figures associated with paranormal phenomena across Medieval Scandinavia. Paranormal phenomena becomes an auspicious site for interrogating what, then, was considered normal in premodern North, exposing socio-historical contingencies of the very concept of normativity. We especially welcome perspectives from ecocriticism, new materialism, object-oriented-ontology, and other rogue offshoots of contemporary critical theory to problematize how the very methodologies chosen for analyses tend to shape the interpretative results they yield.

Boethius, Theology, and the Liberal Arts in Late Antiquity

Modality: In-Person

Sponsor: International Boethius Society

Organizer: Philip Edward Phillips (philip.phillips@mtsu.edu)

Best known for his *De consolazione philosophiae*, its transmission, reception, influence, and many vernacular translations, Boethius also contributed significantly to the liberal arts and to the theological debates of his time and later. To consider Boethius "whole," this session seeks papers on any aspect of the Boethian corpus, including his quadrivial works, translations, commentaries, *Opuscula sacra*, and *Latin Consolatio*.

Border Culture in Wales and England

Modality: In-Person

Sponsor: Centre for Medieval Studies, Univ. of Bristol

Organizer: Helen Fulton (Helen.fulton@bristol.ac.uk)

Abigail Freeman (abi.freeman@bristol.ac.uk)

This session is about the culture of the medieval March of Wales, the borderlands between Wales and England, from 1282 to about 1550. The session aims to recover the distinctive identity of the March, a region which has not been fully recognised by English historians, yet which had its own cultural and linguistic identity. Papers will focus on social and political history, literature, and manuscript culture.

Breton Lays in Old French, Old Norse, and Middle English (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person

Sponsor: International Marie de France Society

Organizer: Karen Casey Casebier (karen-casebier@utc.edu)

Joseph R. Johnson (jj892@georgetown.edu)

Generally speaking, lays are poems produced between 1150 and 1450 that purport to be literary versions of lays sung by ancient Bretons to the musical accompaniment of the harp. In addition to the Old French *lais* of Marie de France, there are independent Breton *lais* of disputed authorship, the Old Norse *Strengleikar*, and the Middle English *lays*. This roundtable seeks contributions on any aspect of the lay, using any methodological approach, in order to better define the lay in relationship to the work of Marie de France or as a popular medieval literary form in its own right.

Bridging Categories of Difference in Performance: Mind the Gap

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society (MRDS)
Organizer: Matthew Evan Davis (matthew@matthewedavis.net)

Due to the ways that we approach pre-modern drama in performance – primarily as silos of period, geography, theoretical or methodological approach, or linguistic family – there is a tendency to obscure aspects of medieval and renaissance performance that can provide valuable insights. As such, the Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society invites papers examining the ways that pre-modern dramatic works speak to each other across language, region, and time period, how we adapt and appropriate them for the present day, and how trends like the indigenous or global turns might expand how we think of pre-modern performance and performance cultures.

Britain and Ireland before the Vikings: Intercultural Interactions

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program, Univ. of Arkansas–Fayetteville
Organizer: Matthew D Coker

This session aims to cultivate interdisciplinary perspectives on the formative yet imperfectly understood years between the Roman withdrawal from Britain and the first Viking incursions into Britain and Ireland. Our particular focus is interactions—such as contacts, exchanges, collaborations, and influences—between the literary, political, religious, and/or educational cultures of Britain and Ireland, whether these interactions were direct or mediated. The session’s goals are to better understand the cultures and artifacts of early medieval Britain and Ireland, and also to better understand intercultural interactivity in general.

Buboes, Orifices, and Horns: Non-Normative Medieval Bodies Reconsidered

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Studies Program, Yale Univ.
Organizer: Imke Vet (imke.vet@yale.edu)
Se Jin Park

This panel examines medieval conceptualisations and representations of (non-)normative bodies, and aims to better understand the demarcations between the human and non-human, the abled and disabled, the white and non-white/racialized, the gender conforming and gender non-conforming body. We welcome interdisciplinary approaches, including art history, literary criticism, disability studies, critical race studies, and gender studies. We adopt a broad definition of the ‘medieval world’, and invite contributions on material from all geographic regions and time periods between ca. 500-1500, as well as the later re-appropriation of medieval material. Contributions that study the intersection of two or more bodily markers are encouraged.

C. S. Lewis and the Middle Ages (1): Love, Faces, and Lewisian Mythography

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: C. S. Lewis and the Middle Ages
Organizer: Joe Ricke (jsricke@outlook.com)

2026 marks the ninetieth anniversary of C. S. Lewis's groundbreaking work of literary history, *The Allegory of Love*, as well as the seventieth anniversary of his final and most obscure novel, *Till We Have Faces*. In the former he writes about the medieval mythographic tradition as a key to understanding both ancient myths and the world. In *Faces*, Lewis turns mythographer and reinterprets the classical myth of Psyche and Eros through a story of Psyche's sister Orual. This session seeks papers exploring Lewis's understanding of mythography and his practice of it in his fiction, especially *Faces*.

C. S. Lewis and the Middle Ages (2): "What Lewis really did to Chaucer"

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: C. S. Lewis and the Middle Ages
Organizer: Joe Ricke (jsricke@outlook.com)

David Lyle Jeffrey faults Lewis for his "most notable" neglect of Chaucer (more specifically, *The Canterbury Tales*). In fact, Lewis's first published literary criticism was the essay "What Chaucer Really Did to *Il Filostrato*" (1932) and *Troilus and Criseyde* played a significant role in Lewis's *The Allegory of Love* (1936). This session provides opportunity for a fresh exploration of Lewis's relationship to Chaucer, both his scholarship and his adaptations, appropriations, and allusions to of a poet who wrote, according to the 23-year-old Lewis, "amazingly fine stuff." We seek new critical essays which explore and interpret Lewis's Chaucerian medievalism.

Chant and Liturgy

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Musicology at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Melanie Batoff
Innocent Smith
Alessandra Ignesti (alessandra.ignesti@mail.mcgill.ca)

The session focuses on monophonic chant in its liturgical context, with a broad geographical and chronological scope ranging from the early Middle Ages to the Renaissance and beyond. While music should be the primary focus, we encourage interdisciplinary methodologies that contextualize chant historically and culturally. We also invite papers comparing Western chant with other monophonic liturgical traditions to provide a broader and more inclusive vision of how different cultures conveyed the sacred word musically.

Chant and Polyphony at Notre Dame

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Musicology at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Innocent Smith
Melanie Batoff
Jennifer Saltzstein

This session focuses on the musical and liturgical culture of Notre Dame de Paris in the Middle Ages. The dramatic fire in 2019 and the reopening of the cathedral in 2024 after five years of restoration work drew renewed attention to the architectural and cultural legacy of the cathedral of Notre Dame. In this session, we invite papers exploring the musical and liturgical legacy of Notre Dame, focusing especially on manuscript sources for chant and polyphony associated with the Parisian cathedral.

Chaucer and Shakespeare: Beyond the Usual Suspects

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Shakespeare at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Nora L. Corrigan

For this session, we are especially seeking papers that trace under-explored connections and lines of influence between Chaucer's works and those of Shakespeare and his contemporaries. These might include, for example, Shakespeare's use of Chaucer's dream-vision poems and other shorter works; Shakespeare works that borrow from Chaucer without being direct adaptations; and non-Shakespearean plays such as Dekker, Chettle, and Haughton's *Patient Grissill* or Webster's *Appius and Virginia*.

Christine de Pizan in Translation(s) (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: International Christine de Pizan Society, North American Branch
Organizer: Charles-Louis Morand-Métivier (cmorandm@uvm.edu)

Many of Christine de Pizan's works are only available in the original Middle French. Anglophone scholars have made selections of her works available for non-French speaking audiences, but many texts still remain unavailable or are presented in editions that lack a robust critical apparatus. We invite presentations from translators of Christine's works describing their processes, as well as discussions of didactic approaches by scholars and teachers using her works with audiences who do not read Middle French. We are also interested in early modern translations of Christine, like the 1521 translation of *The Book of the City of Ladies*.

Chronology and Divination Beyond the Medieval West

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Research Group on Manuscript Evidence, Bāhira ḥassāb: Knowledge Transmission in Ethiopia and Eritrea from Antiquity to Modern Times
Organizer: Augustine Dickinson (augustine.dickinson@uni-muenster.de)

While often considered categorically separate, it is typically the case in premodern manuscript cultures that no significant separation is made between chronology, astrology, and divination, with texts, tables, and diagrams related to these often appearing together in manuscripts. This phenomenon has drawn a meaningful amount of attention in research focused on the European and other intertwined manuscript traditions, but it continues to be overlooked with respect to traditions on the “periphery,” such as the Ethiopic, Syriac, Coptic, or Indic traditions. This session would bring together papers focused on these traditions while encouraging cross-disciplinary discussion with scholars working in other fields.

Cistercian and Monastic Mysticism

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Cistercian and Monastic Studies
Organizer: Aage Rydstrøm-Poulsen (aarp@uni.gl)
Tyler Sergent (sergentf@berea.edu)

Mysticism is a crucial phenomenon in the history of culture of the Western world since it deals with the highest goals and values of human life. It was an important part of the medieval monastic world and together with many other things it influenced deeply the intellectual culture of the Western world. Papers focusing on Cistercian and other monastic contributions to this history are invited.

Cistercian Theology

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Cistercian and Monastic Studies
Organizer: Tyler Sergent (sergentf@berea.edu)

Cistercian theology is a central topic for Cistercian studies because the main Cistercian writers of the foundational 12th century were theologians to some degree. This session invites papers on all aspects of Cistercian theology that offer analysis to the thought, methodology, and content of various Cistercian writers from different periods of Cistercian history.

Collection Histories and the Art of Provenance Research

Modality: Virtual
Organizer: Christine Brennan
Scott David Miller

This session seeks papers focused on the history of collecting medieval artworks in the post-medieval period. “History of collecting” may be interpreted broadly. Papers are welcome that focus on the lives of collectors and their collections, dealers and their networks, or on the post-medieval life histories of medieval art object(s). Ideally, speakers will foreground methods and the ramifications of the history of collecting on scholarly projects focused on artworks in the medieval period.

Comedy in Unexpected Places: The Ludic, the Absurd, and the Unserious

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Consortium Medievalists
Organizer: Vincent V. Giordano (vgiordano@utexas.edu)

Comedy takes many forms in medieval culture: the ludic, the absurd, the bawdy, the satirical, the grotesque, the parodic, the playful, the carnivalesque. Yet comedy remains comparatively undertheorized in medieval studies. This session invites papers that offer new approaches to the comedic in medieval texts, visual art, music, performance, material culture, or everyday practice. We welcome topics across languages, media, and periods, and encourage papers that ask: How do modern constructions of genre shape our understanding of medieval comedy? How might historicizing reception—through laughter, delight, or discomfort—enrich our interpretations? What does it mean to take comedy seriously?

Comparative Old West Germanic Language and Literature

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for Medieval Germanic Studies (SMGS)
Organizer: Adam Oberlin

We seek papers addressing comparative topics in Old High German, Old Saxon, Old Dutch, Old Frisian, and/or Old English language and literature, including but not limited to manuscript transmission, influence, genre, grammar and syntax, lexis, onomastics, dialectology, and periodization. Diachronic studies are also welcome but should include analysis of more than one language or textual tradition.

Connections in and through Early Medieval Northwestern Europe

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Journal of Early Medieval Northwestern Europe (JEMNE)
Organizer: Deanna Forsman
Larry Swain (larry.swain@bemidjstate.edu)

This session seeks submissions that explore any type of connection with or within Northwestern Europe in the Early Middle Ages from any disciplinary approach (linguistic, historical, literary, archaeological, artistic, economic, theological, etc.). JEMNE examines the place of Northwestern Europe in a wider context, exploring connections among the cultures within and beyond the region, including the Mediterranean, Byzantine, Arabic, and global contexts. We particularly encourage submissions using innovative methods or bringing fresh approaches to traditional methods.

Considering the Divide: Reexamining Works Between Chaucer and Shakespeare (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Lydgate Society
Organizer: Matthew Evan Davis (matthew@matthewedavis.net)

Fifteenth-century authors composed works that were multimodal in nature, comprising not only poetic works for the inclusion in the codex but works displayed on church walls, alongside tapestries, to be performed either on their own or as part of tableau vivant pieces, or deliberately placed into conversation alongside other literary works. Despite much good scholarship on this aspect of these poets their work is still considered primarily bound to the codex and the genres expected by that codex. Does this bother you too? Come discuss ways to broaden our understanding of these works with a mind towards teaching and research.

Constructing the Horrible: Monsters, Apparitions, and Prodigies in the Greater/Global Fifteenth Century

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: International Alain Chartier Society, Jean Gerson Society
Organizer: Joan E. McRae
Wendy Love Anderson
Linda Burke (lindaebb@aol.com)

We invite a range of approaches to figures of the horrifying in the works of Gerson, Chartier, and their contemporaries throughout the longer fifteenth century and in all faith communities, whether designed to warn, to polemicize, or mainly to delight. An apparition might be already familiar to the audience, e.g. the seven-headed Beast of the Apocalypse reinterpreted to demonize an enemy of the moment; or be newly imagined, sometimes as a woman, e.g. horrific figures personifying moral catastrophe and warning of worse to come. Possible methods include codicology, iconography, war theory, sermon studies, vernacular theology, literary fiction, and feminist/gender theory.

Constructing the Past: The Nineteenth-Century Quest for History and the Rewriting of Medieval India

Modality: Virtual
Organizer: Md. Azharrul Haque Mallick

This session explores how 19th-century efforts to trace India's past by colonial, nationalist, Dalit, Hindu, and Muslim scholars reshaped the historiography of medieval India. It focuses on how archival practices, philological tools, vernacular writings, and ideological agendas redefined the period from the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate to the decline of the Mughal Empire. Participants will examine the intellectual processes, textual translations, and institutional mechanisms that transformed medieval Indian history into a modern disciplinary narrative. Through diverse case studies, the panel revisits Orientalist and nationalist legacies, recovering silenced voices and contested pasts central to postcolonial and global medieval studies.

Consumption and Consumables in Medieval Iberia and the Mediterranean

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Ibero-Medieval Association of North America (IMANA)
Organizer: Isidro J. Rivera (ijrivera@ku.edu)
Christi Ivers (civers@udallas.edu)

What did people consume in medieval Iberia and the Mediterranean, and with whom? How were consumables grown, fabricated, transported, traded, stored, bought, inventoried, displayed? These papers will paint a picture of consumption and examine what consumption reveals about people's day-to-day lives, values, habits, concerns, needs, and aspirations. Understanding consumption and consumables broadly, we invite interventions from approaches such as literary, food, or religious studies; manuscript, print, or material culture; trade and commerce; history; art history; ecocriticism. Topics may include festivals, foodways, reading practices, economics, written and visual representations of consumption, archival documents, natural resources, and more.

Contesting the Sacred: Profanation, Theft, and Claims over Religious Images

Modality: Virtual

Organizer: Fiammetta Campagnoli (fiammetta.campagnoli@gmail.com)

This session explores how sacred images and relics were at the center of complex tensions in the medieval world, particularly through episodes of profanation, theft, and contested ownership that altered their meaning and role. By looking at detailed case studies from diverse regions and media, and drawing on approaches from art history, theology, and anthropology, the session investigates how challenges to established religious authority reshaped ideas of the sacred. It also considers how communities used sacred objects to express power, devotion, and identity, within broader social, legal, and theological systems that governed notions of sanctity and possession.

Creative-Critical Work in Medieval Studies

Modality: Hybrid

Organizer: Brooke H. Findley (bhf2@psu.edu)

Creative practice has the potential to enrich our work as medievalists, expand the boundaries of what is possible in scholarship, and reach new audiences both in and out of the academy. Especially given the state of higher education and the world more generally, creative practice can also provide a refuge. Proposals might focus on creative writing, visual arts, material culture and experimental archeology, blogging, creative approaches to translation, use of creative projects in pedagogy, creative ways of sharing our work as medievalists with the public, and more.

Critical Approaches to Medieval French Literature (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person

Sponsor: Medieval French in the Midwest

Organizer: Johannes Junge Ruhland (jjungeru@nd.edu)

Anna Klosowska (roberta2@miamioh.edu)

Anne Le

Intersectional critical approaches to French literature include queer/trans, postcolonial, critical race, disability, Native studies and ecocriticism, among others. Contemporary critical approaches help shed light on premodern texts, artifacts, ideologies, and social organization. This roundtable brings together scholars to reflect on the questions, methods, strategies, disciplinary constraints, issues, and—especially—benefits of drawing on critical approaches and French medieval literary sources in their research and teaching, especially but not only broadly conceived intersectionality. The focus on medieval French literature—also broadly conceived to include genres not typically thought of as “literary”—provides common ground, but comparisons of all sorts are encouraged.

Crusading and Medieval Warfare

Modality: In-Person

Sponsor: Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East

Organizer: C. Matthew Phillips

Crusading as an act of warfare was an integral part of the medieval world after 1100. Crusading was also a pious activity for the salvation of the Christian participant. This session seeks to further knowledge of these topics.

Crusading, Pilgrimages, and Preaching

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East, International Medieval Sermon Studies Society
Organizer: Andrew Reeves (andrew.reeves1@mga.edu)
C. Matthew Phillips

Pilgrimages were foundational to medieval piety. These penitential journeys to sacred places inspired pious (and not so pious) activity in the medieval world. Crusading emerged from earlier practices, but developed into a distinct form of pilgrimage. Preachers sought to inspire these activities, especially for lay Christians. Further study of sermons, chronicles, devotional texts, or other sources will give scholars more insight into the medieval world.

Cultural Exchange in the Origins of Medieval Magic

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Societas Magica
Organizer: Alex Matthews (acmatthews@uchicago.edu)

Modern theories of disenchantment often relegate enchantment to distant times and places: the "enchanted Dark Ages," the "irrational Orient." But how did medieval practitioners and theorists of the occult sciences vest their ideas with particular genealogies and geographies? This panel explores the ways in which medieval writers created lineages and genealogies of occult knowledge in order to render it legitimate. Ideas of occult origins were informed by the real circulation of occult texts across linguistic, communal, and temporal boundaries. Combining the historical diversity of their sources and their own creativity, medieval actors contrived diverse lineages for the history of magic.

Dancing Queens, Kings, and Courtiers: Celebrations, Feasts, and Fun

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Courtly Literature Society (ICLS), North American Branch
Organizer: Shawn Phillip Cooper
Julie Human (julie.human@uky.edu)

This panel examines the significance of the court's feasts, celebrations, and other similar pastimes in order to explore their role in courtly narratives, their reflection of historical and contemporary realities, and the development of these courtly pastimes across diverse regions and cultures.

Dante

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Dante Society of America
Organizer: Jelena Todorović (jtodorovic@wisc.edu)

The Dante Society of America is proposing open sessions that invite scholars to engage with the work of Dante Alighieri both from within the field of Dante Studies and through a multitude of interdisciplinary perspectives. We seek to feature a blend of scholars who approach Dante through the long-standing field of Dante Studies that is pushing in new directions, those who consider Dante's world through history and visual/material culture, and those who engage with Dante from the perspective of other languages, globally oriented and comparative leanings within medieval studies, and as well as considerations of Dante's reception through the centuries.

Dante and Ovid Revisited

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Societas Ovidiana, Dante Society of America
Organizer: Jelena Todorović (jtodorovic@wisc.edu)
William Little (little.447@osu.edu)

This panel invites new perspectives on the relationship between Dante and Ovid. Proposals might consider, but are not limited to: new assessments in the light of recent theoretical or methodological developments; thematic affiliations, such as love and desire, exile, mythography, gender, authority; form, such as dreams and visions, metrical form, or other aspects of poetics; the visual tradition, such as manuscript illuminations or medieval art; material studies, such as manuscript transmission or palaeography; theories of classical reception and source study; the proliferating afterlives of Dante and Ovid.

Death and Dying in Medieval Benedictine Theology and Practice

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: American Benedictine Forum, Cistercian and Monastic Studies
American Benedictine Review
Organizer: Hugh Bernard Feiss (hughf@idahomonks.org)

Death is a theme in the two, brief foundational documents of Benedictine monasticism. The Rule of Benedict tells the monk “keep death daily before his eyes” (4.77) and bury the dead (4.17). The Life of St. Benedict in the second book of the Dialogues of Gregory the Great climaxes with the death, apotheosis and burial of Benedict (37) and his sister Scholastica (34). Papers in this session will explore vitae, writings, liturgies, customaries, and burials of medieval monks and nuns to learn how Benedictines received and enlarged these foundational documents’ views of dying, death, and burial.

Decay

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Studies Program, Yale Univ.
Organizer: Angus C. B. Warren (angus.warren@yale.edu)
Kamila Kaminska-Palarczyk (kamila.kaminska-palarczyk@yale.edu)

Decay permeates medieval literature. Boethius turns to philosophy as an antidote to the decline of his body. Alcuin, from his vantage on the Continent, reflects on the lapsed Northumbrian golden age. Dante and Chaucer devise strategies to counteract the decay of meaning which their vernaculars experienced over time. A whole subgenre of hagiography even claims that certain saints consumed pus and scabs of the sick. This panel invites submissions on decay in metaphorical, corporeal, and even codicological terms. How did anxiety concerning ruin, rot, or putrefaction contribute to aesthetic representations of decay available to the medieval imagination?

Despair in the Arthurian Tradition

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Arthurian Society, North American Branch (IAS/NAB)
Organizer: Christopher Jensen (cjensen@asurams.edu)
Siân Echard (sian.echard@ubc.ca)

The narrative core of the Arthurian legend is the destruction of Arthur's kingdom. Logres, like Troy before it, is always-already fallen and cannot be invoked without reference to its inevitable loss. Likewise, Arthurian society in all its literary formulations is fundamentally rooted in violence and death, prompting a variety of individual and communal responses that may be broadly identified as despair. This session seeks papers engaging representations of sadness, grief, mourning, and self-destruction in Arthurian literature from any period, genre, or linguistic tradition. We welcome submissions from all academic disciplines.

Digital Arthurian Projects: Arthur in the Twenty-First Century (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: International Arthurian Society, North American Branch (IAS/NAB)
Organizer: Cortney Anne Berg (cberg@gradcenter.cuny.edu)
Siân Echard (sian.echard@ubc.ca)

King Arthur and his court have long fascinated audiences across the world, beginning in the Middle Ages and extending into the present day. Traditionally, Arthurian research is concentrated in the classroom and at the university, but this session invites proposals to discuss Arthurian Studies in the digital humanities, as well as projects that promote the study of Arthurian legend. This session seeks answers to the question of how Arthurian scholars can promote the study of King Arthur and his multitude of traditions in the digital space, and reach audiences beyond university study. Junior and emerging scholars are encouraged to apply.

Digital Pedagogies for a Medieval World: A Workshop on Digital Humanities in the Classroom

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: American Society of Irish Medieval Studies (ASIMS), Digital Humanities and Multimedia Studies Committee, Medieval Academy of America
Organizer: Mary A. Valante

Digital pedagogies offer powerful means of combining traditional modes of inquiry, digital literacy, and traditional learning modes by adding workplace-ready skills. However, the lack of existing curricular resources and introductory training opportunities are significant barriers to DH in the classroom. This challenge is magnified for contingent faculty, who often deliver innovative pedagogies with little institutional support. This workshop offers a hands-on introduction to free, easy to use digital teaching tools that facilitate student engagement with public humanities. Participants will learn to use free and accessible digital tools including: social annotation, place-based storytelling, text analysis, social media, and Google-based outreach possibilities.

Digital Philology and Medieval Studies: Where Are We Now? (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Digital Philology: A Journal of Medieval Cultures
Organizer: Emily C. Francomano
Heather Bamford

What does it mean to "do" digital philology in Medieval Studies? How does or can digital philology define the nature of "the medieval"? We will seek contributions that (re)consider the ways that philological practices and Medieval Studies have—or have not—evolved in response to digital tools and their global reach, and how they might continue to do so.

Diocesan Saints and Holy Bishops

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Episcopus: Society for the Study of Bishops and Secular Clergy in the Middle Ages, Hagiography Society
Organizer: Kyle C. Lincoln
Hannah L. Jones (hjones3@binghamton.edu)

This panel presents research on the role of bishops as promoters of saint's cults, the role of bishops as living saints or holy men themselves, and the ways in which the cult of the saints influenced the development of their diocesan regions. Papers in the panel are welcome from all disciplines and scholars at all career stages.

Dress and Textiles (1): Clothing as Signifier

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: DISTAFF (Discussion, Interpretation, and Study of Textile Arts, Fabrics, and Fashion)
Organizer: Robin Netherton (distaff.org@gmail.com)

DISTAFF (Discussion, Interpretation, and Study of Textile Arts, Fabrics, and Fashion) invites paper proposals for "Dress & Textiles I: Clothing as Signifier." Any scholarly approach to medieval or early modern clothing is welcome, and papers may focus on the use and interpretation of dress or textiles as social or status indicators in art, literature, or real life. Papers presented at the session will also be assessed for publication potential in the journal *Medieval Clothing and Textiles*.

Dress and Textiles (2): Techniques and Tools

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: DISTAFF (Discussion, Interpretation, and Study of Textile Arts, Fabrics, and Fashion), Medieval Dress and Textile Society (MEDATS)
Organizer: Robin Netherton (distaff.org@gmail.com)

DISTAFF (Discussion, Interpretation, and Study of Textile Arts, Fabrics, and Fashion) invites paper proposals for "Dress and Textiles (2): Techniques and Tools." Papers may consider any type of clothing items or textiles of the medieval and early modern periods, but the focus should be on the methods by which these were made and/or the tools involved in their creation, as supported by written, visual, and archaeological evidence from the period. We especially value the use of physical examples and reconstructions.

Dress and Textiles (3): Textiles in Texts

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: DISTAFF (Discussion, Interpretation, and Study of Textile Arts, Fabrics, and Fashion)
Organizer: Robin Netherton (distaff.org@gmail.com)

DISTAFF (Discussion, Interpretation, and Study of Textile Arts, Fabrics, and Fashion) invites paper proposals for “Dress and Textiles: Textiles in Texts.” This session is designed to showcase new research on dress and textile references in a range of document types. We particularly encourage interdisciplinary analyses that contextualize and illuminate the written references with complementary data from other types of sources. Papers presented at the session will also be assessed for publication potential in the journal *Medieval Clothing and Textiles*.

Drip and Drama: Medieval Costume in Performance and Spectacle

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society (MRDS)
Organizer: Robert W. Barrett

Costume is one of the major vectors for information in medieval performances: how a character dresses says volumes about their moral status, social rank, confessional identity, etc. Clothing also matters outside the magic circle of drama, with quotidian life routinely blurring the boundary between the ordinary and the theatrical. This session seeks papers exploring the performative impact of costume in early drama and its environments. The flamboyant and the spectacular are particular areas of interest, but unassuming simplicity has its own dramatic power as well.

Early Medieval Chronicles: A Session in Honor of Janet Bately

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library
Organizer: Nicole Eddy
Daniel Donoghue

Almost forty years ago Janet Bately produced the authoritative critical edition of Manuscript A (volume 3 of *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle: A Collaborative Edition*, ed. David N. Dumville and Simon Keynes). Now, this year will see the publication of her facing-page translation of *The Old English Chronicle: The A-Text to 1001* in the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library. This session, which is open to studies of chronicles in any linguistic tradition—whether from a literary or historical perspective, textual or codicological—will honor Professor Bately’s extraordinary career as a scholar, especially her contributions to the study of the Old English Chronicles.

Early Medieval Europe

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Early Medieval Europe
Organizer: Maya Maskarinec (maskarin@usc.edu)
Edward Roberts (E.C.Roberts@kent.ac.uk)

The journal *Early Medieval Europe* is a thoroughly interdisciplinary forum, encouraging the discussion of all aspects of the Early Middle Ages with a strong focus on Europe. Like the journal, this session welcomes proposals in any field, promoting the mixing of ideas and methodologies, topics and time frames, and geographical and chronological diversity. We will create coherent thematic sessions based on the proposals received.

Ecological and Environmental Approaches to Late Antiquity

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Studies in Late Antiquity
Organizer: Alyssa Kotva (kotva.2@osu.edu)

Late antique and early medieval environmental history is still in its early stages as a subfield, but its topics are of critical importance to the broader history of the period and to the current climate crisis. Some recent work has revealed the ecological interconnections of humans (and their ideas), animals, and plants. Other scholars have focused on the environment and the climate's impact on late antique human societies. Both of these approaches are important, but they also ought to be interrogated together. This session particularly encourages papers that are self-reflexive about their approach to the natural and material world.

Emblem Studies

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Society for Emblem Studies
Organizer: Sabine Moedersheim (smoedersheim@wisc.edu)

The Society for Emblem Studies invites proposals on topics such as: Emblem books and manuscripts, medieval sources for emblems such as pilgrim badges, heraldry, court culture, and royal entries; emblem in arts and architecture, political and religious discourses and iconography; emblems in the material and visual culture. We welcome new approaches to emblem studies, including gender perspectives, global reception and production of emblems, contribution on the practice and theory of emblem digitization. For more information please contact the session organizer, Sabine Mödersheim, at smoedersheim@wisc.edu.

Embodied Emotions in Iberian Spirituality, ca. 1492

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies
Organizer: Jessica A. Boon

1492 saw the Expulsion of the Jews, the fall of Muslim Granada, and the outset of Catholic Spanish empire. This session seeks papers drawing on the history of emotions and/or affect theory to examine embodied spirituality in Iberia in this turbulent time of loss, despair, and interreligious hatred. Topics might include the study of emotions in late medieval chronicles or Inquisition archives, affect in converso and/or morisco spirituality in the fifteenth century, the dramatic increase of Passion spirituality in Castile in comparison to the long-running tradition in Catalonia, or emotions and violence in Granada, early colonial Mexico, or Peru.

Embodying the Medieval in Speculative Fiction

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Association of the Midwest (MAM)
Organizer: Eyan Birt (ebirt1@dom.edu)

Speculative fiction often utilizes fantastic and otherworldly elements to engage with complex issues of social justice. Resonant with medieval romance's ability to make similar social commentary through the supernatural's disruptive capabilities, speculative fictions deploy medieval themes and motifs in productive intersections of past and future. In keeping with such traditions, this session aims to explore contemporary speculative fiction that utilizes the medieval to disrupt or make ambiguous narrative expectations. We particularly welcome papers that explore how speculative fiction engages with questions of identity, such as gender, ability, or class.

Encountering the Uncanny in the Middle Ages

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Consortium Medievalists
Organizer: Chris J. Buonanno
Margaret McCurry (mm9659@nyu.edu)

This session explores how medieval texts and artifacts engage with experiences of the uncanny: moments of estrangement, eerie familiarity, spectral presence, and disquieting ambiguity. It seeks to contribute to larger conversations in medieval studies about affect, embodiment, perception, and temporality. How did medieval texts and artifacts imagine the unsettling or the inexplicable? How might these encounters trouble modern assumptions about the medieval sensorium and the boundaries of the human? By foregrounding how medieval cultures represented and mediated unsettling experiences, the session invites reflection on the unstable boundaries between the known and unknown, self and other.

Eolas Lecture

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: American Society of Irish Medieval Studies (ASIMS)
Organizer: Brian Cook (bsc0028@auburn.edu)

Dr. John Soderberg of Denison University will deliver the 2026 Eolas Lecture. Dr. Soderberg is a zooarchaeologist whose previous study of animal remains in Early Medieval Ireland argued for the unique status of Clonmacnoise as a sacred space. Soderberg's recent research turns to the Norman conquest of Ireland in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Here, Soderberg argues that zooarchaeology can shed light on the identity formations necessary in colonial contexts: "colonizers" versus "indigenous peoples," i.e. "Anglo-Norman" versus "Gaelic." Professor and zooarchaeologist Dr. Pam Crabtree of New York University will be a respondent.

Erasure in the Medieval Archive

Modality: Virtual
Organizer: Lorenz A. Hindrichsen (lorenz.hindrichsen@cis.dk)
Anca Garcia

Recent manuscript studies increasingly examine physical damage to medieval documents as intentional acts. Erasure often functioned as censorship, silencing content deemed transgressive. Conversely, damage has also been interpreted as ritualistic worship, where marks on texts or artefacts express devotion rather than destruction. This session explores erasure both as censorship and as devotional practice, investigating how such traces can be read as deliberate, symbolic interventions. By considering these forms, the session sheds light on the complex interactions between materiality, authority, and spirituality within the medieval archive.

Exceptional Exceptions: Nonconformity in Courtly Literature

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Courtly Literature Society (ICLS), North American Branch
Organizer: Julie Human (julie.human@uky.edu)
Tamara Bentley Caudill

This panel will consider the representation in courtly literature of characters who disrupt "normative" ideals through nonconformity, queerness, disability, or other forms of embodied or behavioral divergence. By examining characters who both defy and define what it means to "be courtly," presenters will explore how such exceptions function within their larger narratives and critique or reinforce systems of power. Aiming for diverse perspectives and theoretical frameworks (e.g., queer theory, trans theory, disability studies, critical race theory, among others), we invite papers that explore how nonnormative literary figures shape, threaten, or uphold dominant cultural values.

Expanding the Medieval: Global Perspectives in Research and Teaching (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association
Organizer: Kim A. Klimek
Alani Hicks-Bartlett (alani_hicks-bartlett@brown.edu)

Over the past decade, research on the global Middle Ages has flourished, generating new perspectives and methodologies. Four years ago, we published a textbook aimed at introducing these approaches to undergraduate students. With the second edition forthcoming in 2026, this roundtable examines the scholarly and pedagogical challenges of engaging with a "global Middle Ages." We bring to light how teaching medieval studies from a global perspective helps teach contextualization of the past within a critical framework to students from all walks of life. Additionally,

Feeling Other: Emotions and Difference in Medieval Iberia

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Ibero-Medieval Association of North America (IMANA), Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies
Organizer: Roberto Andrés Talavera-Pagán (rtalaverapagan@gmail.com)

How do emotions reflect and shape sociocultural hierarchies in medieval Iberia? In what ways do they construct or challenge categories of difference? This session of papers explores how feelings—love, joy, anger, shame, and others—intersect with cultural, religious, racial, sexual, and bodily difference in the literature and culture of medieval Iberia. Topics may include gendered emotions, affective and sexual dissidence, religious heterodoxy, and the emotional dimensions of racial formation. We especially welcome papers that engage these intersections through approaches such as affect theory, gender and sexuality studies, critical race studies, disability studies, and allied frameworks.

Female Scribes in the Premodern World

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Medieval Studies Program, Yale Univ.
Organizer: Estelle Guéville (estelle.gueville@yale.edu)

This panel examines the critical yet often unrecognized role of medieval women in manuscript copy and aims to shed light on female scribal practices. We invite multidisciplinary approaches to studying pre-modern female scribes, including codicology, palaeography, prosopography, diplomatics, epigraphy, archaeology, art history, literary analysis as well as quantitative and digital approaches. We invite work on sources from all geographic regions and time periods in the 'medieval world' broadly-construed, including Latin, Arabic, Syriac, Hebrew, and vernacular languages. Topics of interest include the identification of women scribes, their work, and their training. Contributions highlighting female literacy and multilingualism are encouraged.

Female Spirituality of the "Long" Global Middle Ages (A Roundtable)

Modality: Virtual
Organizer: June-Ann Greeley (greeleyj@sacredheart.edu)

This roundtable welcomes short papers/ presentations that introduce and/or discuss in greater depth spiritual works by women in the 'long' global Middle Ages. Submissions from commonly under-represented global constituencies as well as religions other than western medieval Christianity are especially sought, and so the time frame for the categorization of 'medieval' has been extended to that of the current understanding of the 'long' Middle Ages which, in terms of the European calendar, extends to the late 17th c.

Flesh and Form: The Marked Body in Material and Visual Culture

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Center of Medieval Art (ICMA)
Organizer: Katharine Denise Scherff (Katharine.d.scherff@ttu.edu)

This session examines the marked medieval body as a site of complex semiotic, physiological, and cultural significance. Drawing on global and inclusive frameworks, it considers how bodily signs—whether inscribed, modified, or pathologized—reflect and construct identities, statuses, and cosmologies. This session critically engages with the interplay between corporeality and meaning, privileging theoretical, philosophical, gendered, queer, and non-Western approaches. Emphasis is placed on interdisciplinary methodologies grounded in art history, visual culture, and material culture to advance new interpretive models for understanding the representation and reception of bodies in the medieval world.

Franciscan Preaching on the Octocentennial of the Death of St. Francis of Assisi

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Medieval Sermon Studies Society, Franciscan Institute, St. Bonaventure Univ.
Organizer: Steven J. McMichael (sjmcmichael@stthomas.edu)
Andrew Reeves (andrew.reeves1@mga.edu)

On the occasion of the eight hundredth anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi, we invite presentations on Franciscan preaching, particularly in the years following his death and canonization, but any topic on Franciscan preaching in the high and late Middle Ages is welcome.

From Hand to Mind: Integrating Facsimiles of Medieval Manuscripts into Undergraduate Teaching (A Workshop)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Facsimile Finder, Zhang Legacy Collections Center, Western Michigan Univ.
Organizer: Giovanni Scorcioni (giovanni@facsimilefinder.com)
Susan M. Steuer

This workshop, led jointly by an expert in the modern production of facsimiles of medieval manuscripts and a librarian with vast experience in using facsimile materials to meet a variety of instructional goals, offers practical advice for instructors and librarians in making facsimiles a vital part of the undergraduate learning experience. Participants will spend much of the session consulting facsimiles using sample instructional materials. Registration will be limited to 25 or 30 participants. Participants are expected to pre-register and arrive within the first 5 minutes, but unregistered participants will be admitted at the door if spaces are available.

From Here to Eternity: Perspectives on Time in the Works of the Pearl-Poet

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: International Pearl-Poet Society
Organizer: Jonathan Juilfs (jjuilfs@redeemer.ca)

Time as an existential concept flows consistently through the poems of the Pearl-Poet. From the conversations of the Pearl Maiden and the Dreamer regarding human existence and the bliss of eternal life in Heaven in Pearl to the relentless passing of (liturgical) time in Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, these poems audaciously juxtapose time and eternity, life and death, vigor and decline in its various narratives. We invite readers of the poems to think critically into the Poet's understandings of time, of its relationship to eternity, and the various cultural influences that shape his narratives.

From Material to Spirit: Connecting the Material Ornamentation of Books, Manuscripts, and Letters with Associated Ideas, Tropes, and Reading Practices

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Jan Blaschak (eb7549@wayne.edu)

What do gold-leaf patterns on early books, illuminated letters and tropes of shining armor have in common? Ornamentation, including illuminated letters, in medieval books and manuscripts isn't often connected directly either to how these "decorative" elements reflect ideas and reading practices, or how they interact with common tropes (around color, for example). This is a major area of study that has been largely overlooked, and which can lead to far-reaching insights into the medieval culture is being analyzed in this way.

From the Page to Our Hands: Ground-Truthing Medieval Material Culture through Archaeology

Modality: In-Person

Organizer: Lauren E. Nofi (lenofi24@gmail.com)

To comprehend the medieval world requires the evidence of material culture to confirm, refute, or amend interpretations of the myriad objects described or depicted in manuscripts, on wall-hangings, in graffiti, and the like. Think of the Lorica from the Exeter Book, which so richly describes the creation of a coat of mail whose tiny rings archaeologists find corroded in the earth; think of The Ruin where the poet muses on the leavings of the Romans in an Ozymandias a millennium before Shelley. The physical objects create a link to the world we are so desperate to understand.

Gaelic Ireland, 1200–1600: Papers in Honor of Kieran D. O'Connor

Modality: In-Person

Sponsor: American Society of Irish Medieval Studies (ASIMS)

Organizer: Margaret K. Smith

This panel honors the career of Dr. Kieran D. O'Connor, an archaeologist of medieval Ireland whose research has transformed our understanding of Gaelic Ireland in the aftermath of the Anglo-Norman conquest. His contributions have added depth and nuance to our understanding of castles as sites of both authority and daily life, and his work attends to the complex relationships between lordly landscapes and the lives of ordinary people who inhabited and shaped them. This session solicits papers on Gaelic Ireland, particularly those that highlight the social implications of landscapes and material culture.

Games in the Classroom (A Workshop)

Modality: In-Person

Sponsor: Game Cultures Society

Organizer: Sarah J. Sprouse (ssprouse@wtamu.edu)

Glenn Kumhera (gjk19@psu.edu)

For the last 4 years, we have held pedagogy workshops on the role of games in the classroom. This year, we will present a "Part 2" -- the play of games in the classroom. Our workshop leader, Glenn Kumhera, will bring the games produced by his students to offer a hands-on approach to learning about games as effective assessments of student-learning across a semester. This workshop will particularly target faculty with limited experience of game mechanics.

Gender and Agency in the Desert

Modality: In-Person

Sponsor: Hagiography Society

Organizer: Meg Cotter-Lynch

Loren Easterday Lee (lel7qsf@virginia.edu)

This session aims to illuminate how the wilderness serves not only as a site of spiritual transformation but also as a terrain for negotiating gender identity and autonomy in hagiographical texts. Focusing on challenging figures like Mary the Egyptian, the panel invites papers that explore diverse representations of gender and sanctity against the backdrop of desert spaces. Papers that embrace ecocritical approaches are particularly welcome.

Gender and Power in the Fourteenth Century

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: 14th Century Society
Organizer: Sarah Ifft Decker

Over the course of the fourteenth century, gender and power were deeply intertwined, from the highest echelons of political power to quotidian economic ties. Gendered expectations not only shaped the exercise of political power, but also the ways men and women exerted power as spiritual leaders, as property owners or creditors, and as members of communities. The intersections between gender and power - political, religious, social, economic - provide insight into not only gender but also authority, property distribution, and community. This session seeks papers from all disciplines and regions on gender and power in the fourteenth century.

Gentrifying the Land of Cockaigne: New Uses for Old Abbeys

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Pseudo Society
Organizer: Lisa Evans

The Pseudo Society encourages submissions from all disciplines, periods, locations, and affiliations (or lack thereof). Ridiculous marginalia, anachronistic illustrations, bad puns in medieval languages, and as many jokes as possible are particularly welcome. Interpretive dance will be considered on a case by case basis.

Geographies of the Pearl-Poet: Spaces and Places in the Corpus

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: International Pearl-Poet Society
Organizer: Jonathan Juilfs (jjuilfs@redeemer.ca)

The Pearl poems take place in strategically-chosen geographic locations and visionary landscapes. The biblical poems offer detailed descriptions of ancient world cities like Babylon and Nineveh, and the romance-world poems introduce conventional settings (eg. the court of King Arthur) as well as more esoteric spaces like the Wirral forest in SGGK or the visionary garden in Pearl. This session welcomes papers that consider these various geographies in relation to several contexts or methodologies: eg. biblical sources and theological literature; medieval travel literature and geographies; ecological or psychological methodologies that read these spaces and places in human terms; etc.

George MacDonald and Medieval Culture

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: George MacDonald Society
Organizer: Karl Arthur Erik Persson (kpersson@seatofwisdom.ca)

Conversations emerging from 2024's three international conferences on George MacDonald revealed that more scholarship needs to be done on the author's relationship with medieval culture. Panel organizers thus welcome papers from a wide range of methodological and theoretical perspectives pertaining but not limited to topics including: representations of the medieval in MacDonald's fiction; engagement with medieval ideas and culture in MacDonald's non-fiction; contextualization of MacDonald's medievalism amidst his fellow Victorian medievalists; relationships between the medieval and other popular topics in MacDonald's works (e.g. the imagination, fairy tales, theology, etc.); and relationships between MacDonald's fictional and non-fiction representations of medieval culture.

Getting Your Article Published (A Workshop)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Journal of English and Germanic Philology, Chaucer Review
Old English Newsletter
Organizer: David Raybin (draybin@eu.edu)
Stephen J. Harris
Nicole Guenther Discenza (ndiscenza@usf.edu)

Graduate students and early career scholars face great pressure to publish in peer-reviewed journals, but they do not always know good practices for preparing an article, choosing a journal, and responding to peer review. Some have little sense of the wide range of outlets available or the process for submissions at a journal. For this workshop, editors from The Journal of English and Germanic Philology, The Chaucer Review, Old English Newsletter, Early Medieval England and its Neighbours, and Exemplaria will address what authors should know and do to place articles in journals in medieval studies.

Global Medieval Performance: Performing Beasts in the Middle Ages—Fables and More

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Marie de France Society, Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society (MRDS)
Organizer: Regula Meyer Evitt (rmeyervitt@coloradocollege.edu)
Francis J. Valencia-Turco
Tamara Bentley Caudill

This session is a Global Medieval Languages collaboration, with colleagues performing medieval poetry or dramatic pieces in a spectrum of medieval languages. The session will focus on performing beasts in medieval texts and the relationships between the human, the non-human, and the monstrous. We encourage reflective as well as resistant approaches, dramatic as well as comic performances. We welcome presenters from medieval English, Continental European, and Mediterranean traditions (including Iberian, Hebrew, Arabic, North African, Byzantine). We seek proposals for original-language performances of texts of any form or genre. We anticipate 3-7 performances for the session with a guided discussion afterwards.

Global Medievalisms

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: International Society for the Study of Medievalism
Organizer: Angela J. Weisl (angela.weisl@shu.edu)
Michael R. Evans

This session seeks to consider medievalisms outside of Europe and North America. We are particularly interested in papers on medievalism in the Global South and how European implanted cultures have left their medieval mark far from home, as well as how these non-European cultures make use of, understand, and imagine their own pasts to contrast, combat, or reject colonial medievalisms. We are interested in how Catholic medievalisms function and create continuity (or discontinuity) in places where the Church has played an instrumental part of colonial implantation of Western culture, and what about its current function might reflect its medieval past.

GNU/Linux-Based Tutorials in Digital Medievalist Text and Document Processing

Modality: Virtual
Organizer: Andrew Hayes
Corey J. Stephan

This workshop provides a designated space in which we medievalists may exchange practical advice about efficient academic computing to assist each other with refining our digital workflows. Specifically, scholars of digital humanities with refined document or text processing workflows in GNU/Linux will share our tips with brief (approximately 10 minute-long), self-contained tutorials, each of which will be followed by a roundtable discussion. For ethics and accessibility, we are focusing on topics that pertain to libre software (including the GNU/Linux operating system itself) and open access materials. Sample topics include Docling and LaTeX.

Gower and Disability

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: John Gower Society, Society for the Study of Disability in the Middle Ages
Organizer: Brian W. Gastle (bgastle@wcu.edu)

John Gower is among the few medieval authors known for self-identifying what modernity would often refer to as a disability--his growing loss of sight--and 'blindness' appears in many of his works, as do other notions of disability both literal and figurative, such as sickness in the body politic, 'beastly' bodies, and mental illness. How is disability defined in Gower's works? How might Gower be using disability not as a deficit but as a generative, artistic trope? And what might Gower's work contribute to our own understanding of the social construction of disability in our own time?

Gower, Tyranny, and Social Justice

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: John Gower Society
Organizer: Brian W. Gastle (bgastle@wcu.edu)

John Gower's political engagement has long been noted (and sometimes criticized) by scholars, with frequent accusations of opportunism. At the same time, Gower opposed clerical abuse and crusade violence, sought religious and civic reform, and critiqued church, state, and commons alike, all the while expressing monarchist sympathies in his works. This panel invites presentations that treat, broadly construed, the concepts or applications of tyranny and/or social justice within Gower's trilingual corpus. Speakers might examine Gower's tyrants, discussions of common profit and good governance, or the intersections and contradictions between estates satire and contemporary discourses of social justice.

Grendel's Mother Comes Calling! (A Performance)

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Chris Vinsonhaler

This performance demonstrates the key role of apotropaic magic in Beowulf's fight with Grendel's mother. It also demonstrates the thematic role of gender and sexuality in a mock-heroic parody of male heroism. For more on the performance, visit the project website at Beowulf.live

Grimoires of the Greater West: Conversations on Solomonic Magic

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Societas Magica, Research Group on Manuscript Evidence
Organizer: Gal Sofer

Solomonic magic is a transhistorical and transcultural phenomenon, with texts attributed to King Solomon appearing in Jewish, Christian, Islamic, and other traditions. While often studied in isolation, their shared vocabularies and interconnected histories remain understudied. This session takes a cross-cultural approach to Solomonic magic, inspired by recent publications like *Solomonic Magic: Methodology, Texts, and Histories*. We invite contributions that explore new sources or methodologies—from ritual manuals and talismanic compendia to demonological treatises and polemical texts—and encourage interdisciplinary dialogue to better understand the development and reception of these traditions.

Henry VI in 2026 (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Shakespeare at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Nora L. Corrigan

Though they are staged less often than Shakespeare's later history plays, the Henry VI cycle depicts a late medieval world that seems strikingly modern: steeped in anxieties about gender roles, weak rulers, regional tensions, demagoguery and anti-intellectualism, discerning truth from propaganda, and survival in an increasingly treacherous world. Papers on any aspect of these three plays are welcome, but especially ones exploring the challenges of performing, teaching, and editing them in the contemporary world.

Here's the Thing: Ontology and Objects In and Around Early Medieval England

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Richard Rawlinson Center
Organizer: George Beckett

Medievalists continue to engage with the materiality of the discipline's sources in a plethora of innovative ways. Attentiveness to the hapticity of the manuscript, for example, has illuminated the embodied lives led by such artifacts beyond their textual content. A fascination with the existence of things likewise grounds those studies that seek to understand how medieval peoples made sense of those objects alongside which they lived. This session participates in this speculative, posthuman current by inviting contributions on all kinds of objects—tangible, non-extant, literary, or otherwise—in and around early medieval England.

Hiberno- and Anglo-Latin Studies

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Brian Cook (bsc0028@auburn.edu)

Despite the ubiquity of Latin writing across medieval Britain and Ireland, scholarship tends to focus on vernacular texts, crafting narratives of nascent literary traditions seen through linguistic and nationalistic lenses. And yet, the region is home to some unique forms of decentralized Latin. Of special interest are papers that focus on the interaction between differing Latin or Latin and vernacular traditions, whether these interactions be linguistic, literary, geographical, political, or religious. Graduate student submissions are particularly welcome, and at least one spot on the panel will be reserved for a graduate student who submits a promising proposal.

Historical Aspects of Engla land: Beyond Beowulf

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Haskins Society, History Department, Ave Maria Univ.
Organizer: Christopher Riedel
Mary Blanchard

This session promotes the historical study of Early Medieval England at ICMS. Papers focusing on any historical aspect between 500 and 1070 are welcome as the organizers seek a range of topics including, but not limited to, ecclesiastical, legal, cultural, and manuscript studies. This session highlights what historians of the period are researching and creates an atmosphere of support and dialogue for studying the history of Early Medieval England.

Honoring Christopher Callahan (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Courtly Literature Society (ICLS), North American Branch
Organizer: Susanne Hafner
Julie Human (julie.human@uky.edu)

This roundtable honors Chris Callahan, a distinguished scholar of medieval French literature and music, by bringing together scholars who can attest to the impact of his research on their work.

Hope in the Arthurian Tradition

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Arthurian Society, North American Branch (IAS/NAB)
Organizer: Melissa Ridley Elmes (MElmes@lindenwood.edu)
Siân Echard (sian.echard@ubc.ca)

While the narrative core of the Arthurian legend is the destruction of Arthur's kingdom, there's something in Arthuriana that remains ever hopeful despite the inevitability of Camelot's fall. There is the promise of the Once and Future King's return. There is the hope of a positive outcome for every quest. And there is the hope which springs eternal in the legend's continued manifestations and revisitations across time. This session seeks papers engaging representations of hope, hopefulness, and hopepunk—the bright spots in Arthurian media staring down its darkness—from any period, genre, or linguistic tradition. We welcome submissions from all academic disciplines.

Iberian Medieval Performance: Performing the Miraculous

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Ibero-Medieval Association of North America (IMANA)
Organizer: Francis J. Valencia-Turco

This session welcomes Iberian performances of the miraculous/fantastic. Presentations may range from dramatic/comedic readings to rehearsed stagings. Performances may include representations from Hebrew, Sephardi, Arabic, Catalan, Castilian, Portuguese and other linguistic traditions from the Iberian Peninsula. Through the visual, auditory and expressive richness of performance a more nuanced understanding can be achieved by modern audiences of the diverse responses to and stagings of the miraculous. The performance of Iberian texts has been under represented at previous gatherings of the ICMS. This session seeks to rectify this scarcity by encouraging, bringing together and highlighting the performance of Iberian texts.

"If there's a bustle in [the corpuscle], don't be alarmed now": The Legacy of Corpuscularianism

Modality: Hybrid

Organizer: John P. Doucet (john.doucet@nicholls.edu)

Matter composed of tiny, indivisible particles whose interactions explain motion and other natural mechanics is an ancient philosophy that fueled ideas in the Scientific Revolution and beyond. In the Middle Ages, philosophers expanded these atomic ideas into corpuscularianism, where complex particles in nature possessed specific intrinsic properties. Though superseded by modern experiment-based explanations, corpuscular theories provide models for behaviors of gases, photons, and molecules still valid today. In fact, the bases of medieval corpuscularian ideas extend into modern biological and social sciences. This session explores medieval philosophers and manuscripts in the development of corpuscularian ideas that persist in science today.

If We Ever Get out of Here: Teaching Medieval Studies in a Shifting Political Landscape

Modality: In-Person

Sponsor: TEAMS (Teaching Association for Medieval Studies)

Organizer: Deborah M. Sinnreich-Levi (profsinnreichlevi@gmail.com)

Since January 2025, academia in general and US higher education in particular have faced sudden changes to what was once normal. Grants cut; students deported; DEI eliminated, and medieval tropes [re-]invoked to justify a political world view. Repurposed medieval imagery supporting racism and totalitarianism resembles 1930s-1940s propaganda. This session invites faculty across disciplines to share how their teaching of medieval studies and medievalism has changed in recent years and/or how their departments and administrations have responded to these on-going changes -- stipulating that by May 2026, the world will have changed in ways we can't yet imagine.

Illumination, Complication, Delight: Text with Pictures and Pictures with Text in the Greater/Global Fifteenth Century

Modality: Hybrid

Sponsor: International Alain Chartier Society, Jean Gerson Society

Organizer: Linda Burke (lindaebb@aol.com)

Joan E. McRae

Wendy Love Anderson

We invite a range of approaches to the study of text enhanced with pictorial "illumination," throughout the greater/global fifteenth century and in all faith communities. Art history-based approaches may include artistic change, iconography, erotic and other transgressive images, and woman illuminators. Textually-based approaches may elucidate the power of the picture to amplify its context, or at times, to complicate the message. For example, an appealing image of the three estates coexisting in mutual aid, which nonetheless includes no women and portrays the laboring class of men on a smaller scale, implies an instability to the political model idealized in words.

In Honor of Sharon Kinoshita (1): Celebrating 20 Years of Medieval Boundaries

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Medieval Foremothers Society, Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship (SMFS)
Organizer: Anne Le
Kersti Francis

This session honors the 2026 Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship's Foremothers Fellow Sharon Kinoshita (UC Santa Cruz). The year 2026 marks the twentieth anniversary of Dr. Kinoshita's landmark monograph *Medieval Boundaries: Rethinking Difference in Old French Literature* (Penn Press), and we invite papers that significantly engage with that work. Topics might include reflections upon *Medieval Boundaries'* impact in presenters' academic interests, analysis of case studies from that volume in light of the intervening decades, and/or depictions of cross-cultural contact in medieval literature more broadly.

In Honor of Sharon Kinoshita (2): Postcolonial Feminisms

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Medieval Foremothers Society, Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship (SMFS)
Organizer: Anne Le
Kersti Francis

This session honors the 2026 Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship's Foremothers Fellow Sharon Kinoshita (UC Santa Cruz), whose work draws a great deal from postcolonial studies and shapes how many medievalists today incorporate it in their research and teaching. We invite papers that (re)consider the relationship between gender and sexuality studies, feminist theory, and medieval discourses of Orientalism, colonialism, race, and intercultural encounter. Work that engages with Mediterranean Studies and the Global Middle Ages is especially welcome. Essays should engage with some aspect of Dr. Kinoshita's extensive academic corpus.

In Memory of František Šmahel (1): Religion and Society in East Central Europe in the Middle Ages

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Centre for Medieval Studies, Prague; Centre for Medieval Studies, Lublin, Department of History, Western Michigan Univ.
Organizer: James Palmitessa

The participants for this session have already been determined. No additional proposals are requested at this time.

In Memory of František Šmahel (2): The Prague Cities in the Late Middle Ages and Early Modern Period

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Centre for Medieval Studies, Prague; Centre for Medieval Studies, Lublin, Department of History, Western Michigan Univ.
Organizer: James Palmitessa

Proposals are sought for a position on a panel on the Prague Cities in the Late Middle Ages and Early Modern period in memory of the late Czech medievalist František Šmahel.

Intervention or Interference: (Re)Considering the English Presence in Iberia in the Fourteenth Century

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies, Royal Studies Network
Organizer: Linde M. Brocato

This panel seeks wide-ranging discussion of the character and entailments of the English strategies and actions in Iberia in the late fourteenth century, initially a side strategy of their campaigns against France, designed to cut off French use of the Castilian navy, but eventually John of Gaunt's personal campaign to conquer Castilla as his own kingdom, through agreements with the remaining Iberian kingdoms for support in exchange for Castilian territory. The military campaign itself is fascinating in the contrast between the victories of Nájera and Aljubarrota with its overall failure, but the full array of its effects are equally important.

Italian Footnotes

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Italian Studies@Kalamazoo
Organizer: Alani Hicks-Bartlett (alani_hicks-bartlett@brown.edu)
Alejandro Cuadrado (a.cuadrado@bowdoin.edu)

This session aims to bring together scholars who are working on medieval Italian conceptions of the foot. While scholarship on other parts of the human body (hair, eyes, heart, skin, internal organs, etc.) is robust, this panel asks scholars from across disciplines to consider the place of the humble foot in the imaginations of late medieval Italians. From the metrical foot to the bare feet of many mendicant and popular religious orders, what are the religious, artistic, poetic, and historical valences of foot, real and imagined? We invite papers from scholars of all disciplines using a range of methodologies.

Jewish-Christian Interaction (1)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Academy of Jewish-Christian Studies, Institut für jüdische Geschichte Österreichs
Organizer: Birgit Wiedl (birgit.wiedl@injoest.ac.at)
Steven J. McMichael (sjmcmichael@stthomas.edu)

This IN-PERSON session is dedicated to the relations of Christians and Jews in the Middle Ages in all their forms: social, cultural, political, economic, artistic, and theological, and both in peaceful encounters as well as in polemics and Christian violence. We invite scholars to present their recent research on various disciplines including interreligious relations, medieval literature, cultural transfer, Hispanic studies, and women's and gender studies.

Jewish-Christian Interaction (2)

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Academy of Jewish-Christian Studies, Institut für jüdische Geschichte Österreichs
Organizer: Steven J. McMichael (sjmcmichael@stthomas.edu)
Birgit Wiedl (birgit.wiedl@injoest.ac.at)

This VIRTUAL session is dedicated to the relations of Christians and Jews in the Middle Ages in all their forms: social, cultural, political, economic, artistic, and theological, and both in peaceful encounters as well as in polemics and Christian violence. We invite scholars to present their recent research on various disciplines including interreligious relations, medieval literature, cultural transfer, Hispanic studies, and women's and gender studies.

Jinnitalia: Sex in the Spirit World

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Societas Magica
Organizer: Matthew Melvin-Koushki

From jinn marriages to fairy encounters to alien abductions, recorded human interactions with the Other Crowd often get hot and heavy. Sex magic is likewise a perennial staple of occult manuals, and the trip reports of medieval mystics and modern psychonauts alike frequently feature sexual imagery. This panel brings together a range of historians around the interconnected themes of sex with spirits, sex through spirits and sex in spirit, focusing on their myriad iterations in Western (Helleno-Judeo-Christo-Islamic) cultures from late antiquity to early modernity.

John of Salisbury in Context

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Cary J. Nederman (cary-j-nederman@tamu.edu)
Karen Bollermann (kbollermann@icloud.com)

The panel aims to consider John of Salisbury in relation to the backgrounds that shaped his thought and political activity. Contributions are welcomed from across the disciplinary spectrum, including (but not confined to) history, religious studies, philosophy, medieval studies, art history, philosophy, political science, literature, and classics. We encourage panelists open to engagement in constructive dialogue that will assist in advancing the appreciation of the many facets of John's varied and influential career.

La corónica International Book Award: A Roundtable in Honor of Graham Barrett for Text and Textuality in Early Medieval Iberia

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: La corónica: A Journal of Medieval Hispanic Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
Organizer: Michelle M. Hamilton (hamilton@umn.edu)
Isidro J. Rivera (ijrivera@ku.edu)

The participants for this session have already been determined. No additional proposals are requested at this time.

Lady Philologia and Mediterranean Culture: Studies in Honor of Donna M. Rogers

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: De Gruyter Brill
Organizer: Montserrat Piera (mpiera01@temple.edu)
Kate Hammond (kate.hammond@brill.com)
Larry J. Simon (larry.simon@wmich.edu)

Brill's Medieval and Early Modern World book series seeks papers to honor Dr. Donna M. Rogers in the fields of medieval Romance philology; and interdisciplinary studies of Catalan, Iberian, and Mediterranean culture, history, and literature.

Landscapes Lost and Found: Navigating in and out of the Medieval Italian City

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Italian Studies@Kalamazoo
Organizer: Alexander L. Brock (alexlbrock@gmail.com)
Toni Veneri (toniveneri@hotmail.com)

This panel seeks to feature scholars whose work analyzes how medieval Italian literature, art, and culture represent and interrogate the relationship between humans, cities, and their environments. Emphasizing interdisciplinary dialogue, we welcome a wide range of critical approaches—from ecocriticism and environmental history to political geography, art history, and the study of space and mobility. By bringing together diverse methodologies, the panel aims to foster conversation across disciplines and time periods. We especially encourage contributions that draw connections between medieval representations of movement, place, and boundaries, and contemporary questions of climate, migration, and the human shaping of landscape.

Language, Culture, and Dynasty in the Brut

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Society for International Brut Studies
Organizer: Kenneth Tiller (kjt9t@uvawise.edu)

This session focuses on points of contact between different languages in Layamon's and in other Bruts. Papers that focus on instances where speakers of different languages interact are welcome, as are papers that take examine the Brut's methods of translating sections of source texts and/or incorporating other languages into their text. By examining critical understanding of relationships between language and cultural or ethnic identity, the session asks what perceptions of language can tell us about the writers and readers of historical texts in the Middle Ages and about the complex relationship between language and ethnic/national identity today?

Late Antiquity

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for Late Antiquity
Organizer: Tiggy McLaughlin (tiggy.mclaughlin@cathedralprep.com)
Jonathan J. Arnold (jon-arnold@utulsa.edu)

The Society for Late Antiquity sponsored session(s) on Late Antiquity seeks abstract submissions for the thoughtful study of any aspect of late antiquity, from any period ranging from ca. 250-750, and from any region of Europe, the Mediterranean world, and the Middle East. Such papers might focus on a specific region, time, or development, comment on a vast array of written and/or material sources, or treat a particular theme, person, or event, as long as they fall within the bounds of late antiquity.

Late Medieval Libraries and Collections

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Early Book Society
Organizer: Martha W. Driver (mdriver@pace.edu)

What makes a medieval library? A library can be a single volume in which many texts are brought together as a Sammelband, for example, a MS like Cambridge, MS Gg.1.1 that consists of 633 parchment leaves and contains some 50 texts, or the Auchinleck MS with 23 unique texts plus 21 more. Or a library can be a collection of separate volumes, whether monastic or lay. Speakers might wish to share their research on specific libraries and the difficulties of fully reconstructing same or they may consider a single MS that brings together many texts as a type of library.

Latin Song in the Middle Ages

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Musicology at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Innocent Smith
Melanie Batoff
Alessandra Ignesti (alessandra.ignesti@mail.mcgill.ca)

A language shared by clerical, monastic, and intellectual communities, Latin facilitated the creation of pan-European pathways through which songs could travel. This vast and complex network of interactions favored the development of trans-regional repertoires reflecting liturgical traditions, devotional practices, social frameworks, and corporate identities with distinctive local characters. This session invites proposals exploring the complexity of Latin songs, both liturgical and non-liturgical, within the chronological boundaries of c. 1000-1500. Presentations with an interdisciplinary perspective on specific repertoires as a source of material for the study of identity, spirituality, pilgrimage, student life, and politics are especially welcome.

Law and Legal Culture in Early Medieval Britain

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval-Renaissance Faculty Workshop, Univ. of Louisville
Organizer: Andrew Rabin

We invite papers that examine the many ways in which law was made, understood, practiced, promulgated, and transcribed in early medieval Britain. We are eager to receive submissions representing a variety of perspectives, methodologies, and disciplines. Possible topics include (but are not limited to): royal legislation, legal manuscripts, law in/and literature, legal procedure, charters and diplomatics, writs and wills, dispute resolution, theories of law and justice, perceptions of early law in later periods, law in/and art. We welcome traditional philological and historicist approaches, as well as those informed by modern critical theory.

Law as Culture XXVI: Substance, Procedure, and Institutions in the Middle Ages

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Selden Society
Organizer: Alexander Volokh (volokh@post.harvard.edu)

The "Law as Culture" panel, which has been going on at Kalamazoo for over 20 years, welcomes any paper on any aspect of legal history. We encourage interdisciplinary approaches (merging legal history with, e.g., economics, political science, literature, anthropology, etc.), and encourage the participation of junior scholars and graduate students. We welcome submissions from any area, e.g. English, Celtic, Continental, Roman, Canon, and from any period within the Middle Ages.

Let's Dance! A Participatory Workshop for Researching Medieval Dance Composition and Performance

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Early Dance Working Group, Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society (MRDS)
Organizer: Karen Miriam Silen
Christopher Swift (cswift@citytech.cuny.edu)
Gema Valencia-Turco

How can we study medieval dance when the object of our study no longer exists? This participatory workshop uses a collective and embodied approach to investigate how medieval dances were composed and performed. Following a brief overview of the characteristics of dance found in medieval sources, we will identify what is missing: the strategies used to create those features. To fill the gaps in our knowledge, we will use an embodied form of historical problem-solving. Participants will employ compositional and improvisational techniques derived from the poetic/musical structures of dance lyrics; descriptions of dancing; and from treatises on poetry and music.

Library Careers for Medievalists (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: International Society of Medievalist Librarians
Organizer: Allison M. McCormack (allie.mccormack@utah.edu)
Dot Porter
Anne Elise Crafton (anneelisec@gmail.com)

Many Medieval Studies students express an interest in library careers, but they are often unsure what qualifications are needed for positions in the cultural heritage sector. Similarly, traditional teaching faculty often don't have enough information to advise students on becoming a librarian or searching for entry-level library jobs. Using their own career paths as a starting point, librarians and archivists will share up-to-date advice about cultural heritage work and engage in a productive discussion with attendees about how medievalists can break into this field.

Lists as Sources

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Martha D Rust (martha.rust@nyu.edu)
Amanda Gerber (gerberax@jmu.edu)

Any list serves as a direct “source” for the information it contains. A grocery list tells a shopper what to buy. But it may also serve as a source in several other fields: the history of advertising, the history of culinary trends, or the history of an individual family. This panel seeks papers that consider medieval lists that serve as sources in similarly direct and tangential ways. Such lists might include inventories, mnemonics, itineraries, bed rolls, and word lists, as well as lists in literature. We especially welcome papers that take the properties of lists into account in their analyses.

Literary Rap Battles: Performative Language in Conflictive Contexts, ca. 449–1485

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Speech Act Society, Medieval Association of the Midwest (MAM)
Organizer: Alexander Vaughan Ames

There is ample scholarship comparing diverse genres of medieval literature, written in various languages, with certain aspects rap music and associated hip hop culture, in particular its function as a vehicle for the expression of conflict, its reliance on the orality of the storyteller, the centrality of flying to (anti)heroic narratives. This session will feature papers building on the existing scholarship by addressing rap battles on offer in medieval texts using elements of pragmatic linguistics (e.g. speech act theory) to elucidate the centrality of performative language to the culture of literary conflict in medieval narratives.

Little Lydgate

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Lydgate Society
Organizer: Clint E. Morrison (Clinton.morrison@austin.utexas.edu)

John Lydgate may be best known for his sprawling, multi-thousand-line poems *Siege of Thebes*, *Troy Book*, and *The Fall of Princes*. Within his larger corpus of around 145,000 lines, the poet also wrote dozens of shorter poems in a range of forms. This panel invites papers that turn to Lydgate’s little poems, with particular interest in their civic, performance, and manuscript contexts. Topics might include (but are not limited to): archival experience(s), poetic form(s), editorial practices, manuscript presentation, performance, or new theoretical approaches to these little poems.

Lived Experiences in Fantastical Settings: Marginalization and Gaming Medievalisms

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Game Cultures Society
Organizer: Sarah J. Sprouse (ssprouse@wtamu.edu)

Games offer unique opportunities to explore race, disability, gender, sexuality and other traditionally marginalized perspectives in modern medievalisms. Whether through how a player approaches the game, the effects of narrative and mechanics on the gameplay experience, how the developers approach game design, or other aspects of games and gaming culture, the lean-in way players engage with medieval games gives rise to an intersection of identity and entertainment unique from other forms of media. Understanding how medievalisms affect our social identity is only possible with the study of diverse perspectives in medieval gaming.

Ludic Lessons

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: TEAMS (Teaching Association for Medieval Studies)
Organizer: Clint E. Morrison (Clinton.morrison@austin.utexas.edu)
Deborah M. Sinnreich-Levi (profsinnreichlevi@gmail.com)
Thomas C. Sawyer

Educators increasingly recognize the pedagogical value of games and play in the classroom. Yet designing effective lesson plans around games requires significant time and attention. Few resources exist for modifying and comparing successful strategies. Moreover, homebrew and ad hoc implementations of game-based learning risk gamification – a form of proceduralizing experience only loosely related to investigations of topical substance. This roundtable invites proposals for presentations that outline the pragmatic pedagogical use of games. Where in the lesson planning stage do you implement and execute the ludic? What materials support your approach? How do you evaluate the success of the activity?

Macroscopic Approaches and the Medieval Universe

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Ecocriticisms
Organizer: Coral Lumbley (clumbley@macalester.edu)

Medieval Ecocriticism invites proposals for presentations on "Macroscopic Approaches and the Medieval Universe." While much ecocriticism focuses on global or local ecological concerns on Earth, the medieval world conceived of itself within a greater universe. Medieval cosmology held that the universe was knowable, and that earthly forms contained expressions of an awe-inspiring macroscopic design. Consciousness of what moderns call "the solar system" or "outer space" influenced medieval art, architecture, literature, music theory, theology, medicine, geography, and more. We thus invite research on how the Ptolemaic model and its medieval expressions might inform new ecocritical approaches to the Middle Ages.

Magic and Conflict: Calling upon Supernatural Forces in Times of Violence

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Societas Magica
Organizer: Daniel M. Harms

As long as conflict has occurred, participants and victims have sought esoteric supernatural means of avoidance, protection, or overcoming enemies in conflict. What does the magic of the time illuminate about attitudes, concerns, and technology of conflict within society, and vice versa? What were the preferred methods, ingredients, and motifs? Were magical countermeasures employed? What significance might medieval conflict magic have in a world still embroiled in violence at various scales?

Magic, Inquisitions, Crusades, and Intellectual History: Session in Memory of Edward M. Peters

Modality: Hybrid

Organizer: Jessalynn L. Bird (jbird@saintmarys.edu)

Edward M. Peters was one of the early proponents of the International Medieval Congress at Kalamazoo and enlarging the University of Pennsylvania Press's publication of books on medieval topics. He was also a noted scholar on topics ranging from concepts of kingship to Dante, to magic, witchcraft, and heresy, inquisitions and torture, the crusades, and a wide range of topics in canon law and intellectual history, including varying perceptions of curiositas. This session, held in his memory, commemorates Peters' contributions in these fields while looking forward to new historiographies and scholarship inspired by his work.

Magic, Manuscripts, and Material Culture

Modality: Hybrid

Sponsor: Research Group on Manuscript Evidence, Polytheism-Oriented Medievalists of North America (P-OMoNA)

Rossell Hope Robbins Library, Univ. of Rochester

Organizer: Anna Siebach-Larsen (annasiebachlarsen@rochester.edu)

Mildred Budny

Phillip A. Bernhardt-House (phillip.bernhardthouse@gmail.com)

Papers in this session will investigate the relationship(s) between manuscript descriptions of magical and/or alchemical rituals, implements, and other materials, the illustrations in those manuscripts, and archaeological evidence based on surviving artifacts. We will seek to further our understanding of how tools were used in physical rituals, as well as how practitioners procured, made, stored, used, and cared for the tools of their trade. We will also seek to understand where and how the evidence provided by worded descriptions, illustrations, and material artifacts corresponds with, conflicts with, or serves to mutually enrich the other evidence.

Magics, Marvels, Metamorphoses, and Monsters: Horrors of the Medieval Past, Present, and Future

Modality: Virtual

Sponsor: Monsters & the Monstrous Area of the Northeast Popular Culture Association, Association for the Advancement of Scholarship and Teaching of the Medieval in Popular Culture

International Society for the Study of Medievalism

Organizer: Michael A. Torregrossa

June-Ann Greeley (greeleyj@sacredheart.edu)

Medieval literature contains many elements we view as fantastical today. Stories are filled with displays of magic, appearances of marvels, occurrences of metamorphoses, and threats of monsters. All of these are now considered features of the horror genre, but did readers in the Middle Ages perceive them as such? Has our view of the preternatural changed so radically from the medieval era to now? In what ways have these aspects been themselves transformed over time and in new places? We seek to answer these and similar questions in this session uniting medieval(ism)ists with colleagues across Monster Studies.

Malory Aloud: Arthur for Emperor!

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Kathryn M. Wilmotte (kmwilm520@gmail.com)
Rebecca Fox Blok

Malory Aloud brings the Morte Darthur to life by reading portions of the text aloud in Malorian dialect. This year's performance will center an episode often omitted in other retellings: Arthur's campaign against and defeat of the Roman Emperor Lucius. Malory's retelling of this episode draws extensively on the earlier Alliterative Morte Arthure, and thus features unique Middle English words and phrasing. While Arthur tends to fade into the background for much of the Morte, this year's performance will give him center stage, highlighting his roles as model knight and warrior, king and lawgiver.

Manuscript Poetics

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Univ. of Colorado–Boulder
Organizer: Tiffany Beechy (tiffany.beechy@colorado.edu)

This session welcomes papers interested in the poetics of manuscript compilation, including the ways that manuscripts are readable as textual and material objects with an internal logic and are products of complex historical agencies.

Manuscripts and Books in Periods of Radical Change

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Early Book Society
Organizer: Martha W. Driver (mdriver@pace.edu)

This session considers the publication and survival of MSS and books during times of transformation and social upheaval, whether during the plague years, or during the religious reformations that occurred from the fourteenth through the sixteenth centuries, or during shifts in political power. Scholars might discuss the ways in which texts and/or images are suppressed or removed from manuscripts or printed books which reflect readers' responses either to religious or political edicts or represent their personal beliefs. Or they might consider unexpected survivals and discuss the methods by which MSS and books were preserved.

Marie de France

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Marie de France Society
Organizer: Karen Casey Casebier (karen-casebier@utc.edu)
Joseph R. Johnson (jj892@georgetown.edu)

As a 12th-century woman writing in French at the English court, the body of work attributed to Marie de France includes the *Lais*, the *Fables*, the *Espurgatoire saint Patriz*, and/or *La Vie Sainte Audree*. This panel seeks contributions that focus on any aspect of Marie's literary production. We are especially open to intertextual and interdisciplinary approaches that connect Marie's oeuvre in the broad context of the medieval world. Our objective is to provide a space for Marie de France scholars to come together and to stimulate discussion about Marie's life and work.

Masters of the Sacred Page: Peter the Chanter and His Circle

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for the Study of the Bible in the Middle Ages (SSBMA), International Medieval Sermon Studies Society
Organizer: Frans van Liere (fvliere@calvin.edu)
Andrew Reeves (andrew.reeves1@mga.edu)

This session invites papers on the sermons and exegetical works of Peter the Chanter and his circle. This session is the third in a successful series of sessions in joint cooperation between SSBMA and ISSMS. Each of these sessions has addressed the intellectual influence of a twelfth-century school master, of what Martin Grabmann dubbed the “Biblical Moral school”, exploring their homiletic and exegetical legacy.

Material World of Bishops (1)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Episcopus: Society for the Study of Bishops and Secular Clergy in the Middle Ages
Canterbury and York Society
Lincoln Record Society
Organizer: Kyle C. Lincoln
Michael Burger (mburger1@aum.edu)

This IN-PERSON panel of papers examines the ways in which diocesan bishops and their secular clergy engaged with the material world—art, architecture, etc.—in their midst. The material turn in medieval studies has encouraged a broader manner of interdisciplinarity that has touched the study of the secular and institutional church in especially useful ways. The goal of this pair of sessions will be to provide a meaningful forum for the dissemination of new methods, ideas, approaches, and source bases from scholars at all career levels.

Material World of Bishops (2)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Episcopus: Society for the Study of Bishops and Secular Clergy in the Middle Ages
Canterbury and York Society
Lincoln Record Society
Organizer: Kyle C. Lincoln
Michael Burger (mburger1@aum.edu)

This HYBRID panel of papers examines the ways in which diocesan bishops and their secular clergy engaged with the material world—art, architecture, etc.—in their midst. The material turn in medieval studies has encouraged a broader manner of interdisciplinarity that has touched the study of the secular and institutional church in especially useful ways. The goal of this pair of sessions will be to provide a meaningful forum for the dissemination of new methods, ideas, approaches, and source bases from scholars at all career levels.

Medieval Academy of America Plenary Lecture

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Medieval Academy of America
Organizer: Elan Justice Pavlinich

The second plenary lecture at the 61st International Congress on Medieval Studies, sponsored by the Medieval Academy of America, will be given by Michelle M. Sauer (Univ. of North Dakota) and is titled "The Queerness of Solitude."

Medieval Afterlives of Boethius's De consolazione philosophiae (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Boethius Society
Organizer: Philip Edward Phillips (philip.phillips@mtsu.edu)

This roundtable seeks to foster conversation about the medieval afterlives of this critically important text, from its translation and transmission to the texts and images it influenced and inspired. Submissions are invited from scholars working on any topic related to Boethian reception, including translations, the medieval Consolatio tradition more broadly, Boethian philosophy, prosimetric reimaginings, or imagining new allegorical characters. Although we expect a bulk of our papers to touch upon Latin material, we encourage papers addressing reception in relevant vernacular languages. Topics addressed may include – but are not limited to – literary borrowing, imitation, inheritance, translation, and textual transmission.

Medieval Art History Tomorrow: A Whiteboard Session

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Different Visions: New Perspectives on Medieval Art
Organizer: Eliza B. Garrison
Ben Tilghman (btighman2@washcoll.edu)
Nina Rowe

In this brainstorming session, three Workshop Leaders each will give short (4-5 minute) presentations on a critical text from outside the field of art history and an object or site, making the case for how these materials can steer and energize the field of medieval art history going forward. Following the presentations, Workshop Leaders will orchestrate break-out small group discussions on themes of their presentations. We are especially interested in presentations that address theoretical texts from the discourses of anti-racist practice, postcolonialism, environmental studies, queer theory, the future of research under AI, and other fields that can inspire ethically-informed scholarship.

Medieval Brawls, Fights, Housebreaking, and Injury

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Georgia Medieval Group
Organizer: Wendy J. Turner

As Carole Rawcliffe astutely points out, the Middle Ages are not nearly as dirty as the Victorians led the world to believe. Over the last decade, we have realized that medieval people were resourceful and enjoyed being clean. They worked for better roads, cleaner streets, and public healthcare. Yet, like today, there were still times when neighbors argued, perhaps even fought. Certainly there were people who did bad things -- stealing from, killing, raping, or injuring their neighbors. This group of papers will take up a conversation around medieval brawls and fights and the injuries sustained in the process.

Medieval Classics (Re)Illustrated: A Medieval Comics Project Teamup

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Medieval Comics Project, International Arthurian Society, North American Branch (IAS/NAB)
International Society for the Study of Medievalism
Organizer: Michael A. Torregrossa
Siân Echard (sian.echard@ubc.ca)

Medieval literature has long been popular with comics creators as the source for stories and characters, which have been adapted, appropriated, and/or transformed within a variety of comics. In this co-sponsored session we seek, primarily, to unite the disciplines of Comics Studies and Medieval(ism) Studies at large to explore the history of comics adaptations, appropriations, and transformations of medieval literature for their value to our teaching and research. In addition, we hope panelists will also address how these comics can shed insight into a creator's personal connections to the medieval past and/or their readers' reception of the content.

Medieval Disability Studies: New Voices, New Directions

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Society for the Study of Disability in the Middle Ages
Organizer: Leah Pope Parker (leah.parker@usm.edu)

The Society for the Study of Disability in the Middle Ages invites proposals for papers by emerging scholars in medieval disability studies. Presenters may be emerging in terms of their career (e.g., graduate students or early-career researchers) or emerging by bringing their research into a new direction (i.e., newly engaging with disability studies). Priority will be given to new scholars and approaches. Paper proposals on any topic relating to disability, disease, health, and/or medicine and engaging with the methods of disability studies will be welcomed, on any period between c. 500–1500, on any geographical area, and in any scholarly field.

Medieval England from Beyond: Teaching and Studying the English Middle Ages from Elsewhere (A Roundtable)

Modality: Virtual
Organizer: Grace Catherine Greiner (g.c.greiner@uu.nl)
Dr. Jennifer Rabedeau (jbr263@cornell.edu)

This session invites scholars to reflect on their experiences and envisage new possibilities around teaching and studying the Middle Ages either 1) as scholars of medieval England not living and working in England, or 2) as scholars who work primarily on other periods, but have secondary research or teaching interests in the Middle Ages. What are the particular challenges? What are the exciting possibilities? What is it like to study or teach the English Middle Ages from without?

Medieval Institute Publications and De Gruyter Brill Plenary Lecture

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Medieval Institute Publications, De Gruyter Brill
Organizer: Robert F. Berkhofer

The first plenary lecture at the 61st International Congress on Medieval Studies, sponsored by De Gruyter Brill and Medieval Institute Publications, will be given by Alison Perchuk (California State Univ.–Channel Islands) and is titled "Apocalypse and Community in Medieval Italian Art."

Medieval Intelligence: Natural and Artificial (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Georgia Medieval Group
Organizer: Wendy J. Turner

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is at the forefront of teaching and scholarship conversations around the world. Yet in the Middle Ages, such conversations focused on artificium, the trades or skills through which practitioners could interact with and shape materials or ideas. While artifice could enable human beings to ‘tame’ nature, sometimes considered wild, civilized, and beyond redemption, such crafts also allowed the practitioner to assume the status of artifex, following God’s example in shaping nature. This roundtable will address the ways in which medieval notions of artificium and natura might inform present-day conversations about the relationship between intelligence and technology.

Medieval Manuscripts in North America, and How They Got Here

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Peripheral Manuscripts Project, Digital Scriptorium
Organizer: Sarah L. Noonan
Liz Hebbard
Lynn Ransom

Recent regional digitization and description initiatives and national cataloguing efforts have increased the discoverability of medieval manuscript holdings in North American collections. Such projects have made more--and better--data about such manuscripts available, revealing complex histories of manuscript circulation on this continent. This session invites papers that explore the provenance histories of these items or collections and how those histories have shaped manuscript research in the US and Canada over the past century. We also welcome papers that present histories of rare book dealers and/or auction houses or that trace the collecting habits of individuals or institutions in North America.

Medieval Military History (1): Early Medieval Warfare

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: De Re Militari: The Society for Medieval Military History
Organizer: Valerie Eads (veads@sva.edu)

This session focuses on the period from Late Antiquity to the Central Middle Ages, roughly the sixth to twelfth centuries. Papers discussing all aspects of the conduct of war, broadly defined, are welcome.

Medieval Military History (2): Late Medieval Warfare

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: De Re Militari: The Society for Medieval Military History
Organizer: Valerie Eads (veads@sva.edu)

This session focuses on the period from the Central Middle Ages to the Early Modern period, roughly the thirteenth through sixteenth centuries. Papers discussing all aspects of medieval warfare, broadly defined, are welcome.

Medieval Military History (3): Current Topics in Medieval Warfare

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: De Re Militari: The Society for Medieval Military History
Organizer: Valerie Eads (veads@sva.edu)

This session focuses on the period from Late Antiquity to the Early Modern period, roughly the fourth through sixteenth centuries. Papers that do not fit comfortably into early/late periodization might fit here. Papers that focus on topics such as communications and logistics, siegecraft, female lordship, administration and finance, espionage, unlikely sources, up-and-coming research questions, etc. are welcome.

Medieval Monastic Studies and Contemporary Monastic Communities (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Cistercian and Monastic Studies, American Benedictine Review
Organizer: Colleen Maura McGrane (abenedictinereview@gmail.com)
Tyler Sergent (sergentf@berea.edu)

This roundtable will engage two or three vowed monastics and two or three monastic scholars to address the questions about the relationship between medieval monastic scholarship and modern monastic communities.

Medieval Political Thought and Modern Political Problems

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Politica: The Society for the Study of Medieval Political Thought
Organizer: Mary Elizabeth Sullivan

This session examines how the themes and questions addressed in medieval political thought relate to modern political problems. Scholars from all disciplines are welcome to submit.

Medieval Roots and Modern Branches: Medieval Texts and Tolkien's Works

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: International Pearl-Poet Society, Tolkien at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Jane Beal (janebeal@gmail.com)
Yvette Kisor (ykisor@ramapo.edu)
Christopher Vaccaro (cvaccaro@uvm.edu)

Our session uses the metaphor of “medieval roots and modern branches” to approach analysis of the relationship between medieval poets and J. R. R. Tolkien. We articulate critical readings of medieval poems and the work of J. R. R. Tolkien, analyzing sources, analogues, and influence from a comparative point of view, alongside reception analysis of related literary and filmic texts.

Medieval Sacramental and Liturgical Theology

Modality: In-Person

Organizer: Richard Nicholas (rnicholas@stfrancis.edu)

The sacraments and liturgy are central to Christian spirituality. While the Church Fathers commented on the sacraments and their liturgical celebration at length, a systematic treatment of the sacraments was not fully developed until the Middle Ages. With the introduction of Aristotelianism, new questions were asked of the sacraments and their liturgical celebration. The quest for answers led to the development of a highly systematic treatment of sacraments. This session will showcase papers that explore and assess the medieval systematic treatment of the sacraments and their liturgical celebration and show how what is found there can enrich contemporary theological issues.

Medieval Sermon Studies

Modality: In-Person

Sponsor: International Medieval Sermon Studies Society

Organizer: Andrew Reeves (andrew.reeves1@mga.edu)

The field of sermon studies has grown from being perceived as a niche specialization to a recognized discipline whose sources (sermons, pastoralia) can provide useful information to historians, practitioners of religious studies, and literary scholars. This series of sessions sponsored by the International Medieval Sermon Studies Society (and participating co-sponsors) will enable both early career and established scholars to present their work at the congress.

Medieval Studies in/on/about Crip Time (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid

Sponsor: Society for the Study of Disability in the Middle Ages

Organizer: Kisha G. Tracy (ktracy3@fitchburgstate.edu)

As Richard H. Godden notes, "Disabled time, like queer time, occupies a position from which we can interrogate pre-existing 'temporal frames.'" How might we look at medieval studies through the experiential and theoretical lens of crip time? What conclusions might we reach about or changes might we make to inclusivity, equity, accessibility, even kindness? Can we even reconsider the temporal and geographical questions medieval studies is currently grappling with by thinking about them through crip time, both in modern and medieval definitions? This roundtable will speculate on these questions, offering a possible vision of Medieval Studies in/on/about crip time.

Medieval Voices: Tools for Listening to the Past

Modality: In-Person

Sponsor: Goliardic Society

Organizer: Emily Schuhl Brown

Like any historical era, the Middle Ages resists attempts at easy generalization. This session asks "whose voices have been ignored in traditional scholarship, and what techniques and approaches can be used to uncover their stories and perspectives?" This session hopes to highlight the work done to listen and bring to light the voices of the underprivileged. We welcome submissions from any discipline, including history, literary studies, art history and religious studies, as well as submissions from scholars of any level. The focus of this panel is on any geographic location between 500 and 1500 CE.

Medievalism and Costume

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: International Society for the Study of Medievalism
Organizer: Angela J. Weisl (angela.weisl@shu.edu)
Michael R. Evans

This session seeks to investigate the medieval in clothing, costume, and ritual. How does the medieval influence fashion? What is the rhetoric of clothing at Renaissance Fairs? In LARPing and reenactment? In academic regalia? Papers might consider popular figures, such as Chappell Roan, who inflect the medieval in their costuming, and what it says about how they understand themselves and their public position. Other possibilities include other forms of adornment such as jewelry, hairstyles, tattoos, etc.

Medievalism and Modern Pagan Religions

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Eric O. Scott (eric@wildhunt.org)

Whether in the adoption of the British ritual year in Wicca or the adaptation of scenes from sagas into present-day Heathen ceremony, modern Pagan religions often have medievalisms at their core. This panel seeks to investigate through a variety of scholarly approaches how these modern faiths have appropriated and adapted medieval materials to arrive at their beliefs and practices. As elements of modern Pagan medievalisms appear everywhere from #WitchTok to the January 6th Capitol Riot, it is more important than ever to understand the history of medieval reception that underlies these religions.

Medievalisms in Space

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: International Society for the Study of Medievalism
Organizer: Angela J. Weisl (angela.weisl@shu.edu)
Michael R. Evans

Building on several successful sessions on Science Fiction Medievalisms, this session seeks to consider specifically what happens when the Middle Ages turns up in outer space. How is the past created in the future, and to what end? How are the Middle Ages imagined disconnected from the planet on which it took place? How does medieval space get negotiated in outer space?

Medievalist Librarians in the Classroom: Teaching with Manuscript Facsimiles (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Society of Medievalist Librarians
Organizer: Julia A. Schneider (jschneid@nd.edu)

Examining manuscripts in the classroom can provide hands-on and multivalent primary source access for those studying all aspects of the Middle Ages. Because they intend to provide an analogous experience of the original artifact, manuscript facsimiles can serve as a supplement to or alternative for the study of the actual medieval artifacts and digital images of those artifacts, serving as a bridge to learning about medieval culture. This roundtable will provide a discussion of the uses and limits of facsimiles in teaching about the Middle Ages, as well as best practices for presenting facsimiles in classes on medieval book culture.

Medusa's Gaze: The Medieval Reception of the Gorgon

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Christopher T. Richards (crichard@colby.edu)
Toni Veneri (toniveneri@hotmail.com)
David John Wright (djwrig85@gmail.com)

This panel invites papers on Medusa's reception across the Global Middle Ages. We welcome interdisciplinary and transtemporal perspectives that situate Medusa in medieval art, literature, theology, astronomy, and beyond. Long understood as a fearsome figure of alterity—femme, Black, queer—the medieval reception of Medusa could also reclaim the Monster as powerful, even sacred. Through the lens of Monster Studies and critical approaches including trans studies, Black studies, and feminism, participants will consider how medieval cultures understood the Gorgon in all her complexity. This panel supports a forthcoming publication, *Medusa's Gaze*, and presenters may be invited to contribute.

Metal as Medium

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Elina Gertsman
Dominique DeLuca (Dominique.DeLuca@uvm.edu)

Cherubim of the Ark, Nicanor's Gates, the Grail, the reliquary of Sainte Foy: metal objects, real and imaginary, imbued with magic or channeling the miraculous, haunt the long history of medieval art. This session seeks to inquire into material significance of metals, and we invite papers that explore a broad array of themes knotted around their physical and allegorical properties. Interdisciplinary approaches are welcome, but the heart of the session lies in its focus on the visual universe of metals manifested as objects: extant, described, or evoked.

Methodological Perversion

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Jason Jacobs
Julie Singer

Medieval studies is about objects, but also about methods: philology, paleography and codicology, historicism and periodization, genre- and medium-specific approaches, and the imperative not to separate the religious and secular. This panel seeks papers that break or ignore the rules of method, use the wrong tool for the job, or ignore something we are supposed to keep in mind. What happens when we choose to seek new interpretations by bracketing the “proper approaches” central to our training? Submissions welcomed from any discipline or field of medieval studies, early or late.

Migrating Manuscripts

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Richard Rawlinson Center
Organizer: Kees Dekker

The migration of manuscripts constitutes one of the most important sources of information about the literary culture of early medieval England. Manuscripts often travelled from the place where they were written to other libraries or scriptoria, as books or in one of their constituent parts: booklets, quires, single sheets or schedulae. This panel invites papers on traces of migration in early medieval manuscripts linked to England. Traces of migration include scribal usage, codicology, palaeography, prosopography, text transmission, or manuscript illustrations. Migration may have taken place within England or between England and elsewhere.

Mind the Gap: Absence in the Middle Ages

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Margaret McCurry (mm9659@nyu.edu)

This session invites reflection on absence as a generative force in medieval literature, art, and culture. How did medieval texts represent what is missing, lost, invisible, or unspeakable? What forms of presence emerge through absence—of body, voice, vision, certainty, or meaning? From acousmatic voices to blank spaces on the page, from narrative gaps to sensory deprivation, from apophatic theologies to fragmented manuscripts, absence operates as both aesthetic strategy and metaphysical problem. In exploring these questions, the session contributes to broader conversations on embodiment, sensory experience, trauma, memory, and the limits of representation.

Mini-eval Manuscript Cultures for LGBTQIA2+ Youth: Picture Book, Illustrated Novel, and Youth Comic Medievalisms

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for Queer and Trans Medieval Studies (SQTMS)
Organizer: Wally M. Cornell (wcornell@illinois.edu)
Felipe E. Rojas (felipe.rojas@westliberty.edu)

Although pictorial genres for youth audiences are particularly vulnerable to political attack, they allow for productive play with medieval concepts, and the expression of aspects of queer, trans and GNC youth experiences. Diverse and inclusive pictorial representation of history, moreover, carves out space for LGBTQIA2+ kids in the premodern world. In a political climate in which graphic novels such as the Wings of Fire series and picture books such as Galupo and Haack's Maiden and Princess are challenged and banned, this panel seeks papers which examine pictorial youth medievalism and LGBTQIA2+ youth topics in conversation.

Mis- and Disinformation During the Middle Ages

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Purdue Univ. Libraries and School of Information Studies
Organizer: Kristin Leaman (leamankb@purdue.edu)

Critical Mis- and Disinformation Studies is an under-explored and exciting new area in Medieval Studies. It is vastly productive to employ critical disinformation theories from the discipline of Information Science and apply them to medieval history and texts to highlight how information, knowledge, and history are often created by social and political people in power to legitimize and validate racial and cultural divisions and structural inequality. It also demonstrates how marginalized communities are disproportionately harmed by disinformation during the Middle Ages. This session will give important space to explore the burgeoning field of Medieval Mis- and Disinformation Studies.

Monastic Epistolae

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Cistercian and Monastic Studies, American Benedictine Review
Organizer: Colleen Maura McGrane (abenedictinereview@gmail.com)
Tyler Sergeant (sergentf@berea.edu)

The letters of medieval Benedictine and Cistercian monks and nuns revolved around a wide variety of topics ranging from spiritual guidance to business and legal issues. This panel invites papers on topics across this epistolary genre: biographical or exegetical treatments of a particular monastic writer and/or recipient; single themes that appear in multiple authors' letters; the use or treatment of different literary styles within letters; questions around, or approaches to, authenticity; or other aspects of monastic medieval epistolae.

Monsters and the Monstrous in Medieval Literature

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Association of the Midwest (MAM)
Organizer: Michael S. Nagy (michael.nagy@sdstate.edu)

Medieval literature hosts a broad spectrum of monstrous figures ranging from the more familiar dragons to the rather obscure draugar. In the 19th and 20th centuries, scholars used such fantastic figures to dismiss as frivolous the works in which they appeared. Recently, however, many have turned towards theorizing the functional role of medieval monsters in the texts in which they are inscribed. Building upon these latter scholars, this session will at once seek to determine what medieval authors meant by their oblique use of the term "monstrous," and to examine the likely cultural, political, and social functions of medieval monstrosity.

Monsters on the Page: Interdisciplinary Examinations of Monsters in Manuscripts

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Monsters: The Experimental Association for the Research of Cryptozoology through Scholarly Theory and Practical Application (MEARCSTAPA)
Organizer: Zoey M. Kambour
Cortney Anne Berg (cberg@gradcenter.cuny.edu)
Asa Simon Mittman (asmittman@csuchico.edu)

Monsters lurk around every corner, particularly in the Middle Ages. They make their presence felt through the book, a vehicle for delivering the fantastic in the medieval period through text, image, the object itself, and the reading tradition. This session asks, how do monsters manifest on the page? Moreover, how did these monsters interact and even terrorize — or delight — the readers and viewers of these books? This session calls for papers examining monsters creeping through medieval manuscripts or book traditions, whether in texts, images, marginalia, or the physical object itself. We welcome any approach concerning manuscripts and monsters.

Monstrous Saints and Sainly Monsters

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Monsters: The Experimental Association for the Research of Cryptozoology through Scholarly Theory and Practical Application (MEARCSTAPA), American Society of Irish Medieval Studies (ASIMS)
Organizer: Larissa "Kat" Tracy (katracy@comcast.net)

From the dog-headed Christopher to Margaret, who bursts from a dragon's belly, to Irish Saints Ciarán and Mochutu, famous for inflicting blindness, saints are often associated with monstrosity. They might have monstrous features, heal or inflict conditions considered monstrous, engage with marvelous creatures, or be subjected to atrocious acts of monstrosity. We seek 20-minute papers examining aspects of monstrosity in hagiographical accounts written, visual, or performative. We welcome proposals on any medieval culture(s), in any discipline (e.g.: history, art history, literature, anthropology, musicology, queer studies, feminist studies, or any other approach to the monstrous), and encourage emerging scholars to apply.

Mothers as Makers (1): Performative Female Dichotomies

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Lauren E. Wood (lwood@uwsp.edu)
Katie E. Despeaux (katiedespeaux@unm.edu)

In the Middle Ages, Christian women were expected to behave like Mary, but typically fell short of this idealized role. One of the best examples of this is the role of motherhood and reproduction, a time in which women, their bodies, and their public images were most scrutinized. This panel seeks papers that explore how medieval women performed gender in personal, political, social, and cultural contexts or how gender was perceived and interpreted by male authors.

Mothers as Makers (2): Projections of Power and Lineage (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Katie E. Despeaux (katiedespeaux@unm.edu)

The way political power is projected by women is different than that by men. Most of their ability to show their power has more to do with their roles as wives and mothers. We are interested in participants who look at the way women project their power through reproduction, marriage, and matrons of legacy and dynasty.

Moving the Mail: Letters, Couriers, and Post Offices in the Medieval World

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Postal History at Kalamazoo, Research Group on Manuscript Evidence
Organizer: David W. Sorenson
Mildred Budny

In a world in which long-distance communication was necessarily through the written word, getting it from sender to recipient could be a complicated process. While important correspondence could be sent "post-haste," ordinary letters were typically much less speedy, and while royal dispatches might go through an efficient royal system ordinary mail received a very much less efficient, more ad hoc, treatment. This session is intended as a means of examining the means through which mail moved, whether in Europe or elsewhere.

Music and the Visual Arts

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Musicology at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Melanie Batoff
Innocent Smith
Suzanna Feldkamp

This session focuses on the connections between medieval music and the visual arts. Scholars may adopt a wide range of approaches and methodologies drawn from musicology, art history, and elsewhere. We welcome papers that either consider specific and direct relationships (e.g., art that depicts musicians or instruments; marginalia in music books; music that describes handicrafts) or papers that investigate more abstract connections between sound and sight (e.g., philosophical/epistemological approaches). This session offers a space for cross-disciplinary discussion among art historians, musicologists, and others with the aim of enriching our understanding of the medieval period.

Music, Space, and Place

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Musicology at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Jennifer Saltzstein
Melanie Batoff
Innocent Smith

This session focuses on relationships between musical performance and physical spaces, whether architectural, geographic, or conceptual. We invite submissions that examine how musical repertoires (whether sacred or secular, Latin or vernacular) reflect physical aspects of performance spaces, regional identities, movement, landscape, or other aspects of place and space in medieval culture. Cross-disciplinary investigations that bring music into dialogue with fields such as literary studies, archaeology, dance, the liturgy, ecocriticism, and others are welcome.

Mutable Bodies, Mutable Subjects in the Late Middle Ages

Modality: In-Person

Organizer: Enrique Fernandez (enrique_fernandez@umanitoba.ca)

Proposals for 20-minute presentations that explore how different bodily states, stages, changes, and processes affected people, their self-image, and their subject positions in the Late Middle Ages are welcome. The term "body" can be understood in a strict physical sense or as a developmental process, including behavior and learned abilities. Examples include growth, aging, illness, pregnancy, gender transitioning, disabilities, wounds, diseases, the acquisition of new abilities, or the loss of previously acquired ones. We welcome approaches from literature, history, gender and cultural studies, religion, medicine, and all forms of art.

Mysticism, Transcendence, and Cosmologies: Medieval Pathways to the Twenty-First Century (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person

Sponsor: Medieval Association of the Midwest (MAM)

Organizer: Tory Schendel-Vyvoda (tlschend22@gmail.com)

While monasticism is seen as a pathway to the divine, other influences, such as philosophical ideas of transcendence and cosmologies, promote personal or communal connections to spirituality. By expanding the medieval understanding of how individuals relate to higher powers, marginalized communities who are typically excluded from theological analysis are included. This session will explore mysticism, transcendence, and cosmologies during the global Middle Ages and their contemporary impacts. We invite speakers to present for six to ten minutes on these topics, incorporating new research, non-traditional venues, museum exhibitions, or the visual arts.

Myth, Memory, and History in the Late Middle Ages and Early Modern Era

Modality: In-Person

Sponsor: Central European Univ.

Organizer: Eloise Marie Adde (addee@ceu.edu)

The boundary between memory, history and myth is porous. Yet their functions are not the same. Whereas history aims to produce true knowledge of the past and to understand past societies as objectively as possible, memory, even collective memory, is selective, forgetting, even unconsciously, the troubled times. Myth, on the other hand, is clearly fiction and ideologically oriented. In this session, we'll look at how these three categories interacted in the Middle Ages, and examine the relationship between medieval people and these different notions.

Naturing Bodies, Embodying Nature

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Ecocriticisms
Organizer: Hunter Allen Phillips
Asher Esra Courtemanche

This session seeks to explore the intersections of embodiment and environment in the Middle Ages, considering how bodies—organic and inorganic, human and non-human, material and immaterial—constitute, shape, and envelop one another. By “naturing” bodies, we seek to erode neat divisions between humans and the natural world to uncover the earthy entanglements linking humans to the environments they shape and are shaped by. Attuning to John Scotus Eriugena’s claim that nature is the name “for all things, for those that are, and those that are not,” we invite papers that reflect on the fundamentally relational ontology of humans, non-humans, and environments.

New Approaches to the Menologion of Basil II

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library
Organizer: Nicole Eddy
Charles Kuper (ckuper@utk.edu)

The synaxarion known conventionally as the Menologion of Basil II (Vat. gr. 1613) is famous for its 430 dazzling images of saints and festal scenes. Yet the corresponding texts have received much less attention, despite their own literary importance as well as their dialogic relationship with the painted images. This session is organized in conjunction with the forthcoming edition and English translation of this manuscript (Kuper, Harvard University Press, 2025). The organizers invite proposals that engage closely with the Menologion of Basil II from any disciplinary perspective. Papers that cross disciplines, make connections, and ask new questions are especially encouraged.

New Directions in Old English Pedagogy: Instructional Simulations in Beginning Old English

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Disinventing Old English
Organizer: Donna Beth Ellard (donna.ellard@du.edu)
Simon Thomson (thomson@hhu.edu)

Are you teaching Old English in new and exciting ways? Would you like to test out or share your pedagogical practices with fellow OE teachers in a simulated classroom experience? This workshop will use instructional simulation (IS), a practice in which teachers experience new pedagogies and teaching content, in order to exchange innovations that are happening in OE, HEL, and literature classrooms. After each simulation, participants will be asked to reflect and discuss how they could incorporate each pedagogical style, lesson, or activity in their classroom. To propose a 15-minute instructional simulation, send abstracts to Donna Beth Ellard and Simon Thomson.

New Possibilities and Directions in Digital Medieval Studies (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Digital Medievalist
Organizer: Matthew Evan Davis (matthew@matthewedavis.net)

If you are a scholar who works with digital tools or methods, even if you don't consider yourself a Digital Humanist, Digital Medievalist wants to hear from you! We'd like to invite participants to a roundtable showcasing their digital tools, new methods they have pioneered, or ideas they have that could use the input of similarly-minded people. After the showcase, we'll hold a conversation regarding the possibilities of digital medieval studies at present, using the tools and methods showcased as a starting-off point.

New Research in Germanic Medieval Studies

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for Medieval Germanic Studies (SMGS)
Organizer: Adam Oberlin

This is an open call from the Society for Medieval Germanic Studies for papers on any topics in medieval Germanic languages and literatures.

New Research on the Art and Architecture of Medieval Parish Churches

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Catherine E. Hundley (chundley@wesleyseminary.edu)

Scholars are invited to propose presentations on any aspect of the art and architecture of the medieval parish church. Possible research questions include, but are not limited to: How did the architecture, art, or visual culture of the parish define the medieval worship experience? How did individual churches change over time—and what can these changes reveal about each parish community? How can in-depth study of a local parish church expand or contradict broader national narratives? What new methodologies can twenty-first century scholars use to tell the story of the medieval parish?

New Responses to the Legend of Good Women

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Caitlin Florence Coxon
Mounawar Abbouchi

We ask respondents to continue work that has stalled in recent years and engage with the call put out by the 2017 Chaucer Review special issue, encouraging engagement with the Legend of Good Women scholarship it motivated, rejecting the idea of the Legend as a failed work and reading it instead as key to interpreting Chaucer's writing of women. We welcome discussions of the poem that attend to contemporary issues pertaining to the current political and scholarly landscapes, including readings rooted in feminist/affect theory, and ideas about bringing the Legend (one of Chaucer's least taught works) into the classroom.

New Themes in Research on Albertus Magnus

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Albertus Magnus Society
Organizer: Betsey B Price (bprice@glendon.yorku.ca)

The International Albertus Magnus Society (IAMS) is mounting an open session focused on Albertus Magnus, without a single predetermined theme. Individual papers must simply address the theme of New Research, which should offer the opportunity for all researchers of Albertus Magnus to present current research to the field of Albertus scholars.

New Tolkien: Medieval Resonances (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Tolkien at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Christopher Vaccaro (cvaccaro@uvm.edu)
Yvette Kisor (ykisor@ramapo.edu)

Although he passed away over fifty years ago, Tolkien's work continues to be published. Expected in October 2025 is *The Bovadium Fragments*, featuring Tolkien's illustrated story "The End of Bovadium," previously unpublished. Also recently published are *The Collected Poems* (2024) and the expanded *Letters* (2023). All offer copious opportunities for explorations of medieval resonances, particularly the use of Latin in *Bovadium*, and the inclusion of poetry based on Old and Middle English works in *The Collected Poems*; especially noteworthy are sections of Tolkien's verse translation of *Beowulf*, *The Owl and the Nightingale*, *Pearl*, and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.

New Voices in Early Performance Studies

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society (MRDS)
Organizer: Jeffery G. Stoyanoff

The Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society (MRDS) continues its tradition of inviting new scholars of early drama and performance studies, specifically graduate students and recent PhDs (within four years of receiving the degree), to submit abstracts for consideration to be included in the "New Voices" panel, which will be made up of four papers and commentary from a respondent. The MRDS welcomes all approaches to early drama and performance studies for this open-topic session.

New Voices In Medieval History

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Haskins Society
Organizer: Laura L. Gathagan (laura.gathagan@cortland.edu)

This session invites papers from graduate students and early career researchers who present on topics of interest in the many fields and periods of the medieval past to which Charles Homer Haskins contributed. These include, but are not limited to, early England, Viking, Norman, and Angevin history as well as the history of the neighboring peoples and territories that surrounded them. Of special interest are those papers that utilize new methodologies and combine sources in fresh ways. Papers presented in this session are eligible for the annual Denis Bethell Prize.

New Voices on Early Medieval England

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: International Society for the Study of Early Medieval England
Organizer: Shannon Godlove (godlove_shannon@columbusstate.edu)

The International Society for the Study of Early Medieval England (ISSEME) invites paper proposals from emerging scholars, including advanced (post-)graduate students or early career researchers, on any aspects of the language, literature, history, or culture of early medieval England.

New Work by Early-Career Scholars in Celtic Studies

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Celtic Studies Association of North America
Organizer: Joey McMullen
Joshua Byron Smith (jbs016@uark.edu)

This session seeks proposals for twenty-minute presentations by early-career scholars working in medieval Celtic Studies. All disciplines of Celtic Studies are welcomed.

Nicholas of Cusa, Friendship Networks, and Studia humanitatis

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: American Cusanus Society
Organizer: Samuel Dubbelman (Samuel.dubbelman@lts.edu)

Network theory has changed the way historians approach the history of knowledge. Information transference is not a one-way street, but occurs through numerous, overlapping domains. However, the understanding of people as “nodes” in a network, risks depersonalizing the process of knowledge production. Before networks, renaissance intellectuals often spoke of a multiplicity of “friends” who helped in their various projects. This panel considers the fundamental role of friendship networks in the work of Nicholas of Cusa and its afterlife, a topic of importance not only to fifteenth-century studies but more broadly to the humanities scholarship today.

Nineteenth-Century Medievalisms

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Daniel C. Najork
Robert Sirabian (rsirabia@uwsp.edu)

Proposals might explore the factors, both nostalgic and cynical, in shaping nineteenth-century literature about the Middle Ages. What historical, social, and intellectual views shaped nineteenth-century approaches to the Middle Ages? How was nineteenth-century medievalism both a check against and validation of progress? In what ways were these views limited or biased based on what the Victorians knew and believed and did not know, particularly when compared to advances in historical, psychological, and political knowledge in the next centuries? How has nineteenth-century medievalism shaped adaptation and scholarship since?

Notable Books in Medieval Germanic Studies (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for Medieval Germanic Studies (SMGS)
Organizer: Adam Oberlin

In this unique roundtable session, two authors of recently published scholarly books in medieval German Studies present their work. For the 2026 ICMS, the speakers will be: Jonathan Seelye Martin, presenting on *By Consent Alone: Marriage Law and German Romance, 1186–1210* (2025), and Alexandra Sterling-Hellenbrand, presenting on *Recontextualizing Medieval Heritage in Contemporary Austria* (2024). No additional proposals are requested at this time.

"Nos trencats nostres costums": Divergent Understandings of Custom and Law and Their Impact on Policy in Thirteenth-Century Iberia

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain (AARHMS)
Organizer: Belen Vicens (bxvicenssaiz@salisbury.edu)

This panel explores how the influx of learned laws and the proliferation of law books and trained jurists in thirteenth-century Iberia opened spaces of discussion among monarchs and aristocrats about the uses and meanings of law and custom and their impact on policy.

Notarial Cultures and Society in the Long Fourteenth Century

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: 14th Century Society
Organizer: Ariana Natalie Myers

Notarial protocol records are notoriously difficult to read, poorly preserved, and difficult to access in archives. However, recent research that has engaged with these sources has drastically improved our understanding of everyday life in the places where they have survived, particularly Italy and Catalonia. The impact of widespread literacy and documentation on the function of society, however, requires additional scholarly attention. This session invites papers that examine the impact of notarial cultures on the wider societies in which they emerged during the (long) fourteenth century.

Occitan as an Epic Language

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Société Guilhem IX
Organizer: Courtney Joseph Wells

How does the epic push and challenge the generic restrictions put on Occitan? How does the lyric incorporate epic discourse? What is the influence of the lyric on epic discourse in Occitan? What exactly is an Occitan epic? Does it differ from northern French versions? Or is the Occitan epic simply a *chanson de geste* written in Occitan?

Off of the Printed Prose Page: Multimodal Medievalisms

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Tales after Tolkien Society
Organizer: Rachel Sikorski

While the pop culture landscape of books and films often borrow from and are inspired by "the medieval period"—as well as frequently disseminated, propagated, and influenced by neo-medievalist works such as those by Martin, Jordan, Sanderson, and Hobb—relatively little discourse focuses on how other types of contemporary works pull from the same and/or similar influences. With the increasing popularity of medievalism in games, music, etc., this paper panel seeks to prompt, deepen, and explore the study and discussion of the less commonly talked about—yet no less consumed—works and how they look to and use popular mis/understandings of the medieval.

Old Books, New Technologies

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Early Book Society
Organizer: Martha W. Driver (mdriver@pace.edu)

This session explores the uses of technology in eliciting information about the study of MSS and books, focusing on multispectral imaging, data recovery, new collation methods, and the digital humanities more generally. It is also envisioned as a sharing session with papers on useful repositories and other online resources scholars need to know about. Papers might further discuss new kinds of scholarly collaboration enabled by Zoom, AI and social media.

Old English Trans Studies

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association
Organizer: Alani Hicks-Bartlett (alani_hicks-bartlett@brown.edu)
Caroline Batten
Jonathan Davis-Secord (jwds@unm.edu)

This session will highlight the presence and possibilities of trans lives in early medieval English literature, history, and culture, and apply trans methods of reading to Old English texts. Although nonconforming lives and identities are not always obvious in Old English materials, papers in this session will bring to light subtle but real points of pressure, presence, and resistance in early medieval England that signal the complexity of a culture that recognized and sometimes celebrated trans lives – a culture that often treated gender itself as relational and behavioral, an ongoing, continuous performance burdened with the perpetual possibility of failure.

Old Norse Law and Literature

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Jana K. Schulman (jana.schulman@wmich.edu)

Medieval Icelandic literature's incorporation of law and legal ritual is extremely vivid and informative. For example, a mention of an only daughter and her dowry can clue the well-versed reader in so as to appreciate the rarity of the former and the significance of the latter. Given the significance of law in medieval Icelandic texts, how might we read the focus on law to understand its significance in the texts and the society that produced them? This session seeks papers that approach medieval Icelandic literature and law in conversation.

Old Wine, New Skins: Manuscripts and Books Adapted, Emended, Repurposed

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Early Book Society
Organizer: Martha W. Driver (mdriver@pace.edu)

This session looks at the repackaging or translation of manuscripts and books made between 1350 and 1550 through various perspectives – for example, from manuscript to manuscript or from manuscript to print, examining changes in language and/or illustration or other aspects of presentation. In some cases, a text may be abstracted or emended to suit a specific readership.

On the Path of Joan of Arc: Tracing Johannic Itineraries through Art, War, and Tourism

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Joan of Arc Society / Société Internationale de l'étude de Jeanne d'Arc
Organizer: Scott Manning (scottmanning13@gmail.com)
Tara Beth Smithson (tsmithson@saintmarys.edu)

Key cities in Joan of Arc's history often emphasize associations with the Maid as important parts of their cultural identities and contributors to their economies. Catholic and secular organizations alike propose tours for those who wish to "live" some dimension of Joan's history by visiting the sites where she was born, fought, and died. This panel is concerned with itineraries: either those undertaken by Joan or her entourage (military routes, Isabelle Romée's supposed pilgrimage), those recreated, (history-inspired travel plans), or those that emerge, (the itinerant afterlives of objects representing Joan, like artwork or statuary).

One Hundred Years of Tolkien and Lewis: Fruits of a Medieval Collaboration (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Tolkien at Kalamazoo, C. S. Lewis and the Middle Ages
Organizer: Yvette Kisor (ykisor@ramapo.edu)
Christopher Vaccaro (cvaccaro@uvm.edu)
Joe Ricke (jsricke@outlook.com)

Tolkien at Kalamazoo and C. S. Lewis and the Middle Ages propose a roundtable of 5 or 6 short papers reflecting on the literary and scholarly relationship of Lewis and Tolkien, uncovering influence and even plagiarism (!), correcting or re-situating earlier descriptions of their relationship, pointing out their resistance to one another as well as their agreements, and tracing how their relationship continues to resonate in the history of literary scholarship, in studies of mythopoeic literature, and in the history of literary influence.

One Object: A Global Medieval Workshop

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Anna Klosowska (roberta2@miamioh.edu)
Coral Lumbley (clumbley@macalester.edu)

We invite proposals from medievalists to present one object that helps us re-think a facet of global medieval studies. We especially invite presentations that focus on critical theory (e.g. critical race, Native and Indigenous, trans/queer, and disability studies). The workshop entails 4-5 presentations (five minutes each) followed by 2-3 rounds of discussion (12 minutes each). Presenters should bring an object replica or stand-in. In your 200-word proposal, (1) describe your object/field; (2) give an example of how your object invites/teaches a facet of global medieval studies that needs to be re-thought, and (3) explain how/why your presentation advances critical studies.

"Out of sight, out of mind": Overlooked Populations in the Middle Ages

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Anna K Davis

While we implicitly acknowledge the existence of people on the margins of their societies, explicit exploration of their lives is difficult and hard to come by. In a time when governments are intentionally erasing acknowledgement of communities and peoples, work must be done to preserve the history of these groups. This session aims to challenge and expand our view of the Middle Ages by placing traditionally overlooked groups of peoples at the forefront, consciously exploring the lives of imprisoned, disabled, enslaved, cloistered, migrated, and other "unseen" people.

Out of Work: Infirmary in Cistercian and Monastic Culture (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Cistercian and Monastic Studies
Organizer: Jason R. Crow (Jason.crow@monash.edu)
Tyler Sergent (sergentf@berea.edu)

Central to daily life for Cistercian monks and nuns is an alternation between a life of work and of prayer. As Jean Leclercq noted, the two activities work in concert to lead the monastic to rest with God. How does the monastic who cannot labor fulfill the missing part of the alternation that contours and supports their vocation? This roundtable seeks to provide insight into how Cistercians and other monastics deal with age or infirmity, when either makes work difficult or impossible. Contributions exploring historical and contemporary approaches to overcoming or living with the infirmity in monastic settings are welcome.

Papers by Undergraduates: Open Call

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Richard Nicholas (rnicholas@stfrancis.edu)

This special session is reserved for undergraduate students to present the findings of their scholarly research in the various disciplines of medieval studies.

Papers by Undergraduates: Utilizing the Middle Ages Today

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Meeting of Michigan Medievalists
Organizer: Adam C. Matthews
Christopher Riedel

From environmental and public health crises to economic uncertainty and faltering institutions, today's college-age generation faces myriad challenges. Despite prominent premodern parallels for these difficulties, historical context is regularly omitted from media reports and policy debates. Sources from the Middle Ages reveal individuals and communities from this often-overlooked period grappling with challenges that resemble our own. This session calls for undergraduate reflections on what the interdisciplinary study of the Middle Ages can teach us about problem-solving in the present and the future.

Patterns of Language: Meaning, Metaphor, and Metalinguistics

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Society for Medieval Languages and Linguistics
Organizer: Andrew Troup (atroup@csu.edu)
Paul A. Johnston
Patricia Voichahoske Lehman

Students of medieval texts look into a different culture through the lens of language. They see words, phrases, and discourses different from their own. Learning to decipher and interpret these language elements is essential to understanding medieval texts. For this session, we invite papers that focus on the elements of language: vocabulary, phrase structure, metrical patterns, and so forth. All disciplinary approaches to language study—linguistic, literary, rhetorical, philosophical, etc.—are welcome.

Performing Faith in Romance Epics and Chivalric Romances

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Société Rencesvals, American-Canadian Branch
Organizer: Douglass Hamilton
Ana Grinberg (azg0090@auburn.edu)

The Société Rencesvals, American-Canadian Branch, invites proposals from scholars whose research brings into contact the study of Romance epics and chivalric romances and religious performativity. The ubiquity of devotional prayers and rituals, as well as discussions of spiritual matters (like conversion and apostasy), merits attention to consider how these poets understood and presented the performance of their faith—and of the non-Catholic faiths that their subjects (and perhaps they themselves) encountered—is our key concern in this session.

Performing Piety: Saints' Embodied Devotion and Devotion to Saints

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Hagiography Society
Organizer: Heidi Zmick (rav2pp@virginia.edu)

Bodily experiences often prompt moments of religious revelation in biographies of pre-modern holy figures. Scholars have long examined the devotional lives of holy people and the devotion of lay people to these holy people either during their lives or, more commonly, after their deaths. This panel promotes further examination of the embodied, emotional, physical devotional practices performed both by saints and by later devotees to holy figures. This may extend to actions done by holy figures, in the name of various saints/holy people, or as witnessed by them.

Picturing the Aldilà: Italian Last Judgments Revisited

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Italian Art Society
Organizer: Claire Jensen (claire.jensen@mail.utoronto.ca)
Alison Locke Perchuk (alison.perchuk@csuci.edu)

This session seeks papers that explore representations of the Last Judgment and related eschatological themes in Italy. Contributions may investigate unexpected iconographies, offer new thematic readings and approaches, or probe the didactic, theological, and political meanings of these works for specific patrons and audiences. Papers that focus on lesser-known regions, various media and materials, and the role of Italian models beyond the peninsula are especially welcome.

Player as Archaeologist

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Game Cultures Society
Organizer: Sarah J. Sprouse (ssprouse@wtamu.edu)

This session will consider the role of video games in teaching. With engines such as Unreal and Unity as well as the consultation of historians, games such “A Plague’s Tale” and the “Assassin’s Creed” franchise are more carefully realizing a medieval (and pseudo-medieval) past. These digital worlds offer a simulacrum of the past that draws attention to itself as a copy, affording a unique opportunity in classrooms. If we consider a player an archaeologist, how can a student’s navigation of the ‘medieval’, virtual space lead to unearthing details both factual and fictional? How can playing such games teach media literacy?

Playing the Medieval Manuscript

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Game Cultures Society
Organizer: Sarah J. Sprouse (ssprouse@wtamu.edu)

This session will explore ludic qualities of medieval manuscript culture, such as elements of play or representation of games in the production, consumption, preservation, or collection of manuscripts. Any approach that actively engages with manuscript culture is welcome, including art history, textual criticism, material culture, or other critical fields addressing the ludic.

Policing and Violence in the Premodern World (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Studies Institute, Indiana Univ., Goliardic Society
Organizer: Benjamin H. Hoover (bhhoover@iu.edu)

Globally, public consciousness of the violence embedded within policing practices has continued to increase. These anxieties surrounding the enforcement of the boundaries of belonging raise pertinent questions regarding community formation and communal/local histories as legitimizing such practices. The questions that this roundtable seeks to address are how do premodern texts identify or produce the boundaries of identity and place? How do the afterlives of premodern policing practices continue to reverberate today or in the more recent past? What might be gained, methodologically and heuristically, by attending to the practices and agents of institutional violence then and now?

Policing Identity in the Fourteenth Century

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: 14th Century Society
Organizer: Anna K Davis

The late Middle Ages saw the rise of a variety of methods of constraining identities, and in turn enabled the punishment of those who strayed outside those formalized lines. This session seeks to bring together papers that examine and problematize how institutions throughout the late Middle Ages sought to police people, welcoming papers that focus on the restriction and control of personal identity, be it social, legal, or religious. Topics can include but are not limited to the regulation of gender, the persecution of heretics, or the policing of Christian converts.

Political Medievalisms

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: International Society for the Study of Medievalism
Organizer: Michael R. Evans
Angela J. Weisl (angela.weisl@shu.edu)

Medievalism continues to play a significant role in the world of politics. This session seeks to reach beyond the many discussions of the Alt-Right to consider other forms of medievalisms in politics, including modern monarchies, real or imagined; the use of medievalism, new feudalism, and historical claims in labor and worker's rights movements; the Papal Conclave and election of Pope Leo XIV; medieval imagery, language, or claims in political campaigns; recollections of the medieval past in government's self-constructions or as justifications for actions, etc.

Political Outlaws and Politics of Outlawry

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: International Association for Robin Hood Studies (IARHS)
Organizer: Valerie B. Johnson

This panel invites presentations on Robin Hood texts, performances, artifacts, references and evocations that participate in the ongoing lively public discourse connecting medieval outlaws to politics, political figures or political moments. For centuries the Robin Hood tradition has been evoked as modern political capital, and in the past decade alone has appeared in French tax protests, British and Spanish supermarket thefts, and American healthcare claim adjustments. Outlawry has likewise been politicized, paradoxically lauded as integral to functional governments and societies. We encourage presenters to consider a range of potentially intersecting and comparative perspectives, whether period, discipline, genre, modality, etc.

Portrayals of Grief: Sorrow and Solace in Medieval Culture

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Taiwan Association of Classical, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies (TACMRS)
Organizer: Tzu-Yu Liu
Carolyn F. Scott (cscott@mail.ncku.edu.tw)

As one of the most powerful of emotions, grief generates a variety of responses, both from the grief-stricken and the observers of grief. Both individuals and communities can experience grief and develop methods for finding solace. Grief can be indulged, buried, shared, comforted, healed and/or ignored. Responses to grief can come from philosophers, theologians, writers, lawyers, artists, and musicians. This session will examine the variety of ways sorrow and solace are portrayed and responded to in medieval culture. History, literature, law, cultural studies, visual arts, music, philosophy, and theology as well as other perspectives are welcome approaches to this topic.

Precarious Reproduction: Black Feminist Approaches to Medieval Reproductivity and Embodiment (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: English Department, Temple Univ.
Organizer: Carissa M. Harris
Sarah Baechle

We invite short talks that consider how the Middle Ages entwines reproduction and precarity. How do medieval texts yoke reproductive (un)freedom to disadvantage? Under what conditions do medieval subjects experience compelled reproductive labor? According to what criteria does the Middle Ages envision reproductive sovereignty? We especially welcome meta-investigations considering how/why we center reproduction when examining gendered marginalization, or analyzing the role of the medieval in contemporary reproductive discourses. We encourage papers informed by Black feminist thought, including Jennifer Morgan on labor and value, Hortense Spillers's theorization of the flesh, or Loretta Ross's conceptualization of reproductive justice.

Problematic Love and Religiosity in Courtly Literature

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Courtly Literature Society (ICLS), North American Branch
Organizer: Davide Pafumi
Julie Human (julie.human@uky.edu)

This session examines how courtly literature stages the conflict or convergence of sacred and profane register, particularly where erotic desire adopts the language, posture, or affect of religious devotion. We are interested in papers that explore acts or tropes of blasphemy: moments when love mimics, parodies, or co-opts the divine. Examples include Chaucer's "Troilus and Criseyde," Gower's "Confessio Amantis," and De Meun and De Lorris' "Roman de la Rose," but we also welcome work on texts beyond the Anglophone and Francophone canon. We encourage comparative approaches and welcome studies on lesser-known literatures or authors that further complicate the sacred-profane binary.

Problematic Piety and Dastardly Devotion: The Dark Side of Iberian Hagiography

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Ibero-Medieval Association of North America (IMANA)
Organizer: Matthew V. Desing (mdesing@butler.edu)

Devils aren't the only darkness in hagiography and adjacent literary modes. At times, acts of piety cause problems for the object of devotion, the devotee, the religious institution, or even the structure of the narrative itself. This panel investigates the ways in which devotion goes wrong in the broad range of texts with hagiographic elements from the Iberian Middle Ages. The panel welcomes papers on literature from all religious traditions (Islam, Judaism, Christianity, for example), as well as those written in Latin, Hebrew, Arabic, Ibero-Romance languages and dialects, Aljamía, etc.

Problems in Late Antique and Medieval Latin Poetry

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library, Platinum Latin
Organizer: Danuta Shanzer
Nicole Eddy

We seek to ensure the presence of literary and philological Latinitas at the Zoo. We value the close study of texts in the original Latin. We also seek to promote the study of Latin by authors from late antiquity onwards through the later Middle Ages, both the "high" and the "low," the technical and the literary. All topics are considered from the theological and legal to the erotic. We are looking for 3 papers about Poetry for our second panel.

Problems in Late Antique and Medieval Latin Prose

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library, Platinum Latin
Organizer: Danuta Shanzer
Nicole Eddy

We seek to ensure the presence of literary and philological Latinitas at the Zoo. We value the close study of texts in the original Latin. We also seek to promote the study of Latin by authors from late antiquity onwards through the later Middle Ages, both the "high" and the "low," the technical and the literary. All topics are considered from the theological and legal to the erotic. We are looking for 3 papers about Prose for our first panel.

Problems in Translating from Latin

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: World Philology Union, Platinum Latin
Organizer: Danuta Shanzer
Nicole Eddy

We seek to ensure the presence of literary and philological Latinitas at the Zoo. We value philology and the close study of texts in the original. We promote the study of Latin by authors from late antiquity onwards through the later Middle Ages, both the "high" and the "low," the technical and the literary. All topics are considered from the theological and legal to the erotic. We are looking for papers about translating from Latin.

Procedural Medievalisms in Video Games

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program, Univ. of Arkansas–Fayetteville
Organizer: John Philip Cooper Plavcan (jpplavca@uark.edu)

For this panel, applicants should consider the participatory medievalisms within video games. Papers should focus not only on the aesthetic or narrative medievalisms within video games, but more importantly on the ways in which games attempt to recreate or represent a method of participating within a medieval world through engagement with game systems. For example, one may consider the racialization of ethnic groups within the framework of Bethesda's The Elder Scrolls series. Other such participatory elements could be through combat, spatial navigation, resource management, character growth, or any other method of participation that you may wish to focus on.

Prophecy and Divination in Medieval Chivalric Narratives

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Société Rencesvals, American-Canadian Branch
Organizer: Julio F. Hernando
Ana Grinberg (azg0090@auburn.edu)

The Société Rencesvals, American-Canadian Branch, invites proposals for papers exploring the role of prophecy and divination in medieval chivalric literature. This session will focus on prophetic and divinatory elements (dream interpretation, astrology, ornithomancy) shaping narrative structure, character development through prophets and magical advisors, and textual function in medieval chivalric texts in Romance languages. We welcome approaches that look into the intersection of Christian and non-Christian beliefs in prophetic traditions; the gendered dimensions of prophecy and divination (female visionaries or enchantresses); fate, free will, and foreknowledge in chivalric ideology; or the reception of classical and biblical prophecy in medieval romance.

Publishing in Cistercian and Monastic Studies (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Cistercian and Monastic Studies, Cistercian Publications
Organizer: Marsha L. Dutton (dutton@ohio.edu)
Tyler Sergent (sergentf@berea.edu)

This session is designed to demystify for the audience the process of publishing articles and books by offering assistance to junior scholars who plan to seek publication of their article or book manuscripts, including dissertations. It will also offer guidance to senior scholars who have been invited to edit a collection of articles into a book. A publisher and editor from Cistercian Publications, the editor of The American Benedictine Review, and two editors of collected essays in the Brill Companion series will speak about their role in publishing, their expectations for submitted manuscripts, and their means of interaction with authors.

Putting Together a Collected Essay Volume: Best Practices, Worst Mistakes (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Institute Publications, De Gruyter Brill
Organizer: Christopher Bellitto (cbellitt@kean.edu)

A roundtable featuring publishers, series and volume editors, and contributors of collected volumes will offer advice, particularly to newer scholars, on mistakes to avoid and best practices to craft proposals, gather and wrangle contributors, and bring the volume to a cohesive conclusion. A chair plus four roundtable participants will offer remarks of 5 minutes each, but the bulk of the time will be spent profitably in a Q&A with the audience. We will be in contact with other editors that we know will be in the exhibit hall and ask them to attend and offer advice during discussion, too.

Queer and Feminist Medievalisms in Tolkien's Legendarium

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Tolkien at Kalamazoo, Society for Queer and Trans Medieval Studies (SQTMS)
Organizer: Christopher Vaccaro (cvaccaro@uvm.edu)
Yvette Kisor (ykisor@ramapo.edu)

This session invites scholars to give critical attention to a host of important issues (gender, language, narrativity, sex, sexuality, and transgender identity/expression) in Tolkien's legendarium. Scholars could expressly draw connections from the medievalism of Tolkien's work back to earlier realizations of the medieval or to the medieval period itself. All essays should situate their investigations within the theoretical discourses of feminist and queer theories but could certainly explore intersections with class, race, religion, or other topics.

Queer Medieval: From Archive to Adaptation to Historicization

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for Queer and Trans Medieval Studies (SQTMS)
Organizer: Sarah Barringer
Felipe E. Rojas (felipe.rojas@westliberty.edu)

How do we respond to medieval texts that simultaneously celebrate and deride queerness and transness? In 2025, Lofty Durham and Wally Cornell adapted *Le Roman de Silence* for ICMS, altering the ending to celebrate Silence's transness. What is the value in adapting these texts to speak to modern politics versus historicizing the original story? When is it necessary to engage in Tavia Nyong'o's fabulations to reimagine and imagine the past? This panel seeks papers that engage with the question of how we talk about medieval queerness and transness, both broadly and with attention to specific texts.

Queer Studies and Occitan (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Société Guilhem IX
Organizer: Courtney Joseph Wells

For centuries, the Occitan lyric has been associated with love and sexual desire. As Simon Gaunt has shown, there is a strong tie between gender and genre in medieval French literature. In this roundtable, we invite contributions that push us to revisit notions of identity, affect, love, and gender in troubadour poetry (or other Occitan texts) through the lens of Queer Studies.

Queer Survivors: Texts and Teaching in Queer and Trans Medieval Studies

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for Queer and Trans Medieval Studies (SQTMS)
Organizer: Marisa J. English
Felipe E. Rojas (felipe.rojas@westliberty.edu)

‘Survival’ is at the core of Queer and Trans Medieval Studies; the texts and readings which survive, and the studies that reveal methods of survival, adaptation, and cultural inheritances in the medieval and the modern world. As Queer and Trans Studies come under new attacks and continued censorship, this panel encourages contributors to share strategies of survival and resistance rooted in medieval studies to support this academic community. Panelists might explore this idea of survival through multiple lenses, looking at medieval strategies of queer or Trans survival, contemporary teaching practices, textual survival, or even reparative readings across centuries.

Queer(ing) Medieval Art (1): Queer Spatiality

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Center of Medieval Art (ICMA)
Organizer: Kris N. Racaniello (kris.racaniello@gmail.com)
Erika Loic (eloic@fsu.edu)

This session seeks papers addressing the places and spaces where queer people moved, lived, died, bathed, and made. Where was medieval queerness practiced, resisted, felt out, negotiated, managed, materialized, forbidden, or visualized? How did class factor into creating and archiving queer space? Presenters might address how waterworks or textile architectures shaped queer identities and communities, discussing, for example, caravansaries, bathhouses, sex work and architectural boundaries, “unsettled” living or settlement rejection, burial settings, and explorations of the materials, construction methods, and iconographies that characterized or archived queer spaces. We particularly welcome papers with a secular/non-Christian focus and especially papers on lesbians/wlw.

Queer(ing) Medieval Art (2): New Queer Notations: Glimpses, Sketches, Fledgling Ideas

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Erika Loic (eloic@fsu.edu)
Kris N. Racaniello (kris.racaniello@gmail.com)

Fledgling ideas and reflections on queer(ing) medieval art often begin as glimpses and sketches. Scholars regularly set these “small” discoveries or field notes aside in the hopes of returning to them later or building them into larger, more formalized projects. This session of lightning talks (10–12 minutes) invites speakers to share in-progress research or potential new approaches to queer medieval studies, with the aim of fostering generative conversations and collaborations. We invite participants to return to those provocative, marginal, or fugitive pieces of visual and material culture they have yet to “solve.”

Queerness of Solitude (1): Gender, Queerness, and Enclosure

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Medieval Academy of America, International Anchoritic Society
Organizer: Michelle M. Sauer
Will Rogers

Medieval religious vocations that encouraged solitude were dependent upon structures that either enforce enclosure or on metaphorical constructions of such enforcement. Questions of sex, gender, and sexuality are deeply affected by these structures. This session invites any exploration of queerness and/or gender in the context of a monastic or otherwise enclosed setting, broadly defined. Potential avenues of exploration might include trans monks, asexual priests, chaste marriages, spiritual marriages, widowed monastics, etc. Papers could also explore the art, literature, and material objects associated with and within structural solitude, or the images contained within constructed solitude.

Queerness of Solitude (2): Sex, Gender, and Space in Mystical Literature

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Medieval Academy of America, International Anchoritic Society
Organizer: Michelle M. Sauer
Will Rogers

The mystic is often alone with God, enclosed either literally in a cell or monastery or metaphorically in a space such as the Side Wound or the Sacred Heart. This session invites any investigation of the principles of space, place, and spatial theory as it applies to medieval mystical literature written by and for enclosed solitaries and monastics, particularly that by or for enclosed women. Topics could include material reality (e.g., architecture, furnishings, etc.) or the mystic plane (e.g., sacred heart, heavenly city, etc.).

Reading Aloud in Old French and Middle French (A Workshop)

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Tamara Bentley Caudill

This interactive workshop will allow those who have studied Old French and Middle French to practice their pronunciation of these early forms of the language. Whether one teaches the texts and wishes to help students understand the evolution of the French language or only engages in literary and/or historical research, the ability to read aloud using pronunciation approximating that of the past enhances the scholar's engagement with any text. In the past, expert readers have explained, demonstrated, and lead the audience in the reading of romance, farce, chronicles, legal documents, hagiography, and more from the twelfth through the fourteenth century.

Reception of Foundational Cistercian Texts in Baroque Monastic Life

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Cistercian and Monastic Studies
Organizer: Alkuin Schachenmayr (nota@schachenmayr.net)
Tyler Sergent (sergentf@berea.edu)

We seek papers on the early modern (ca. 1600-1800) reception of Cistercian foundational texts. By examining (e.g.) library catalogs, baroque sermons, novitiate guidelines, and other handbooks, authors should show how baroque monastic life referenced “canonical” sources in establishing norms for monastic behavior and role models for Cistercian identity. This session seeks to define a medieval Cistercian canon and show how that patrimony was communicated to early modern monks and nuns.

Reception of the Classics Lecture

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Endowed in memory of Archibald Cason Edwards, Senior, and Sarah Stanley Gordon Edwards
Organizer: David E. Kutzko

The Reception of the Classics in the Middle Ages lecture at the 61st International Congress on Medieval Studies will be given by David Gura (Univ. of Notre Dame) and is titled "Classical Poetry and Medieval Commentary: The Textual Archaeology of a Genre." The Reception of the Classics Lecture is endowed in memory of Archibald Cason Edwards, Senior, and Sarah Stanley Gordon Edwards.

Reclusion and Space, Maps, and Roads

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: International Anchoritic Society
Organizer: Michelle M. Sauer
Aimee A. Galloway

This panel would like to explore how space is created and utilized by those in the reclusive lifestyle. Additionally, the panel would like to explore how those from the surrounding community interacted with the recluse and their space. This could include how roads and maps were utilized and shaped the vocation. How does pilgrimage come into this? What types of maps were crafted (virtual, visual, experiential, etc.)?

Reconsidering the Intellect/Affect Debate in Nicholas of Cusa and His Contemporaries

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: American Cusanus Society, Society for Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy
Organizer: Erin Risch Zoutendam (erin.zoutendam@shu.edu)

Medieval debates over the relation of the intellect and affect have often been framed in terms of a rigid binary between intellectualism and voluntarism, which can obscure the complexity and variety of medieval thought. With his involvement in the Tegernsee debate, Nicholas of Cusa made a major contribution to the debate, taking up intellectualist position. But recent scholarship has suggested that Cusanus had a greater role for the affect than has been acknowledged. This panel aims to reconsider the intellect-affect question among Cusanus and his contemporaries in order to cast new light on the complexities of an old debate.

Reconstruction in Medieval Architecture

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Tori Schmitt

Contrary to initial assumption, most medieval buildings are, in their composition, hardly medieval at all. Repaired and restored for several centuries if not millennia, the majority of what a modern-day visitor sees could scarcely be considered original to the first iteration of the site. While the recent rebuilding of Notre-Dame in Paris has generated broader awareness of this material reality, reconstruction as a topic remains understudied within the field. This session welcomes papers that take up case studies of reconstruction, be they medieval or modern, as well as papers engaged with reconstruction as a method of research or preservation.

Reengaged Learning: Pedagogy and Teaching the Medieval

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Association of the Midwest (MAM)
Organizer: Emily Redman (redmanee@grace.edu)

This session welcomes papers that showcase innovative teaching approaches that re-engage student and learners of all kinds, performative teaching and performance learning, body engagement, immersive classroom activities, student project choices, or teaching strategies that engage the whole student---through the senses, holistic engagement, or other integrative approaches. Papers should focus on “teaching the teachers,” so that session attendees come away with inspiring and innovative implementable methods for teaching the medieval literature, medieval history, or medieval studies classroom. Special consideration will be given for crossdisciplinarity approaches, hands-on activities, out of the traditional classroom, or “playful” approaches.

Reformation (1): Global and Transnational Perspectives in the Long Reformation

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Society for Reformation Research
Organizer: Maureen Thum (mthum@umich.edu)

The Society for Reformation Research invites proposals for 20-minute papers on the Long Reformation. We welcome cross-disciplinary, cross-cultural, and multimedia papers in history, literature, science, and the arts.

Reformation (2): Speaking Out: Writers, Printers, Preachers, Activists in the Long Reformation

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Society for Reformation Research
Organizer: Maureen Thum (mthum@umich.edu)

The Society for Reformation Research invites proposals for 20-minute papers on the Long Reformation. We welcome cross-disciplinary, cross-cultural, and multimedia papers in history, literature, science, and the arts.

Reformation (3): Betwixt and Between: Social, Political, and Religious Transformations in the Long Reformation

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Society for Reformation Research
Organizer: Maureen Thum (mthum@umich.edu)

The Society for Reformation Research invites proposals for 20-minute papers on the Long Reformation. We welcome cross-disciplinary, cross-cultural, and multimedia papers in history, literature, science, and the arts.

Reformation (4): Reformation Precursors, Outcomes, Aftermaths

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Society for Reformation Research
Organizer: Maureen Thum (mthum@umich.edu)

The Society for Reformation Research invites proposals for 20-minute papers on the Long Reformation. We welcome cross-disciplinary, cross-cultural, and multimedia papers in history, literature, science, and the arts.

Reframing the Medieval North: Method, Memory, and Materiality

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Network for Early Career Researchers in Old Norse (NECRON)
Organizer: Raenelda Rivera

Recent methodological innovations in Old Norse studies have drawn from various disciplines to pose urgent questions about voice, embodiment, environment, and text. Such approaches have not replaced, but rather expanded, traditional scholarly strengths—offering new tools for rethinking the nature of texts, memory construction, and interactions between people, places, and things. How we study the past is inseparable from what we find there. We welcome abstracts which address what materialist approaches reveal about agency, how digital tools help model networks of power and transmission, and how critical engagements revise understanding of the medieval North as a lived and imagined space.

Regardless of "Regardless of Sex": Other Approaches to Queer and Trans in the Medieval North

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for Queer and Trans Medieval Studies (SQTMS), Network for Early Career Researchers in Old Norse (NECRON)
Organizer: Holly McArthur (hmcArthur@wisc.edu)
Raenelda Rivera
Raenelda Rivera

This session invites papers that critically reflect how we analyze and discuss queer and trans themes in the medieval North. Carol Clover's "Regardless of Sex" (1993) has cast a long shadow, but our methodologies have since evolved. This panel will foreground approaches to queer and trans studies other than Clover's honor-scale gender model, inviting others into the discussion of gender and sexuality using the more nuanced approaches which are now guiding the field. We welcome proposals for novel methodological interventions.

Religious Medievalisms

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures (JMRC)
Organizer: Jessica Barr

Recent scholarship dedicated to medievalism has generated exciting new connections between traditional avenues of medieval studies and contemporary fields, from media studies to ecocriticism and fan fiction. One avenue of this new mode of inquiry, however, remains somewhat less theorized and investigated in recent scholarship: the role of medieval religious culture as it intersects with medievalism. This panel seeks to address this lack of scholarship by providing a location for the consideration of the religious turn as it relates to medievalism, and aims to shed new light on medieval religious culture and the medieval within religious cultures today.

Remembering the Middle Ages: Memories of the Medieval across Time and Space (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Association for the Advancement of Scholarship and Teaching of the Medieval in Popular Culture, International Arthurian Society, North American Branch (IAS/NAB)
International Association for Robin Hood Studies (IARHS)
Organizer: Michael A. Torregrossa
Siân Echard (sian.echard@ubc.ca)
Alexander L. Kaufman (alkaufman@bsu.edu)

Heather Arden claims that medievalisms manifest as the “survival, revival, or re-creation” of aspects of the Middle Ages. These works display the continued importance in how the era is viewed and shape a unique relationship with those who restore and/or participate in them. In this co-sponsored session, we seek to ally scholars of popular culture and medievalisms along with those who study the legendary traditions of the Matter of Britain and the Matter of the Greenwood to share new and neglected works that highlight the many ways we remember the Middle Ages and have restored it to life.

Reorienting Book History in the Curriculum (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Bibliographical Society of America, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale Univ.
Organizer: Gina Marie Hurley
Katherine Storm Hindley
Agnieszka Rec

How do we design book history or manuscript studies courses that engage students in the study of material text while developing critical transferable skills? This roundtable invites speakers to share their approach to semester-long book history or manuscript studies courses, focusing on the organizing principles that govern these courses. What are the drawbacks and affordances of a chronological survey? How might questions of genre, format, and theme suggest alternative organizing principles? How does the chosen organization of a course support different types of skill acquisition? Speakers will share their course structure and reflect on its contribution to student understanding.

Researching Saints and Hagiography, with Some New Tricks for Old Dogs (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Hagiography Society
Organizer: Laura Ackerman Smoller

How does one begin to research the lives and cults of medieval saints? Even long-time scholars may find themselves in need of a tune-up on new resources or on the latest iteration of old standbys. The organizer invites presenters for a hands-on roundtable/workshop introducing experienced and novice researchers to the major databases and finding aids for investigating sanctity, hagiography, and canonizations in the Middle Ages. Ideally, panelists would demonstrate old standards like the *Bibliotheca Hagiographica Latina*, as well as newer digital tools for investigating saints' lives, liturgical celebrations, miracle collections, canonization processes, and other relevant sources in manuscript and print.

Rethinking the Brut

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Society for International Brut Studies
Organizer: Kenneth Tiller (kjt9t@uvawise.edu)

This session calls for papers that examine new findings in Brut manuscripts and / or reconceptualize the way Brut texts are categorized and understood. We welcome papers that seek to reshape and reformulate accepted taxonomies and genealogies of Brut manuscripts in prose and in verse. This session will highlight recent scholarship on Brut manuscripts, considering recent archival discoveries of Brut and Arthurian texts, and further our understanding of what constitutes a Brut. The session seeks to shed further light on the value of codicological studies of Brut texts and on the understanding of how medieval history was recorded and circulated.

Revealing the Hidden: A Conversation about Multispectral Imaging of Medieval Artifacts

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Juilee Decker (jdgsh@rit.edu)
Roger L. Easton (rlepci@rit.edu)
David Messinger (dwmpci@rit.edu)

Cultural heritage imaging uses advanced imaging systems to study artifacts, revealing previously invisible features to enhance our knowledge of them. Recent advances in multispectral image (MSI) capture systems and processing software have expanded the reach of this technology in the past 5 years, simplifying the systems to enhance ease of use and broaden their reach. This roundtable seeks to bring medieval scholars, humanists, and imaging practitioners together to discuss these advances as well as to present examples and case studies of the impact multispectral imaging is having on the field. Curricular development efforts using MSI will also be discussed.

Revenge in the Arthurian Tradition

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Arthurian Society, North American Branch (IAS/NAB)
Organizer: Dorsey Armstrong (sarmstr@purdue.edu)
Siân Echard (sian.echard@ubc.ca)

From its beginnings, the Arthurian tradition has been deeply concerned with matters of revenge, retribution, and justice. Acts of addressing instances of treachery and wrongdoing, to acts of adulterous betrayal, to the insolent challenge from Rome, to the betrayal of Morgan le Fay—revenge is a driving force of the Arthurian project. This session seeks papers engaging the full range of representations of revenge, vengefulness, and retribution in the Arthurian tradition—acts that are sometimes destructive, and at other times, work to redress wrongs and restore justice and equilibrium to the Arthurian community. We welcome submissions from all academic disciplines.

Revisiting Reception: The Twenty-First Century Libro de buen amor

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Ibero-Medieval Association of North America (IMANA)
Organizer: Paul E. Larson
Matthew V. Desing (mdesing@butler.edu)

The reception of LBA is a problematic, and critics have been stumped by its hyperbolic and ironic content, obsessing over its structure and meaning. Yet, the collection of poems defies easy categorization and does not seem to focus on any one subject as it roams through a variety of genres, forms, and poetic styles, never landing anywhere in particular. Perhaps now is the time to redefine how we read this work in a post-structuralist literary milieu. Given the wide variety of genres and forms, how does one begin to organize this chaos, or better yet, should we?

Revisiting Sir Perceval/Percyvell of Galles (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Usha Vishnuvajjala (vishnuvu@newpaltz.edu)

Sir Percyvell of Galles has received far less scholarly attention than Ywain and Gawain, the other extant Middle English adaptation of Chrétien de Troyes. Recent and ongoing work examines the poem's mothers (Martin), biblical references (Radulescu), representation of aristocracy (Schiff), humor (Eckhardt) and parody (Echard). This session seeks to reopen a discussion of the poem's place in both Middle English and Arthurian studies by inviting short papers on the text, its place in the Lincoln Thornton manuscript, its composition, its status as an adaptation, and other aspects of its relationship to literary or material culture or scholarly conversations.

(Re)Visiting the Reel/Un-Reel Middle Ages: Pathways to Furthering Research on Medievalisms on Screen (A Roundtable)

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Association for the Advancement of Scholarship and Teaching of the Medieval in Popular Culture, International Arthurian Society, North American Branch (IAS/NAB)
International Society for the Study of Medievalism
Organizer: Michael A. Torregrossa
Siân Echard (sian.echard@ubc.ca)
Scott Manning (scottmanning13@gmail.com)

In 1999, Kevin J. Harty published *The Reel Middle Ages: American, Western and Eastern European, Middle Eastern and Asian Films About Medieval Europe*. We owe Harty a great debt and must combine efforts to update and expand his work. The concept of the "reel" Middle Ages remains valid, but the corpus has grown. The field has also embraced a wider range of texts including television programming in general, electronic games, and streaming media. Furthermore, we must also consider examples of the "un-reel" Middle Ages: medieval stories or themes reset into post-medieval times as well as fantasies set in medieval-like worlds.

Revolutionary Saints

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Hagiography Society
Organizer: Maeve Callan

On All Saints' Day 2022, Pope Francis declared the saints "true revolutionaries," and revolutions throughout Christian history attest to the power of saintly devotion. Whether it be the Virgin Mary inspiring the 1791 Haitian revolution or Hans Böhm's 1476 uprising at Niklashausen, Thomas Aquinas's view that the needy have a moral right to take from the wealthy or Thomas Becket's repeated refusals to comply with a secular ruler's abuses of power, the saints reflect revolution and remind us of our own power to resist. This session invites paper proposals that examine connections between medieval saints and revolution, broadly defined.

Richard Rawlinson Center Lecture

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Richard Rawlinson Center
Organizer: Jana K. Schulman (jana.schulman@wmich.edu)

Royal Pageantry, Performing Coronation, and the Spectacle of Kingship: A Session in Memory of Gordon Kipling

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society (MRDS)
Organizer: Frank M. Napolitano (fnapolitano@radford.edu)

We see nationalist and far-right politics leaning into pomp and circumstance in the US and around the world. Ceremony, costume, and all-things gaudy have come to signify "royalty" and power. The MRDS welcomes abstracts for papers considering the functions of royal pageantry in early performance, particularly in conversation with this present reemergence. In particular, we hope for papers engaging Gordon Kipling's seminal *Enter the King* (1998). How do early performances—drama, dance, or otherwise—use pageantry to evoke nationalist ideologies? How do these performances speak to current iterations of such ideologies?

Rules of the Game (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Game Cultures Society
Organizer: Sarah J. Sprouse (ssprouse@wtamu.edu)

One of the fundamentals of cultural game theory, as initially outlined by Johan Huizinga in his foundational *Homo Ludens*, is a six-part definition of game, i.e. the rules of the game. Yet the past has found this very issue to be a continuing scholarly and theoretical controversy with scholars from multiple disciplines considering "what exactly is a game?" And even more importantly, "what are the rules of the game?" This session seeks proposals from a variety of theoretical perspectives, considering the rules of both medieval and modern games, as well as their social and cultural significance.

Rupture and Resilience in the Late Byzantine City

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art and Culture
Organizer: Ethan Schmidt
Brandie Ratliff (mjebac@hchc.edu)

This panel frames the Late Byzantine city as a space in which ritual practice, religion, and literary imagination interact with and overlay the landscape. Such an approach invites us to ask new questions concerning urban identity, and the creation and contestation of civic memory within the unsettled world of the late medieval Mediterranean. In highlighting the strategies adopted by Byzantine communities, the panel will bring together complementary methodological perspectives. Panelists will draw on texts and images to examine how cohesion and resilience were fostered in times of political turmoil and social polarization within Late Byzantine urban environments.

Sacred Music, Liturgy, and Performance: In Memory of William Mahrt

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Musicology at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Innocent Smith
Melanie Batoff
Suzanna Feldkamp

This session honors Bill Mahrt (1939–2025), a respected musicologist and practitioner of Catholic music, who frequently presented papers at ICMS. Given his research interests, we welcome papers that examine the relationship between sacred music and liturgical rites or actions in the medieval Catholic liturgy, and papers exploring how music helped to shape the liturgy. Presenters can discuss monophonic and/or polyphonic music. Papers on Gregorian chant that analyze the melodies and/or investigate text/music relationships are also encouraged. We are eager to include participants who will sing their musical examples, as Dr. Mahrt did, but this is not required.

"Sad Bois" of the Middle Ages

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS), Univ. of North Carolina–Chapel Hill
Organizer: Lindsay Ragle-Miller

This panel explores the “medieval sad boy” as a figure through which sorrow, longing, and vulnerability are expressed in literature, art, and devotional life. Rather than assuming biological maleness, the panel examines how medieval texts construct and complicate masculinities, opening space for diverse gendered voices. By engaging contemporary frameworks of masculinity and affect, the panel offers timely insights into how emotional expression is shaped by cultural norms. In doing so, it highlights the historical complexity of gendered emotion and contributes to current conversations about masculinity, vulnerability, and mental health across time.

Saintly and Kingly Authority in Global Comparison: From Frankish Europe to the Middle East and East Asia

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Christian B Pye (blake.pye@utexas.edu)
Quan Gan (ucraqg@utexas.edu)

This session seeks papers concerning the nature of authority across regions and cultures. It asks: Why, in the global medieval, saintly and kingly authority (broadly conceived) often mirror one another in terms of description and function? Does the union of these authorities support centralization of political power and absolutism and, if so, how? What role does ritual play in supporting claims of authority and creating hierarchical relationships when the effective bureaucratic and military power of the “state” or “regime” is limited? How is the authority of the saint/sultan challenged by the necessity to intermeditate with other social groups?

Saints and the Environment

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Hagiography Society
Organizer: Laura Ackerman Smoller

Saints' lives and miracle collections represent a relatively untapped source for the study of environmental history, and yet they offer rich glimpses of humans' various relationships with the natural world. This panel will explore interactions between saints and the natural environment as portrayed in hagiography, miracle collections, canonization processes, liturgy, and art. Topics might include the weather (including evidence of unsettled weather related to climate change), agricultural pests, settlements in new lands, the wilderness, and animals. Submissions utilizing ecocriticism and animal studies are strongly encouraged, as well as those focusing more on a hagiographical angle.

Saints as Signature: Hagiography and the Cultivation of Identity in the Middle Ages

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Emmaleigh Anita Huston (eah22@fsu.edu)

Looking to reexamine hagiography as a dynamic medium of identity construction in the medieval world? Look no further! This session seeks to explore how saints' lives functioned as tools for expressing gender, social, and personal identities (etc.). In an era increasingly attuned to questions of representation and agency, this panel's focus on the complexity of identity in medieval works will bring fresh insight to hagiographic studies and open interdisciplinary dialogue.

Saints' Lives as Living Works: Editing and Editorial Practices

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Hagiography Society
Organizer: Amy V. Ogden

Editions of medieval texts are fundamental to much of our scholarship, but the work of editing is frequently not given equal value in considerations for hiring or promotion and tenure. Editing can also become an isolated effort. Consequently, modern, accessible editions of saints' Lives in many language traditions are lacking. This session aims to contribute to the recognition of editorial work as intellectual labor and to the building of community among editors (and sharing of new practices and technologies), and to encourage younger scholars to incorporate editorial work into their scholarship throughout their careers.

Scandinavian Studies

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies
Organizer: Shaun F. D. Hughes (sfdh@purdue.edu)

Papers on all aspects of West and East Norse medieval are invited for the open session, Scandinavian Studies. This includes but is not confined to, papers on literary, historical, and archaeological topics.

Scholar, Mentor, Friend: A Roundtable in Honor of Michael Lower

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Center for Premodern Studies, Univ. of Minnesota–Twin Cities
Organizer: Michelle M. Hamilton (hamilton@umn.edu)
Ann E Zimo

This roundtable is in honor of Michael Lower, an accomplished historian of the Crusades and the medieval Mediterranean world, whose untimely death cut short a life and a career in its prime. Papers will explore the impact of Lower's career and scholarship on the fields in which he worked.

Scribes and Scripts: Medieval Roots of Tolkien's Writing Systems

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Tolkien at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Christopher Vaccaro (cvaccaro@uvm.edu)
Yvette Kisor (ykisor@ramapo.edu)

We invite scholars, researchers, and enthusiasts to delve into the fascinating connections between the medieval world and the scripts of Middle-earth. Potential topics include, but are not limited to: paleographical parallels, such as examining visual similarities and structural resonances between medieval scripts (e.g., runes, Insular script, Carolingian minuscule, Gothic script) and Tolkien's invented alphabets. Other topics include: scribal culture and practices, the materiality of writing language, evolution and script development, the role of ornamentation and illumination, medieval cryptography and secret scripts, the literary and linguistic functions of script, and Tolkien's academic writings and lectures.

"Sed ad ludum properamus": Leisure in the Middle Ages

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Goliardic Society
Organizer: Emily Schuhl Brown

In the popular imagination, the Middle Ages are often presented as a dull time of drudgery and strict piety. This session attempts to highlight the aspects of joy, fun, play and leisure that are often overlooked, as well as the implications (social, cultural, religious, political, etc.) of having a good time. We welcome approaches from all disciplines, including history, literary studies, art history, and religious studies. This session encourages submissions from scholars of any level of experience, including graduate students and early career scholars. The focus of this panel is on any geographic area from 500-1500 CE.

Session in Honor of William "Bill" Clark

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: AVISTA: The Association Villard de Honnecourt for the Interdisciplinary Study of Medieval Technology, Science, and Art
Organizer: Robert Bork
Rebecca Avery Smith (rasmith7@waketech.edu)

We invite papers celebrating the life and work of William "Bill" Clark, Gothic architectural historian and founding member of AVISTA. In addition to his significant contributions on the historiography and methodology for medieval art history, Bill Clark wrote extensively on twelfth- and thirteenth-century architecture and sculpture at sites including the Abbey of Saint Denis, Notre Dame in Paris, and the cathedrals of Laon and Reims. Papers responding to Bill's research or reflecting on Bill's legacy as mentor, professor, and collaborator are welcome.

Settler Medievalism: Ideology and Practice

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Sarah LaVoy-Brunette (sfl39@cornell.edu)
Brenna Duperron (brenna.duperron@dal.ca)

The (re)imagining of the medieval has a long-standing political impulse across both White nationalism and settler-colonial ideology. Helen Young and Stephanie Downes note that politics embedded in popular medievalism radicalizes audiences who "would not engage in political manifestos." However, this settler medievalism appears across political manifestos and popular medievalism: Thomas Jefferson evoked the Middle Ages to justify a homogenous White America. George W. Bush and Adolf Hitler cosplayed as a medieval knight or crusader in propaganda images. This panel considers the overlap between settler ideology and medievalism. How has medievalism been evoked and/or twisted into a political tool?

Sex, Monsters, and Speech Acts: Performative Speech in Medieval Romance

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Speech Act Society
Organizer: Alexander Vaughan Ames

In recent years, an increasing amount of scholarship has addressed an increasingly wide variety of medieval literary texts written in various languages using aspects of pragmatic linguistics including performative language. Yet, certain genres common to literatures of numerous medieval languages, including romance, have received comparatively little scholarly attention concerning the generic function(s) of performative language therein. This session will feature papers employing aspects of pragmatic linguistics (e.g. speech act theory) to examine the role(s) of linguistic performance to the verbal behaviors of characters common to medieval romances of various types and linguistic traditions (e.g. quest knights, courtly ladies, supernatural antagonists).

Sharpening the Dull: Reexamining the Fifteenth Century on Its Own Merits

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Lydgate Society
Organizer: Matthew Evan Davis (matthew@matthewedavis.net)

Despite the re-examination of the fifteenth century the period is still often seen as bookended by Chaucer and Shakespeare, and treated with one or the other in mind. This does a profound disservice to authors such as Lydgate, Gower, and Bokenham who are doing interesting work on their own merits. As such, the Lydgate society would like to invite papers examining work by any author of the fifteenth century, with a focus on how that work both acts upon and reacts to the period of its composition rather than in relation to authors and editors that came before or after.

Show Us How You Game with Your Students

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: UNICORN Castle
Organizer: Carol P. Jamison

This virtual poster session will explore how we use games to enhance student engagement with and understanding of the Middle Ages and medievalism. Posters can present highlights from effective classroom use of various types of games, including board games, role-playing games, and virtual games. This session can explore how gaming enhances classes taught in various delivery modes, including face-to-face, hybrid, and online asynchronous courses.

Silences in Christine de Pizan

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: International Christine de Pizan Society, North American Branch
Organizer: Charles-Louis Morand-Métivier (cmorandm@uvm.edu)
Julia A. Nephew

Christine de Pizan wrote extensively on a wide range of subjects in various genres. But what about Christine's silences? What can be said about topics she does not voice, or people she does not talk about? We invite papers addressing the subject of silences in Christine's works, specifically what she avoids and how she chooses not to discuss specific events. We are also interested in the silences surrounding Christine. Did contemporary writers ignore her? Is she absent from important topics or discussions? This panel is open to all interpretations or analyses of Christine's works, from literary, religious, and historical approaches.

SMFS Best First Book in Medieval Feminist Studies Roundtable: Visualizing Household Health: Medieval Women, Art, and Knowledge in the "Régime du corps", by Jennifer Borland

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship (SMFS)
Organizer: Virginia Blanton (blantonv@umkc.edu)

We propose a roundtable of 5-6 scholars to reflect on the interdisciplinary value of Jennifer Borland's prize-winning book, *Visualizing Household Health: Medieval Women, Art, and Knowledge in the Régime du corps*, Winner of the 2024 Best First Book of Feminist Scholarship on the Middle Ages Award from the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship. In studying several of the illuminated copies of the hugely popular *Régime du corps*, a thirteenth-century manual on medicine, Borland demonstrates that gender and health care converged within the medieval household.

Sneaking the Medieval into Everything (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Lone Medievalist
Organizer: Kisha G. Tracy (ktracy3@fitchburgstate.edu)

Medievalists often find themselves pursuing their passion without extensive administrative or organizational support. The general challenges faced by the Humanities in recent years have merely intensified the long-standing status of medieval studies as a "fringe" discipline rarely accorded the institutional spotlight. And so we learn to live and thrive on creativity. Instead of waiting our turn, we create our own opportunities by using indirect means to feature the Middle Ages in our teaching, planning, organizing, curating, writing, and public outreach. This roundtable will invite participants to open their bag of tricks and share their strategies for "sneaky medieval studies."

So What? Medieval Studies in a Messy Now (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Arthuriana
Organizer: Arielle C. McKee (mckeea@wfu.edu)

This roundtable discussion aims to identify and tackle challenges for public-facing work, to consider how and why we might "care" about the Middle Ages, and to build bridges of curiosity, creativity, and transhistorical potentiality. Submissions might discuss the potentials of the public humanities for teaching and research; explore various outreach efforts (like high school "Medieval Days"); consider why, as existential threats abound, Medieval Studies and the study of medievalism matter; or investigate the revolutionary or advocacy-focused potentials of the medieval, broadly defined.

Solitude and Consumption (A Roundtable)

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: International Anchoritic Society
Organizer: Michelle M. Sauer

This session will focus on discussing how solitude leads to the desire to consume: not just in a gluttonous sense, but also in connection to lust and other sinful acts (e.g., gossiping at the anchorage window). Solitude is a key element within anchoritic and monastic vows; however, with solitude comes absence and desire. This roundtable would like to explore the different types of consumption that are occurring within spaces of solidarity and seclusion, including excessive longing for the Eucharist, defying Rules about consumption of food and/or sharing food, excessive drinking, even in a spiritual sense, etc.

Sound, Silence, Voice, and Ventriloquism in Joan of Arc's Life and Legacy

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Joan of Arc Society / Société Internationale de l'étude de Jeanne d'Arc
Organizer: Scott Manning (scottmanning13@gmail.com)
Tara Beth Smithson (tsmithson@saintmarys.edu)

Joan of Arc has long been a muse to musicians, inspiring operas (Verdi, Tchaikovsky) musicals (Goodtime Charley) sung mystery plays (Claudel & Honneger), ballads (Leonard Cohen, Arcade Fire) and pop culture parodies such as the rap battle between Miley Cyrus and the Maid. Her story has also been powerfully related *en muet* in early silent films. This panel investigates the “sound effects” of Joan’s story, considering the roles of music, speech, silence, voices, and voiceover.

Sourcing the Early English Homilies

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Sources of Old English and Anglo-Latin Literary Culture Project (SOEALLC)
Organizer: Benjamin D. Weber
Brandon W. Hawk
Amity Reading (amityreading@depauw.edu)

Due to their clear genre conventions and generally wide circulation—not to mention the vast size of homiletic corpora—homilies present a specific challenge to source critics. This session invites papers which discuss the ways in which source criticism can enrich our understanding of homilies in early medieval England. Participants might offer new arguments about sources for particular homilies, consider the methodological challenges of working with homiletic corpora, or discuss how manuscript circulation complicates the project of identifying source relationships. We also welcome papers that consider homilies as sources, or that consider the reception of homilies beyond the Norman Conquest.

Spinning Wool with Medieval Tools and Techniques: A Hands-on Workshop

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Duluth Interdisciplinary Chirographic Technology Association (DICTA)
Organizer: Liz Hebbard
Krista Twu

In the vein of recent rising interest in experimental archeology and engaged research practices and pedagogies, the proposed session offers a workshop on medieval methods for working with natural fibers in preparation for a variety of applications (weaving, embroidery, tapestry, and clothing production). During the workshop, attendees will have the chance to examine medieval tools for spinning wool in both modern replica objects and medieval illuminations, and to learn to spin wool using premodern tools and methods: drop spindles, distaffs, and roving (fiber prepared for spinning). All materials will be provided by the co-organizers.

Spirituality and Premodern Computing

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Will Fitzgerald (william.a.fitzgerald@wmich.edu)
Michael Tanoff (m.tanoff8128@gmail.com)

How did people in medieval societies use computations and algorithms to engage with the divine? This session explores spiritual use of premodern computing, such as the computus, divinatory zairja and the ars combinatoria of Llull, labyrinths, magic squares, and the numerological ordering of the cosmos. We invite presentations examining the design, use, and symbolic meaning of computational and algorithmic artifacts in medieval Christian, Jewish, and Islamic traditions used for spiritual purposes. These include practices such as ritual ordering, contemplation and prayer, memorialization, and evangelization. We also invite papers on the history of disenchantment (and possible re-enchantment) of these methods.

Stealth Medievalists: How We Can Bring Medieval Studies to the Broader Curriculum (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Jan Blaschak (eb7549@wayne.edu)

Are you struggling to bring your passion for medieval studies to a "non-medieval" classroom? We welcome proposals discussing ways you can fold, perhaps even sneak, medieval studies into the curriculum for any class you teach.

Sticks and Stones: Runes and Crosses in the Medieval English Landscape

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Chancery Hill Books, Richard Rawlinson Center
Organizer: Thomas A. Bredehoft (tabrede@gmail.com)

Runesticks/runestaves; letters (= OE 'stafas' = 'staves, staffs') as sticks; runes named after trees; stone monuments designed to look like trees (crosses); runes on stones. This panel will feature papers that explore trees and stones as features of the textual landscapes of medieval England and/or the productive tensions or curious ironies that link textual tree-metaphors (such as those listed here) and monumental stonework. Papers on the theme that address Ogham or Norse runes are also of interest.

Stories Matter: Papers in Honor of Patricia E. Grieve

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Ibero-Medieval Association of North America (IMANA)
Organizer: Emily C. Francomano
Robin M. Bower

In her 2009 *The Eve of Spain: Myths of Origins in the History of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Conflict*, Patricia E. Grieve writes, "Stories are not supplemental to life but are central to life's meaning," pinpointing her sustained interest in the cultural power of stories told and retold over time to suit shifting audiences and historical contexts. Seeking papers reflecting upon how Grieve's scholarship elucidating the intersections of desire, mythmaking, politics, and poetics in Iberian literature and history and how her generous mentorship helped shape the research and professional lives of her former mentees.

Studies in Old Saxon

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Old Saxon at Kalamazoo, Old Saxon at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Larry Swain (larry.swain@bemidjistate.edu)

This session seeks abstracts examining any aspect of Old Saxon literature or language. We are especially interested in 1) the relationship between Old Saxon and Old English literature; 2) the rhetorical choices in the texts as reflected in the relationships between them and their sources; 3) the aesthetics of the texts as reflected in how the poet's metrical and stylistic choices compare with those of contemporary Old Germanic writers; 4) the evidence for cultural exchange represented in the linguistic data.

Stupid Sexy Sauron: Interpretations of Tolkien's Medieval Villainy

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Tolkien at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Yvette Kisor (ykisor@ramapo.edu)
Christopher Vaccaro (cvaccaro@uvm.edu)

This panel seeks papers that explore the various ways in which Tolkien's villains have been interpreted, depicted, and reimagined across literature, film, television, video games, and fan culture. We invite contributions that engage with the following themes, though submissions are not limited to them: Medieval Villainy and Mythic Archetypes, especially how Tolkien's villains fit within the medieval tradition of villainous figures. What elements of *The Lord of the Rings* reflect a more traditional, mythic interpretation of villainy? Other possible themes: Film and Media Adaptations, Fan Culture and Interpretations, Power and Corruption, Queering Sauron, and A Variety of Villains.

Tapestries of Africa in Medieval Iberia (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: La corónica: A Journal of Medieval Hispanic Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
Organizer: Michelle M. Hamilton (hamilton@umn.edu)
Isidro J. Rivera (ijrivera@ku.edu)

This roundtable celebrates the publication of the *Black Timescapes: Tapestries of Africa in Premodern Iberia* special issue of *La corónica*, guest edited by Nicholas R. Jones (vol. 52.1). Scholars are invited to join a conversation exploring the temporal mutability, remixing, and shifting of the meaning and codification of Africa, its cultures, ecologies, and inhabitants in premodern Iberia.

Teaching and Learning in Medieval Manuscripts and/or Books

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Early Book Society
Organizer: Martha W. Driver (mdriver@pace.edu)

Medieval education, whether in Latin or the vernacular, is the focus of this session. Papers might consider the production of schoolbooks, student notebooks, even courtesy books, as guides to the correct use of language, literary or classical learning, and proper behavior. Along with grammars by John Stanbridge, Robert Whittinton, John of Garland, Donatus, and John Holt, works like Lydgate's English translation of Stans puer ad mensam (The Child at the Table) or his Book of Curtesye, also known as "Little John," as well as Aesop and Ovid, were viewed as instructive texts, and circulated in both manuscript and print.

Teaching Critical Disinformation Studies with Medieval Texts (A Workshop)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Purdue Univ. Libraries and School of Information Studies
Organizer: Kristin Leaman (leamankb@purdue.edu)

This workshop will demonstrate how to teach critical disinformation studies with medieval texts, based on the course, Medieval Mis- and Disinformation, that was designed and taught by Kristin Leaman at Purdue University in Spring 2025 and Spring 2026. Participants will be supplied with the course syllabus, and specific case studies from the class will be shared and discussed. Participants will then work in smaller groups to brainstorm a medieval text they could teach in the context of critical disinformation studies and then share out to the larger group.

Teaching with Manuscripts: A Roundtable of Practical Exercises

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Bibliographical Society of America, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale Univ.
Organizer: Gina Marie Hurley
Agnieszka Rec
Katherine Storm Hindley

Whether at small colleges with small collections or large research universities with large rare books holdings, instructors often find themselves navigating similar challenges in the manuscript studies classroom. Participants in this roundtable are invited to share practical examples of exercises and resources that could easily be adapted by others teaching in different contexts, whether graduate or undergraduate.

The Alchemy of Learning: Magic, Pedagogy, and Public Engagement

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Societas Magica, Research Group on Manuscript Evidence
Organizer: Veronica Menaldi

In the middle ages astrology and other esoteric topics were part of the university curriculum. How is magic, in its most broad sense, taught or engaged with today and in what ways does it appear in both the classroom and public humanities outreach? Magic is an increasingly attractive topic for both students and the general public. As such, scholars, educators, and librarians/curators have vast opportunities to weave in clever methodologies to teach occult subjects from practical divination to collaborative compendiums. How can teaching magic jumpstart learning, increase engagement or interest, and propose solutions for perennial concerns among the occult-curious?

The Devotional Lives of the Poor Clares

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Franciscan Institute, St. Bonaventure Univ., Hagiography Society
Organizer: Hannah L. Jones (hjones3@binghamton.edu)
Lezlie S. Knox (lezlie.knox@marquette.edu)

This session will explore the religious experimentation of the Poor Clares by examining the hagiographic texts, art, sermons, and/or liturgical hymns that shaped their devotional lives. We encourage proposals from a variety of disciplines, geographical areas, and time periods.

The Eco-Weird

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Ecocriticisms
Organizer: Brooke H. Findley (bhf2@psu.edu)

According to the recently founded Society for the Study of the Eco-Weird, "the eco-weird originates in the cross section between environmental thought and weird fiction, where the wondrous horror of weird fiction provides an appropriate model for the uncertainty and anxiety of ecological crisis." Proposals might engage with the uncanny, the eerie, horror and wonder as responses to the natural world, the alterity of the natural world, environmental crisis as "weirding," the weird gap between the human and non-human, and more.

The Glo(cal) Middle Ages on Turtle Island

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Brenna Duperron (brenna.duperron@dal.ca)
Sarah LaVoy-Brunette (sfl39@cornell.edu)

The Global Middle Ages tends to re-emphasize the 'Old World' myths, by focusing on expanding out of Europe into Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. This panel considers how our localities (e.g., Indigenous North America) should be centered in this conversation. Given that ICMS takes place on the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Ojibwe, Odawa and Bodewadmi Nations, what role should the Land play in how we teach the Middle Ages on these Lands? Within this Global turn, how do we return to the local? How does our geographical positioning impact our understanding of the Middle Ages and medievalism?

The Imagined Woman: The Phantasmatic "Woman" in the Middle Ages

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Magistra: A Journal of Women's Spirituality in History
Organizer: Anne Elise Crafton (anneelise@gmail.com)
Kristina Kummerer (kkummere@nd.edu)
Macie Sweet (msweet2@nd.edu)

In medieval texts, the imagined "Woman" is a common trope used to personify abstract concepts - e.g., Philosophia - or phantasmatic threats to patriarchal power - e.g., the satirical mala femina. In this panel, we invite papers which explore the rhetorical "Woman" in all her forms and manifestations. How are these imagined "Women" connected to or disconnected from "real" women? How do medieval writers utilize "Womanliness" to explore concepts in abstraction? How do rhetorical "Women" impact the lived experiences of human women? How does the imagined "Woman" suggest or obscure medieval conceptions of gender performance, gender relations, or gendered hierarchy?

The Influence of Greek and Medieval Art and Literature on Nineteenth-Century European Art

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Association for Textual Scholarship in Art History
Organizer: Liana De Girolami Cheney (Liana_Cheney@uml.edu)

The influence of Greek and medieval art and literature during the nineteenth century is evidenced by the incorporation of mythological figures and hagiographical narratives within European heroic paintings. Female protagonists, such as Liberty, evoke Athena and embody the virtue of Fortitude. The theme of unrequited love found in Greek sagas, specifically "Jason and Medea," continues with the medieval recounting of "Tristan and Isolde," and later in "Romeo and Juliet," it is invoked in the imagery of Pre-Raphaelite and Symbolism paintings.

The Krewe de Jeanne d'Arc in New Orleans (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: International Joan of Arc Society / Société Internationale de l'étude de Jeanne d'Arc
Organizer: Scott Manning (scottmanning13@gmail.com)
Tara Beth Smithson (tsmithson@saintmarys.edu)

The Krewe de Jeanne d'Arc in New Orleans has grown from a fledgling parade troupe to a year-round advocate for interest in the Maid. Its yearly 600-person parade themed around Joan of Arc, kicks off the Carnival season that culminates in Mardi Gras. Throughout the year, the krewe hosts art shows, conferences, and book clubs. A recently established exchange program with the Fêtes Johanniques in Orléans, allows their respective Joans to visit each others' parades. The Krewe received nation-wide attention when members decided to march on January 6 in 2025, five days after the domestic terrorist attack on Bourbon Street.

The Liber Mulierum: Bible Books on Women and Their Medieval Commentators

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for the Study of the Bible in the Middle Ages (SSBMA)
Organizer: Frans van Liere (fvliere@calvin.edu)

Several books in the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible bear the name of influential Biblical women: Ruth, Judith, and Esther. In some medieval canons and liturgical divisions, they are even comprised under one biblical category, the “Liber Mulierum”, the Book of Women. How did medieval commentators deal with the authority and sanctity assigned to these women in these books; how did these commentaries contribute to medieval views on gender and gender roles? This session invites papers on the interpretation of these books in the medieval exegetical tradition, be it Christian or Jewish.

The Low Countries and Beyond

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Mireille Juliette Pardon (pardonm@berea.edu)

This session invites papers from any disciplinary or methodological approaches that focus on the medieval Low Countries and/or Middle Dutch texts. As suggested by the “and beyond” in the title, we welcome papers that draw comparisons to other regions or examine connections to and influences on/from the wider world.

The Lyric Subject and Subjectivity in Global Petrarch(s) and Petrarchism(s)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Italian Studies@Kalamazoo
Organizer: Alani Hicks-Bartlett (alani_hicks-bartlett@brown.edu)
Alejandro Cuadrado (a.cuadrado@bowdoin.edu)

This panel invites innovative approaches to Petrarch’s oeuvre addressing the global reach and expanse of Petrarch and/or Petrarchism as reflected in: Petrarch’s work itself; his intertextual engagement with other literary and linguistic traditions; critique, and intertextual responses to Petrarch’s work. Challenging longstanding perceptions of an “insular” Petrarch, this panel considers the sociopolitical, transhistorical, comparative, inter- and plurilinguistic frameworks that lend to understandings of a more capacious Petrarch—a Petrarch who can be read “globally” in his Latin and vernacular work representing the lyric subject or critiquing lyric subjectivity. Critical approaches engaging with contemporary theory or considering non-western texts/frameworks are especially welcome.

The Medieval Comics Project Bibliographies: Resources for Finding and Accessing Comics and Critiques (A Workshop)

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Medieval Comics Project, Association for the Advancement of Scholarship and Teaching of the Medieval in Popular Culture
Organizer: Michael A. Torregrossa
Carl B. Sell

This workshop session will highlight the recently launched Medieval Comics Project Bibliographies (<https://tinyurl.com/MedievalComicsProjectBiblios>), an open-access resource devoted to spreading knowledge of comics based on medieval subjects and furthering discussion and debate of this material.

The Medieval Tradition of Natural Law

Modality: Hybrid

Organizer: Paul Joseph Cornish

Faculty and graduate student scholars are invited to present their scholarship on the medieval tradition of natural law. Panels on "The Medieval Tradition of Natural Law" have been part of the International Congress of Medieval Studies for over thirty years. The panels are multidisciplinary and scholars from all fields are invited to participate. Recent panels have included papers on metaphysics in medieval Sentential commentaries, the legal and political thought of Francisco de Suarez, the scholarship of Brian Tierney, cosmopolitanism, natural law teaching on usury and loaning at interest, just war, and natural law arguments in favor of nonviolence.

The Middle and the West: Central Europe's Influences on Western Europe in the Late Medieval Period

Modality: Hybrid

Sponsor: Department of Historical Studies, Central European Univ.

Organizer: Gerhard Jaritz (jaritzg@ceu.edu)

Influences of Western Europe on Central Europe in the late Middle Ages, in the political, economic, social, and cultural sphere, are quite well-known phenomena. This can only to a certain extent be recognized in the other direction. The session will concentrate on such aspects and patterns that show the influence of Central European concepts and experiences on implementations in Western Europe. We will discuss reasons and developments as well as effects on relationships and communication.

The Modern Independent Scholar in the Medieval Research World: Clues to the Art of Journal Publishing

Modality: Virtual

Sponsor: American Society of Dorothy L. Sayers Studies

Organizer: Barbara L. Prescott (bprescott125@gmail.com)

We encourage all papers dealing with the experience of preparing original research for publication in medieval oriented journals. Sharing your successful experiences in publishing is valuable to young and new medieval scholars. Join us to share your clues for successfully negotiating publication in professional, popular, academic, and independent journals that have a wide reading audience and provide good homes for independent medieval research. All perspectives are welcome!

The Narrative Adaptation of the "Fool" in Premodern German Literature

Modality: In-Person

Sponsor: Society for Medieval Germanic Studies (SMGS)

Organizer: Adam Oberlin

From Antiquity to the Pre-Modern period, the attraction of foolishness and its practitioners has been pervasive throughout Western literature. Works such as Apuleius' *The Golden Ass* and Cervantes' *Don Quijote* retain not only their literary freshness, but their actuality as an anthropological constant of human existence. This session focuses on narrative adaptations within the Stultitia Tradition by exploring works from German-speaking lands. Narratives such as *Reineke Fuchs*, *Til Eulenspiegel*, and Sebastian Brant's *Narrenschiff*, among others, testify to the lively continuation of this tradition and genre.

The Natural World in Medieval Thought

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Association of the Midwest (MAM)
Organizer: Ann M. Martinez

The Ancrene Riwe instructs on the proper upkeep of a cat, yet the Bible's apocryphal "Letter to Jeremiah" deems cats demonic. Some spent exorbitantly on the purchase of a falcon, while others were fined or blinded if they attempted to have a bird above their rank. Bees were role models for their work ethic, while other flying insects were reviled. As role models, pests, pets, and status symbols, animals affected human life, and humans affected animal life by valuing, demonizing, training, and loving them. Papers can approach the topic from many angles, including comparative studies, ecocriticism, history, literature, etc.

The Next Generation

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Courtly Literature Society (ICLS), North American Branch
Organizer: Susanne Hafner
Julie Human (julie.human@uky.edu)

This session is expressly aimed at junior scholars. All speakers will be offered a free membership in ICLS-NAB, a stipend which covers conference registration, and a mentor in their field.

The Old English Poetics in Beowulf: A Workshop in Sound and Sense

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Chris Vinsonhaler

As Roberta Frank demonstrates in *The Etiquette of Early Northern Verse*, Old English poetry features a highly expressive syntax augmented by verse structure, alliteration, and rhyme. This workshop will focus on the role of the single verse in creating phrasal rhythms that amplify suspense, and it will demonstrate how alliterative pressure generates tension in the formation of different sentence patterns across the verse structure. This lively workshop is designed for all participants, regardless of skill. An interest in Old English is the only requirement!

The Oral-Performative Middle Ages: Classical and Late Antique Continuities between Liturgy and Entertainment

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Barbara Crostini (crostini.barbara@gmail.com)

Most religious expressions include both oral-performative and written traditions, the latter being primarily analyzed in scholarship. This session counterbalances this trend by focusing on the oral-performative arts of the Middle Ages. Inspired by the 2025 Reception of the Classics lecture by Anthony Kaldellis, it extends literary continuity to drama and performance in Christian, Jewish and Islamic contexts. Case studies will demonstrate essential continuities in oral-performative ways of transmission and communication of specific messages for changing target audiences, questioning entrenched assumptions of a break between classical theatre and medieval sacred liturgies and popular spectacles.

The Pardoner (A Performance)

Modality: In-Person

Organizer: Joe Ricke (jsricke@outlook.com)

Chaucer's Pardoner preaches a good moral tale and, in his prologue and epilogue, undercuts himself like a good modernist, feeding "the ironic Chaucer" narrative many of us were nursed on. Since we assume that, in almost all cases, the original Chaucer texts were experienced as (reading) performances, we also assume that performance, despite its hazards, can suggest and even unlock new beauties, themes, inconsistencies, and lessons (moral and otherwise) for contemporary audiences. The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale will be performed by readers/actors with long experience at bringing Chaucer's work to light (and dark).

The Pleasures of the Arthurian Text: A Roundtable Conversation about Tristan and Isolde

Modality: In-Person

Organizer: Laurie A. Finke

Usha Vishnuvajjala (vishnuvu@newpaltz.edu)

The Pleasures of the Arthurian Text will examine the pleasures we have in reading various versions of the story of Tristan and Isolde and the pleasures afforded by bringing the the various versions into conversation with one another. First, two participants will have a conversation about the common branch of the legend, and two will discuss the courtly branch. Finally, we will open open the panel to the audience to extend the discussion.

The Proverb's Pedagogy: Performing, Writing, Transforming

Modality: Hybrid

Sponsor: Early Proverb Society (EPS)

Organizer: Johanna Kramer (kramerji@missouri.edu)

Sarah M. Anderson (sma@princeton.edu)

Proverbs teach cultural memory, housing social authority, while also generating rhetorical strategies of engagement that allow audiences to resist, reimagine, and react to the textual settings of proverbs. Material traces of proverbial wisdom also abound in the global Middle Ages—in visual prompts in and outside the manuscript book—showing how omnipresent is proverbial instruction and how embedded is the proverb in the crucial venue of the classroom, where identity, violence, and gender scripts are part of the curriculum. We welcome presenters who use eclectic or more traditional analyses to investigate how the proverb's pedagogy unfolds in many media.

The Role of Dialogue in Nicholas of Cusa's Works

Modality: In-Person

Sponsor: American Cusanus Society

Organizer: Erin Risch Zoutendam (erin.zoutendam@shu.edu)

The dialogue is an ancient genre, stretching back to Plato. Through late antique writers like Augustine and Boethius, the dialogue was preserved and transformed in the Latin West. The importance of dialogue, disputation, and dialectic eventually came to be the hallmark of scholastic education in Middle Ages. More recently, interpersonal dialogue has become an important tool for navigating a diverse, polarized world. This panel considers the role of dialogue in the work of Nicholas of Cusa. Possible topics relevant to Cusanus include dialogue as a literary genre, dialogue as a method of reform, and interfaith/ecumenical dialogue.

The Sea, the Shore, the Sky: Medieval Thresholds in Tolkien's Legendarium

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Tolkien at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Yvette Kisor (ykisor@ramapo.edu)
Christopher Vaccaro (cvaccaro@uvm.edu)

We invite papers that explore how Tolkien drew inspiration from medieval sources to wrestle with physical and abstract thresholds, borders, and boundaries within his legendarium. Some examples of possible topics include: the sea, land, and sky as literal and metaphorical thresholds; willing or unwilling exile; border walkers and how they reflect Tolkien's conceptions of morality; liminal thresholds i.e., the seen and unseen worlds and the ability to move between them via magical objects; Tolkien's attitudes towards colonialism within tales of the Elves and Númenóreans; the importance of the elements (i.e., air, water, fire, earth) within Tolkien's legendarium; and more.

The TEAMS / Bonnie Wheeler Session: Christine de Pizan on the Seductions of Chivalry in the Dit de Poissy and Epistre Othea

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: TEAMS (Teaching Association for Medieval Studies)
Organizer: Deborah M. Sinnreich-Levi (profsinnreichlevi@gmail.com)

Christine de Pizan's very dissimilar works, the Dit de Poissy, (on its surface, a courtly love debate poem), and the Epistre Othea, (a relentlessly didactic work outlining the moral virtues which le bon chevalier needed to cultivate, are both, for all their generic and formal differences, fundamentally commentaries on the moral and intellectual failings of chivalric values as espoused by much of the French royal court in the late fourteenth-century. This session seeks to outline the seductions of a misunderstood chivalry in both works and their differing rhetorical strategies. That chivalry is currently of wide (misconstrued) interest is not irrelevant.

The Theologian-Nuns of Helfta

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Magistra: A Journal of Women's Spirituality in History
Organizer: Laura Marie Grimes
Judith Sutura (jsutura@mountosb.org)

As Gertrude the Great progresses towards being named a Doctor of the Church, there is much substantial research going on by an international group of scholars. She and the other nuns of Helfta, including Mechilde von Hackeborn and Mechtilde of Magdebourg, lived the monastic life in private, but have become a powerful influence in Christian spirituality. This session welcomes papers regarding any aspect of their lives and writings.

The Unseen Labor of Noble Play

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Game Cultures Society
Organizer: Sarah J. Sprouse (ssprouse@wtamu.edu)

Bertilak's hunt begins with "cacheres that couthe" skillfully driving the hunting dogs. Armorers, smiths, and retainers work all morning to prepare the Knight's Tale's climactic tournament. The pastimes of the gentry are begotten by an array of yeomen, bureaucrats, and common workers who toil to make them happen. This session invites submissions that work to recover the unseen but essential labor which underlies noble play, conceived broadly – games, sports, pageants, feasts, etc. Literary, historical, and artistic discussions from any discipline are welcomed, as are submissions across the full temporal and geographic breadth of the Middle Ages.

The Vernacular Bible

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for the Study of the Bible in the Middle Ages (SSBMA)
Organizer: Frans van Liere (fvliere@calvin.edu)

The vernacular Bible continues to attract scholarly attention. While the idea of a clerical monopoly on Biblical literacy cannot be maintained, it is clear that a flourishing culture of lay biblical literacy helped create a demand for these vernacular translations and devotional texts. But many questions are still to be asked: who was doing the translating; for whom were these translations intended, and what authority was assigned to these translations. This session hopes to invite some answers and lively discussion to these questions.

The Wonder Cabinet: Collecting Curiosities, Oddities, and Monstrosities

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Monsters: The Experimental Association for the Research of Cryptozoology through Scholarly Theory and Practical Application (MEARCSTAPA)
Organizer: Asa Simon Mittman (asmittman@csuchico.edu)
Thea Tomaini (tmtomaini@gmail.com)

The culture of collecting between 1450-1700 was driven by interest in natural science, historical rarities, and bibliomania. The greatest interest was for objects deemed “prodigies” or monstrosities, or those that suggested an occult provenance. The supposed provenance of some of these artifacts added an esoteric element to issues of exploration and imperial expansion, reflecting fetishism, exoticism, and the objectification of nations and peoples. Some presumed these objects to be genuine; but skeptics doubted their authenticity and the integrity of the collectors. MEARCSTAPA invites papers from all disciplines and national traditions of the Global Middle Ages, and encourages interdisciplinary submissions.

Theology and Women

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Magistra: A Journal of Women's Spirituality in History
Organizer: Judith Sutura (jsutura@mountsb.org)

Many medieval women were theologians, recognized by the institution as contributors to theological thought and reflection. They have examined Scripture, traditions, Mariology, and other topics, both in their writings and in the witness of their lives. Women have also been the subject of theologizing by others, regarding their roles, authority, etc. This session will explore both women as object and as subject.

Theoretical and Interdisciplinary Approaches to Medieval Ecocriticism

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Medieval Ecocriticisms
Organizer: Ilse A. Schweitzer (schwei53@msu.edu)

This session seeks papers that explore the ways ecocriticism intersects with, informs, or is expanded by other critical approaches, orientations, and disciplines. We encourage analyses that merge ecocritical frameworks with studies of gender/sexuality, queer identities, race/ethnicity, religion, dis/ability status, postcolonialism, Indigenous studies, or from methodologies outside of the humanities. What can dialogue across these intersections of medieval and modern temporal and spatial ecologies teach us and how can we think anew with them? We encourage proposals from graduate students and early career as well as more established researchers.

Thomas Aquinas

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Thomas Aquinas Society
Organizer: Robert J. Barry (rbarry@providence.edu)

This session is open to papers employing theological, philosophical, historical or interdisciplinary approaches to engaging the thought of Thomas Aquinas. All papers will be delivered face-to-face; online format is unavailable.

Thomistic Philosophy

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Center for Thomistic Studies, Univ. of St. Thomas, Houston
Organizer: Steven J. Jensen

This session is devoted to philosophical or theological thought connected to Thomas Aquinas. Paper submissions will be accepted for any topic concerning the philosophy or theology of Aquinas, his sources, or contemporary applications of his thought.

Timely Tusks: New Approaches to Global Medieval Ivories

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Paula Mae Carns (pcarns@illinois.edu)

1997 was a landmark year for the study of Gothic ivories, with the exhibition *Images in Ivory* at the Detroit Museum of Art and a plenary talk and two sessions at Kalamazoo. Thirty years later, the field has seen an explosion of scholarship and approaches, making for a timely revisit. The proposed session welcomes papers that examine ivory from 500-1500 - from anywhere and of any type. Topics might include the trade and market in raw materials, the organization and processes of production, the use and handling of various object types, issues of iconography, and post-medieval collecting, reception and treatment.

Tolkien and the Old English Exodus Poem

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Tolkien at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Christopher Vaccaro (cvaccaro@uvm.edu)
Yvette Kisor (ykisor@ramapo.edu)

Tolkien often taught the 590 line Exodus poem, found only in Oxford Bodleian Library, Junius 11 manuscript, over two semesters demonstrating the depths of the poem into which Tolkien led his students. The purpose of this session is to examine the poem and Tolkien's work on it through a variety of possible approaches. Papers could focus on Tolkien as teacher of the poem, Tolkien as editor, Tolkien as translator, Tolkien as commentator, and Tolkien as creator of a fantasy world influenced by the Exodus poem.

Trans and Queer Creative-Critical Workshop: Process Makes Perfect

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for Queer and Trans Medieval Studies (SQTMS)
Organizer: Wally M. Cornell (wcornell@illinois.edu)
Felipe E. Rojas (felipe.rojas@westliberty.edu)

This workshop centers queer and trans community creative-critical practice and post-process, network building and peer mentorship, and the practicalities and frictions of critical-creation in institutional/educational contexts. Following an opening presentation outlining the multi-formed considerations of medieval LGBTQIA+ creative-critical practice/critical fabulation, participants will partake in network-building activities and discussion sharing their current experiences, questions, or aspirations with creative-critical work. The workshop will then split into breakouts in which participants will work with one another on (individual or collaborative) creative-critical ideation, project goals, and elevator pitch. Participants will also reflect on practical concerns such as funding, resources, skills, and community collaboration.

Turn On, Tune In, Drop Out: Psychedelic Approaches to Medieval Objects

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Clara Poteet
Sophie Durbin

Psychedelic art, an outgrowth of mid-century counterculture, features numerous motifs that may resonate with medievalists. Surreal imagery, animation, bright colors, and the cross-pollination of disparate media all conspire to evoke a hallucinogenic or heightened response in the viewer. We invite proposals for 20-minute papers considering medieval material culture through a psychedelic lens, or vice versa. A sampling of topics may include devotional objects and visionary or mystical encounters; medievalism in 1960s fashion and design; artistic representations of or, artifacts associated with, psychoactive plant and fungi cultivation; or the synesthetic/multisensory impact of objects.

Ugly Books: How to Research Damaged or Fragmented Manuscripts (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Medieval Academy Graduate Student Committee
Organizer: Novella Frasier
Rebekkah C. Hart

This roundtable proposes to give scholars the space to discuss research skills with aesthetically or legibly difficult manuscripts. We propose a discussion of resources and practices for approaching “difficult” manuscripts such as difficult-to-read scribal hands, disorganized leaves, injections, blank spots, messy emendations, etc. This roundtable is open to all but particularly intended to help graduate students and early career scholars gain research skills and new methodologies for approaching such materials. Some questions can include the following: What are some digital tools to help navigate these kinds of objects? How can a scholar study manuscripts far removed from an ur-text?

Ugly Is as Ugly Does: Physiognomy as Signifier in Medieval Literature and Culture

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: TEAMS (Teaching Association for Medieval Studies)
Organizer: Deborah M. Sinnreich-Levi (profsinnreichlevi@gmail.com)

Ugliness in the Middle Ages could be a reflection of internal evil or of sin. It could mask internal perfection as a test or as a result of a curse (e.g., Dame Ragnell, Medusa). Sometimes associated with old age, disease, disfigurement, physical size, race, divine retribution, or poverty, ugliness of face and body isolated literary characters and living humans from society-at-large. Eventually, judgment based on appearances became evidentiary in the courts. This session invites papers on how physical appearances operated as signifiers in literature, law, and history, and how understanding these signifiers helps students in medieval studies.

Viking Morality: Bloodthirsty Thugs or Misunderstood Entrepreneurs?

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Association of the Midwest (MAM)
Organizer: Eric Shane Bryan (bryane@mst.edu)
Mickey M. Sweeney (msweeney@dom.edu)

While recent scholarship has decried misappropriations of Viking mentality by harmful modern ideologies, scholars have had less to say about any sense of morality or ethic of Viking endeavors in their own time and have been content to frame Vikings as products of their historical context. The proposed panel aims to step outside these scholarly borders to ask provocative questions about Viking morality: Were the Vikings right or wrong to act as they did? By what metric might one assess the Viking mentality and ethos? And how did Viking morality differ from other morals and ethics of the time?

Violence against Virgin Martyrs and the War on Women

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Hagiography Society, Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship (SMFS)
Organizer: Maeve Callan
Julia Salkind (julia.salkind@marquette.edu)

Hagiography celebrates the sanctity of its subjects, but the lives of the virgin martyrs often revel in explicit sexualized violence inflicted upon their protagonists, transforming the texts into seemingly pornographic rather than pious content, more influenced by a hatred of women than a love of God. This fetishizing of female pain has alarming implications for more generalized violence against women, especially in our increasingly hostile political and social climates. This session invites paper proposals which analyze hagiography's misogynistic and pornographic aspects concerning virgin martyrs, connecting these discussions to violence against women in the medieval and/or modern world.

Violence in Medieval Germanic Literature

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for Medieval Germanic Studies (SMGS)
Organizer: Adam Oberlin

This session explores the multifaceted representations of interpersonal and institutional violence in medieval literatures in Germanic languages, examining how physical, symbolic, and rhetorical violence shape narrative structures, reflect cultural anxieties, and negotiate power dynamics. Contributions from literary, historical, and theoretical perspectives will illuminate how violence functions not only as spectacle but also as a vehicle for moral instruction, social critique, and identity formation, and will interrogate both the historical contexts that produced violent imaginaries and the interpretive frameworks that continue to shape our understanding of them.

Visual Identity through Heraldry and Other Devices in the Middle Ages

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: American Heraldry Society
Organizer: Ethan L. Roberts-MacDonald

A major part of how we as humans express ourselves is through the use of symbols. Identification through heraldic or other symbolic devices was commonplace throughout the medieval world, and understanding how people viewed themselves and created identity through symbols is key to understanding the period. We invite papers on any aspect of visual identity and heraldry.

Voices and Sources of Old English Proverbs (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Early Proverb Society (EPS), Sources of Old English and Anglo-Latin Literary Culture Project (SOEALLC)
Organizer: Johanna Kramer (kramerji@missouri.edu)
Sarah M. Anderson (sma@princeton.edu)
Benjamin D. Weber

This session asks what the mechanics, outcomes, and sources are of sapiential voices in texts from early medieval England and how wise sayings themselves become generative sources. The rhetoric of Old English wisdom literature often begins with an authority. Be it Alfred, credited with turning Boethius' *De consolatione philosophiae* into English and voicing his own proverb collection, or the disputatious figures of Solomon and Saturn, wise sayings function as discursive equivalent of wealth. We welcome presenters who expose how sources and voices of wisdom operate in Old English and neighboring languages to produce rich investigations of how speaking wisely works.

Voices from the Margins (1): Identity, Nation-Building, and Borders in Old English Texts

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Cody West (cwest22@unm.edu)
Luke J Sheppard (ljshepp@unm.edu)

This session offers an opportunity to assess how Old English texts contribute to the formation of identities, nations, or borders in Early Medieval England. We welcome proposals that explore one or more of these criteria through Old English literature, diplomatics, numismatics, verse, or any other methods of Old English communication. While traditional philological, historic, and linguistic methods of analysis are welcome, we encourage engagement with modern theoretical approaches, including but not limited to race, gender, disability, or ecocriticism studies. This session aims to foster conversation across disciplinary and methodological lines.

Voices from the Margins (2): Saints, Warriors, and Exiles in Old English Literature

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Cody West (cwest22@unm.edu)
Luke J Sheppard (ljshepp@unm.edu)

This session invites papers on saints, warriors, and exiles in Old English literature, examining how these figures embody and represent themes of identity, displacement, holiness, and heroic ethos. We welcome proposals engaging with hagiography, heroic verse, penitential literature, or poetic texts through lenses blending traditional philology and theology with modern theoretical approaches including but not limited to race, gender, disability, or ecocriticism. Whether investigating the trials of saintly figures, the warrior ethos, or the poetics of isolation and exile, this session aims to foster conversation across disciplinary and methodological lines.

Voicing the Other

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Jason Jacobs
Julie Singer

What happens when medieval texts and other artifacts (art, architecture, songs, etc) give voice to race-, religion-, ethnicity-, disability-, or class-based perspectives other than the dominant ones? How can readings of lesser-known works contribute to theorizations of identity, and challenge received ideas about representations of “minority” subjects in the Middle Ages? We seek papers that will contribute to the recovery of largely overlooked texts and other artifacts from continental Europe and the Mediterranean—especially texts unavailable in English translations—whose idiosyncratic or against-the-grain perspectives on “others” will advance cutting-edge critical work on the full range of medieval identities, selves, or subjectivities.

War in Fourteenth-Century Society and Culture

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: 14th Century Society, De Re Militari: The Society for Medieval Military History
Organizer: Patrick James Eickman

From the Hundred Years’ War to the Lithuanian Crusade to the Bulgarian-Ottoman wars, combat played a vital role in the fourteenth century. These conflicts not only led to some of the most famous battles of the Middle Ages such as Crécy (1346) and Nicopolis (1396), but they also helped accelerate social and cultural changes that characterized the “Crisis of the Late Middle Ages.” This session will delve into the ways violence shaped Europe in the fourteenth century.

Watery Landscapes, Systems, and Bodies

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Medieval Ecocriticisms
Organizer: Ilse A. Schweitzer (schwei53@msu.edu)
Hugh Milner

Medieval Ecocriticisms seeks papers offering ecocritical, historical, archaeological, and other interdisciplinary approaches to water in the medieval world. Presenters may address questions such as: How did medieval peoples encounter / engineer water in their communities and bodies? What meanings did water accrue in religious, literary, or historical contexts? How do medieval histories of water connect with modern marine studies? And, finally, what new approaches to water studies or blue humanities might we offer?

What is Feminist Editorial Praxis?

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship (SMFS)
Organizer: Virginia Blanton (blantonv@umkc.edu)

Editorial practices are often considered apolitical, yet this session of papers investigates the question “what is feminist praxis in editorial work in medieval studies”? Papers are invited on the theoretical and practical approaches to editing medieval manuscripts and archival documents; editorial decision-making in critical, diplomatic, and digital editions; feminist interventions in the editing of scholarly journals and essay collections; and feminist work of series editors and acquisition editors. The aim is to highlight practical ways to address structural frameworks that maintain a status quo in publishing, one that often discounts or ignores the feminist medieval scholarship.

What Motivated the Production and Circulation of Medieval Coinage?

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: American Numismatic Society
Organizer: David Yoon (dyoon@numismatics.org)

In the study of ancient Greek and Roman coins, there has been a long-running debate concerning the relative importance of economic and political factors in driving the production and circulation of coins. For the medieval world, however, these questions are not so often asked. In many ways, such questions should be more acute for medieval Europe, where coins were sometimes scarce, untrustworthy, and issued in inconvenient denominations. What, then, made it worthwhile to rely on coins, and to invest in their production?

Women, Lordship, and the Culture of War

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Haskins Society, De Re Militari: The Society for Medieval Military History
Organizer: Laura L. Gathagan (laura.gathagan@cortland.edu)
Valerie Eads (veads@sva.edu)

Scholarship in military history over the last decade has redefined its scope to include cultural and social aspects of war. Analyzing medieval warfare as a cultural phenomenon enables the actions of women to come into focus as participants, strategists, diplomats and economic facilitators, supplying money, matériel and combatants. Yet, there is still much to uncover about the nature of women's warfare. Papers may consider women's engagement with warfare broadly: as generals directing troops, as castellans fortifying defenses, or as financiers who used their economic means to wage war. Papers may consider the impact of war on women's lands and revenues.

Women, Objects, and Space

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Haskins Society, Medieval People
Organizer: Laura Gathagan (laura.gathagan@cortland.edu)

With the recent 'material turn' in Medieval Studies, scholars have come to realize what useful tools analysis of space and objects can be for recovering the medieval past. This approach has been particularly fruitful for the study of medieval women, who may go undocumented in texts and who themselves were not always authors of texts. This session aims to highlight how the use of objects and space can reveal new insights into the lives of medieval women. The use of digital humanities in investigating women, objects and space would be particularly welcome.

Women's Books: Writers, Makers, Owners (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Early Book Society
Organizer: Martha W. Driver (mdriver@pace.edu)

This topic's popularity is reflected in the recent BL exhibition "Medieval Women: In Their Own Words" that attracted thousands of visitors. Speakers might consider women's writing, their MSS and/or books, their annotations, and evidence of women's reading. Another approach might be to identify evidence of women's reading circles in MSS and books that moved among a group of women readers, or MSS copied predominantly by women (the Devonshire MS, or perhaps the Voynich MS?) or the work of women printers. Yet another approach might be to study representations of women and their books in medieval illuminations or woodcuts.

Words as Weapons: Insult, Ridicule and Scorn in the Medieval Chronicle

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Matthew T. Sneider (msneider@umassd.edu)
Rala I. Diakite (rdiakite@fitchburgstate.edu)

This session invites papers that explore the rhetorical and emotional dimensions of insult in historical narrative of medieval Europe (broadly defined). What cultural work is achieved by the representation of insult? How might forms of insult intersect with gender, sexual identity, class, religion, or faction? What are the interactions between givers and receivers of insult? We welcome contributions that might employ a range of methodologies, including rhetorical theory, history of emotions (including emotional codes and emotional communities), discourse analysis and vernacular language studies, narratology, manuscript studies, genre theory, communication theory, and political theory. Interdisciplinary and comparative approaches are especially encouraged.

Writing at Helfta

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Cistercian and Monastic Studies, Hagiography Society
Magistra: A Journal of Women's Spirituality in History
Organizer: Ella Johnson
Tyler Sergent (sergentf@berea.edu)
Judith Sutura (jsutura@mountosb.org)

This panel considers the ways in which the writings produced in the thirteenth-century Cistercian convent of Helfta demonstrated a literal interpretation of theological metaphors present in earlier twelfth-century Cistercian monks' writings. As reflected in their writings, the Helfta women took literally--or embodied in their spiritual practice--key concepts reflected only metaphorical in the writings of their Cistercian brothers a century before them. Papers in this panel will reflect on the significance of this embodiment of metaphor for theology and religious life today.

"Wryte more trewe" (1): New Approaches to Chaucer's Manuscripts: A Session in Honor of Susanna Fein and David Raybin

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Chaucer Review
Organizer: Wendy A. Matlock
Elizabeth Melick
Joseph Turner

Fein and Raybin are masterful editors of medieval manuscripts, and their work on the Thornton manuscripts and Harley 2253 among others have shaped scholarly appreciation of medieval codices and their contents and contexts. This session invites papers that consider Chaucer's possible use of specific manuscripts, new approaches to manuscripts of Chaucer's works, manuscripts that were inspired or influenced by Chaucer's writing, scribal and editorial interventions in Chaucer's manuscripts and print editions of Chaucerian texts, the influence of specific manuscripts on modern Chaucer editions, or ways that modern editors and scholars should consider and interact with Chaucer's manuscripts.

"Wryte more trewe" (2): The Dearth of Good Men: A Session in Honor of Susanna Fein and David Raybin

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Chaucer Review
Organizer: Joseph Turner

In the final Chaucer Review session at the 2025 ICMS, David Raybin asked: "Is there a good man in Chaucer?" This session seeks responses to Raybin's important question, which casts doubt on the ethics of masculinity and the possibility of virtuous speech itself. Remember that Quintilian defined a rhetorician as the "good man speaking well." We solicit papers that focus on the gendering of virtue in Chaucer's poetry, 'goodness' or 'badness' in performances of masculinity, sources for Chaucer's depictions of men and their words or deeds, and investigations into Chaucer's engagement with medieval debates about what constitutes a 'good man.'

"Wryte more trewe" (3): Mentors and Hosts: A Roundtable in Honor of Susanna Fein and David Raybin

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Chaucer Review
Organizer: Wendy A. Matlock
Betsy McCormick (bmccormick@mtsac.edu)
Joseph Turner

Because Fein and Raybin support clear scholarship open to fresh horizons, their work goes beyond editing. They have influenced countless medievalists, guiding new authors through the publication of their first articles, hosting Chaucer Review dinners during the International Congress on Medieval Studies, and organizing experiences like the NEH summer seminars on the Canterbury Tales. This roundtable seeks to highlight Chaucer's awareness of the power dynamics inherent in shared knowledge and hospitality by focusing on textual models (both good and bad), the intertwining of hospitality and mentorship, and even Chaucer's references or allusions to his own mentors and influences.

"Wryte more trewe" (4): Chaucer Review's Plenty: A Roundtable in Honor of Susanna Fein and David Raybin

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Chaucer Review
Organizer: Betsy McCormick (bmccormick@mtsac.edu)
Wendy A. Matlock
Joseph Turner

On the occasion of Chaucer Review's fiftieth anniversary, Helen Cooper observed that "There is still plenty to do in Chaucer studies: old questions can still receive different answers, and new lines of enquiry." That plenty continues, in no small part due to the Fein/Raybin team's editorial focus on innovative scholarship and lucid prose. We invite those who have contributed articles to and/or edited special issues of Chaucer Review to reflect on their experience and also consider how the past 25 years have shaped ideas, theories, and trends in our collective understanding of Chaucer and late Middle English literature.

You Study What? Using Medieval Studies for Public Engagement (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid

Organizer: Alex S. Corpuz (alex.corpuz@wmich.edu)

Almost everyone has some connection with the medieval period. Skyrim has a community of millions; Booktok has made romantasy more popular than ever before, employing the same medieval aesthetics that make movies like the Princess Bride enduringly charming. The medieval connection that everyone has can serve as a crucial starting point for discussing why history matters, and why THEIR history matters. What experiences have you had engaging audiences outside academia? What worked, what didn't? This session will discuss how we can use the connection between medieval media's popularity and public history to better support humanities fields as a whole.