

Sponsored Sessions

Sponsored sessions are organized alphabetically by the name of the primary sponsoring organization.

Jewish-Christian Interaction in the Middle Ages

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

The Institut für Geschichte der Juden in Österreich and the Academy of Jewish-Christian Studies have been in collaboration the last several years hosting sessions on Jewish-Christian studies. We would like to propose only one session this year concerning the many issues that involve Jewish and Christian interaction in the medieval period. The focus will be on the areas of research that show positive interaction between Jews and Christians in the Middle Ages.

Holy Grail, Batman? Grail Legends in Popular Culture

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Alliance for the Promotion of Research on the Matter of Britain
Association for the Advancement of Scholarship and Teaching of the Medieval in Popular Culture
Organizer: Michael A. Torregrossa (medievalinpopularculture@gmail.com)

The Holy Grail remains a powerful symbol in the post-medieval world, and, while its story continues to feature across popular culture, scholarship tracing its manifestations within mass media remains limited. Previous studies have concentrated on fiction and film, but the Grail legends extend into other forms. We seek in this session to expand our knowledge of the Grail's presence in additional media (such as comics, games, genre fiction, and television programming) as well as to widen the chronological and geographical scope beyond the range of previous scholarship.

Crime and Punishment in Medieval Iberia

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain (AARHMS)
Organizer: Elizabeth Comuzzi (ecomuzzi@fordham.edu)
Anthony Minnema (aminnema@samford.edu)

This panel examines people and institutions behaving badly in Iberia across Christian, Islamic, and Jewish polities from the ninth to the fifteenth century. It strives to move beyond legal and religious codes to explore how violence, theft, sexual transgression, wrongdoing and dissent were prosecuted in practice and how various courts projected authority. It is particularly interested in borders, interfaith interactions, and the role of confession or corporal punishment in constructing social order. Creative use of narrative sources and material evidence is strongly encouraged in order to highlight how punishment functioned as both coercion and communication in shaping Iberian communities.

In Memoriam Thomas N. Bisson: Cultures of Power in Medieval Iberia

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain (AARHMS)
Organizer: Anthony Minnema (aminnema@samford.edu)
Elizabeth Comuzzi (ecomuzzi@fordham.edu)

This panel honors the late Thomas N. Bisson (1931-2025), whose long career was instrumental in encouraging and shaping the study of medieval Iberia in North America, by exploring themes central to his work. We invite papers on topics such as governance, lordship, states and state-building, institutions, fiscality, peacekeeping, and the cultural history of power in any part of the medieval Iberian peninsula or Languedoc from the ninth to fifteenth centuries. We particularly welcome contributions that engage with, reflect on and/or seek to build on the legacy of Bisson's foundational work in medieval political and social history in new ways.

Crisis and Reformation in the Late Medieval Church

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: American Cusanus Society
Organizer: Erin Risch Zoutendam (erin.zoutendam@shu.edu)

The end of the Middle Ages were beset by crises, including famine, plague, revolt, and schism. These crises produced a series of reform efforts—some realized and some merely theoretical. This panel explores both the anxieties that drove the desire for reform and the ideals reformers sought to obtain. It asks how reform-minded individuals responded to the highly particularized challenges of their time and how they sought to preserve threatened practices and institutions for the future. Possible topics include ecclesial and institutional reforms, hermeneutical and theological reforms, reforms arising from “popular” devotion, and educational and curricular reforms.

Learned Ignorance: A Roundtable in Memory of Donald F. Duclow

Modality: Hybrid

Sponsor: American Cusanus Society
Organizer: Erin Risch Zoutendam (erin.zoutendam@shu.edu)

The concept of “learned ignorance”—or knowing what we do not know—has a long history, stretching back as far as Socrates. The idea was developed by later philosophical and religious writers such as Augustine, Pseudo-Dionysius, and Nicholas of Cusa. But do all of these thinkers mean the same thing when they speak of learned ignorance? Are there different types of learned ignorance? Different aims? Different methods? Different anxieties? This roundtable seeks to start new conversations in honor of the scholarly work of Don Duclow by considering different forms of learned ignorance throughout the Middle Ages.

The Influence of Augustine on Nicholas of Cusa

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: American Cusanus Society
Organizer: Erin Risch Zoutendam (erin.zoutendam@shu.edu)

The influence of Augustine on medieval philosophy and theology in the West can hardly be overstated. And yet there is surprisingly little scholarship on Augustine’s influence on Nicholas of Cusa, considered by many to be the most important German thinker of the fifteenth century. Both Augustine and Cusanus served as bishops, both wrote ambitious works of philosophy and theology, and both were steeped in the Neoplatonic tradition. This panel asks where Cusanus was influenced by Augustine’s thought, where he transformed it, and where he rejected it. Possible themes include learned ignorance, interiority, biblical interpretation, dialogue, Neoplatonism, and contemplation.

Conflict, Commerce, and Coin Circulation in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: American Numismatic Society
Organizer: David Yoon (dyoon@numismatics.org)
Kevin M. Hoffman (Kevin.hoffman@yale.edu)

Coins show that the late antique and medieval world was dynamic and interconnected. On the one hand, people engaged in trade, travel, and exchange crisscrossed the land and sea. On the other hand, goods and coins can often end up far from their point of origins by virtue of raiders bringing home booty or losing what they brought with them in a distant land. The role of connectivity at frontier zones, along rivers, or at points of conflict is of particular interest. Equally, the role of points of connectivity in state formation or in interregional developments is worthy of consideration.

The Tristan Tale as Text: Aspects of Pragmatic and Poetic Language Use in the Verse Translation by Dorothy L. Sayers of *Le Roman de Tristan* by Thomas the Anglo-Norman

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: American Society of Dorothy L. Sayers Studies
Organizer: Barbara L. Prescott (bprescott125@gmail.com)

The early oral tradition of the Tristan legend began as a verbal to written transformation in the late twelfth century through the Anglo-Norman verses of Thomas of Britain. These written verses hold a wealth of information regarding the transition of oral story telling into written text. We are accepting proposals for papers on any aspect of Thomas's written Tristan legend (ca. AD 1160) as translated by Dorothy L. Sayers (1929). We will also consider proposals of research on the transition of vernacular oral to written language use as it pertains to the work of Thomas. This session is virtual only.

Colonial Ireland?

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

Often cited as the testing ground for British imperialism, pre-modern Ireland features extensively in theoretical debates surrounding the nature of colonialism and colonization. Taking different disciplinary viewpoints – historical, literary, and archaeological among them – this session examines how Ireland experienced colonization in the Middle Ages. Was the Anglo-Norman Conquest from 1169 a way to control overmighty knights, or did it build an Angevin Empire? Can Viking settlement in the early medieval period be considered colonization, since it transformed Ireland's economy and urban landscape? And how did early modern colonists use the events of the Middle Ages to justify expansionism?

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

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

We are teaching and students are learning in a moment of crisis: environmental, political, and pedagogical. Digital humanities offers powerful means of responding publicly to crisis, as scholars and as community members. Digital pedagogies combine traditional humanistic inquiry with crucial digital literacies and public humanities skills. However, the lack of curricular resources and introductory training opportunities are significant barriers to entry, amplified by shrinking institutional supports. This workshop

introduces participants to free, easy-to-use tools for digital public humanities, as well as sample DH assignments and activities on medieval Ireland designed to fit into medieval and general survey courses.

Eolas Lecture

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

The annual Eolas Lecture sponsored by ASIMS. This year's topic will be on a major digital humanities project by a European scholar.

Arthurian Environments (A Roundtable)

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

Arthurian Literature invites submissions for papers on a roundtable on "Arthurian Environments." We welcome consideration of the environment angle from the widest possible scholarly enquiry: Arthurian environments might be the traditional forest of adventure (found in French, English, Dutch or German romance), the prison(s) in which Sir Thomas Malory wrote his *Morte Darthur*, the magical graves and tombstones in which knights learn their destinies or even identities, the landscaped and actively grown environment of Bertilak's hunting grounds in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, different kinds of grail environments, or the ghostly environments of the *Awntyrs* or *Walewein*.

Arthurian Gender and Sexuality

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

Arthurian Literature invites submissions for papers on a session on "Arthurian Gender and Sexuality." We consider these themes or ideas or words in their widest and most accessible terms, welcoming studies of, for example, the traditional trope of the symbiotic relationship between knightly prowess and heterosexual love, or current studies of the potential for queer or trans genders in Arthurian texts and contexts, or any other scholarly enquiry that relates to these topics in an Arthurian text, setting, or context -- or any combination thereof!.

Editing the Arthurian Conversation: A Roundtable in Honor of Dorsey Armstrong

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Arthuriana
Organizer: Molly A. Martin (martinma@uindy.edu)
Usha Vishnuvajjala (vishnuvu@newpaltz.edu)

As editor of the journal *Arthuriana* for fifteen years, and as co-editor of a number of essay collections, Dorsey Armstrong's leadership has helped shape the discipline of Arthurian studies and its scholarly conversations. This roundtable invites reflections on Armstrong's tenure as editor and its impact on the field, especially from those whose work she has shepherded to publication; discussions of scholarly editing and publishing theories and practices; and editing as manifest in Arthurian texts, manuscripts, and media.

Holy Iberians! Preaching, Politics, Liturgy, and Holiness in Medieval Iberia

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies
American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain (AARHMS)
Hagiography Society
Organizer: Kyle C. Lincoln (klincoln@se.edu)
Hannah Jones (hjones@tamut.edu)

This session follows on previous years' sessions, highlighting the role of holiness and holy individuals in Medieval Iberia. The panel welcomes inquiry about holy figures of all kinds--from rabbis and hermits, to bishops and 'ulema--and would be especially pleased to hear about both the holy individuals themselves and their wider impact.

New Directions in Iberian Studies

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies
American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain (AARHMS)
Organizer: Kyle C. Lincoln (klincoln@se.edu)
Jessica A. Boon

This session is a hosting vehicle for an array of Iberian Studies panels, and aims to provide a venue to facilitate meaningful scholarly exchange among Iberianists. Because the panel is thematically open and has no special emphasis, we hope to arrange papers in a manner that promotes exchange across disciplinary and specialization boundaries.

The Artistic Concept of the Tabula Rasa

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

The medieval idea of a tabula rasa (blank slate) symbolized human potential, renewal, and cultural rebirth. Debates, especially by Aquinas, laid the groundwork for Humanism and the Enlightenment, reflecting optimism that humanity could discard old ideas and focus on a visionary, human-centered future. In the post-medieval period, for artists, the tabula rasa signified rejecting traditional artistic methods in favor of new styles and ideas. This session invites papers on artistic engagements with the tabula rasa, particularly in the context of medievalism.

Asian Medievalisms

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Association for the Advancement of Scholarship and Teaching of the Medieval in Popular Culture
Organizer: Anna Czarnowus (annaczarnowus@op.pl)

Asian medievalisms can be seen from two perspectives: either as continuations of the global Middle Ages in various Asian countries, including Japan and China, or as popular culture phenomena at least partly inspired by the European Middle Ages or simply by European medievalisms in popular culture. TV shows about Chinese culture, such as Kingdom, or Japanese manga can be seen as global medievalisms or as what demonstrates interest in Western fantasy. They can be inspired by such texts as Chinese wuxia narratives, which situate warriors in the distant past, and by how Western fantasy creates alternative worlds.

Unfinished, Damaged, Reimagined: Rethinking the Fragment

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: AVISTA: The Association Villard de Honnecourt for the Interdisciplinary Study of Medieval Technology, Science, and Art
Organizer: Tori Schmitt (torischmitt@ucla.edu)
Gabriela Chitwood (gabriela.chitwood@gmail.com)

Rarely do material traces of the premodern world survive without damage or alteration. In response, the fragment has emerged as a productive theoretical framework for understanding the condition of medieval objects, buildings, and archives in our time. In line with AVISTA's focus on the intersection of medieval art, craft, and technology, this session seeks papers which present object-focused case studies of the medieval fragment, including incomplete, damaged, or reconstructed objects and buildings. Speakers might discuss, for example, repaired or transformed objects, architecture that

was never completed or has since been lost, or medieval and modern efforts to complete the fragment.

Bede @ Kalamazoo

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Bede Net
Organizer: Sharon M. Rowley (srowley@cnu.edu)
Paul Hilliard

This session continues the ICMS's long engagement with the Venerable Bede. Bede was a polymath whose historical writings provide essential sources for early Britain, whose calendrical writings provide sources for the study of early science, whose assembly of patristic thought formed the basis of the Glossa Ordinaria, whose internationally respected commentaries added reams to the study of Scripture, and whose pedagogical tools for Latin studies were used into the nineteenth century. He brings together early and late medieval studies as well as British, Insular, and Continental scholarship. In this session, we invite papers that engage directly or indirectly with Bede.

Collaborative Collections and Collecting Collaborators (A Roundtable)

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

Students often come into our classrooms with the assumption that the humanities are a solitary pursuit. How does teaching with collections open up possibilities for teaching collaboration in theory and in practice? This might include ways of structuring class time or student work (e.g. exhibitions), but panelists might also consider the ways they model collaboration in their own teaching by drawing in community partners, inviting guest speakers or organizing site-visits, and co-teaching (across disciplines or between faculty and collections staff). We welcome practical exercises, syllabi for courses, and broader reflections on the nature and impact of pedagogical collaboration.

Teaching as Advocacy for Medieval Studies (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale Univ.
Bibliographical Society of America
Organizer: Gina Marie Hurley (gina.hurley@yale.edu)
Agnieszka Rec

Katherine Storm Hindley

When we teach the Middle Ages, we're not just speaking to the students in the classroom. How does our teaching make the case for medieval studies to our students, to our institutions, and to a broader public? This roundtable invites speakers to share approaches to teaching, whether full-term courses or one-off sessions, that generated support for and interest in medieval studies or humanities more broadly within their institution. This might take the shape of community partnerships, the growth of departments or programs, or material support (e.g., funded fellowships, material acquisition).

Teaching Object Histories as Objects of History (A Roundtable)

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

Objects are always already enmeshed in a rich network of associations from the political and cultural, to the ecological and scientific, to the institutional and archival. This panel invites speakers to share how they activate these associations in their classrooms in order to connect past and present for their students. How can students understand and critique institutions and disciplinary canons by exploring provenance, acquisition, and collections history? How might they experience embodied learning by considering histories of production and use? What insights might they gain about those histories through interdisciplinary approaches including scientific analysis and conservation?

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. This session is sponsored by the Celtic Studies Association of North America. The deadline for submission of abstracts is September 15. Questions may be directed to Prof. Joshua Byron Smith (jbs016@uark.edu).

Authority and Authenticity in Premodern Manuscript Culture

Modality: Hybrid

Sponsor: Center for Premodern Studies, Univ. of Minnesota–Twin Cities
Organizer: Michelle M. Hamilton (hamilton@umn.edu)

While the idea of "fake news" seems particularly germane to our era, fraudulence and forgery have been as integral to premodern knowledge production as authenticity and genuineness. Medieval scholars and authors used texts to manipulate belief and truth. We seek papers exploring ideas of authority, authenticity and the material epistemology of medieval texts.

Medieval Crowds

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Center for Premodern Studies, Univ. of Minnesota–Twin Cities
Organizer: Stephan Knott (knott133@umn.edu)
Elizabeth Quillen (youn2529@umn.edu)

From anonymous mass to riotous mob, the crowd appears and, sometimes just as quickly, disappears in medieval sources. This panel seeks papers that discuss the form and function of audiences, crowds, and public gatherings in the medieval era.

Critical Approaches to the Indigenous Turn (1): What Can Medievalists Do for Indigenous Studies?

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Center for Renaissance Studies, Newberry Library
Organizer: Sarah LaVoy-Brunette (sfl39@cornell.edu)

Recent work on the "Indigenous turn" has shown how Indigenous studies can transform medieval studies. This session asks the converse question: what can medievalists do for Indigenous studies? We invite papers that move this question from the abstract to the practical by considering how medievalists engage with archives, pedagogies, institutions, and/or Indigenous histories and communities in concrete and accountable ways. Possible topics include community-engaged research, archival or museum work, curriculum development, institutional service, comparative approaches to colonialism, land, law, or sovereignty, and other projects that bring medievalist training to bear on questions of concern within Indigenous studies.

Critical Approaches to the Indigenous Turn (2): The Glocal Middle Ages

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Center for Renaissance Studies, Newberry Library
Organizer: Sarah LaVoy-Brunette (sfl39@cornell.edu)

The Global Middle Ages has expanded medieval studies beyond Europe, yet it can still risk reproducing Eurocentric frameworks while overlooking how local lands, histories,

and relations shape our work. This session asks what a situated medieval studies might look like alongside the Global Turn. Grounded in the Indigenous understanding that knowledge is place-based and relational, we ask how our own locations—including ICMS's location on the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Bodewadmi Nations—should shape medieval studies. We invite papers on place-based pedagogy, Indigenous methodologies, medievalism, land, relation, local histories, and the limits of global frameworks.

Critical Approaches to the Indigenous Turn (3): Sámi Worlds

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Center for Renaissance Studies, Newberry Library
Organizer: Sarah LaVoy-Brunette (sfl39@cornell.edu)

How can centering Sámi worlds contribute to the Indigenous turn and unsettle (Global) Middle Ages frameworks? This session invites papers that place Sámi histories, lands, knowledges, and relations at the center rather than approaching them primarily through Norwegian, Swedish, Novgorodian, or other external perspectives. Especially welcome are holistic, multidisciplinary approaches that integrate archaeological, linguistic, environmental, material, oral, literary, and historical evidence. Papers might consider expansive understandings of Sápmi and Sámi communities, Sámi interactions with neighboring peoples and polities, Indigenous methodologies, Sámi temporalities, or the limits of medieval, global, and European frameworks for understanding Sámi pasts, presents, and futures.

Critical Approaches to the Indigenous Turn (4): Reflections (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Center for Renaissance Studies, Newberry Library
Organizer: Sarah LaVoy-Brunette (sfl39@cornell.edu)

In 2020, Bitterroot Salish medievalist Tarren Andrews argued that the Indigenous turn in medieval studies requires sustained reflection grounded in accountability, attention to the limits of Euro-American epistemologies and methodologies, and an ethic of relationality not reducible to exchange. This roundtable takes up that call by inviting brief reflections on the current state, possibilities, and limits of the Indigenous turn. It will also provide space to reflect on the related “Critical Approaches to the Indigenous Turn” sessions at this conference, considering how these conversations might shape future research, teaching, collaboration, and institutional practice within and beyond medieval studies.

Thomistic Philosophy

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Center for Thomistic Studies, Univ. of St. Thomas, Houston

Organizer: Steven J. Jensen (jensensj@stthom.edu)

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.

Chaucer Review (1): Codicology, Community, and the Multilingual Medieval World, in Honor of Susanna Fein

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Chaucer Review
Organizer: Leah Schwebel (las235@txstate.edu)
Megan Murton

This session honors Susanna Fein as she steps down from the editorship of The Chaucer Review by inviting papers that engage directly or indirectly with her work on manuscript studies, lyric, and multilingualism in medieval England. Possible specific topics include the Harley 2253 manuscript; multilingual or macaronic poetry collections; the aesthetics of the miscellany and the shorter poem; Pearl in relation to poetic form and/or manuscript context; devotional literature and the intersection of verse and prayer; and John Audelay's works, especially in their manuscript context.

Chaucer Review (2): Reading Chaucer, Chaucer Reading, in Honor of David Raybin

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Chaucer Review
Organizer: Leah Schwebel (las235@txstate.edu)
Megan Murton

This session honors David Raybin as he steps down from the editorship of The Chaucer Review by inviting papers that engage directly or indirectly with his work on Chaucer in connection to classical and continental textuality. Possible specific topics include Chaucer's ethics and aesthetics; questions of order and closure in The Canterbury Tales; intertextual connections between England and the European continent; and pedagogy and the future of teaching medieval literature in the 21st century.

Chaucer Review (3): Editing the Field, in Honor of David Raybin and Susanna Fein (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Chaucer Review
Organizer: Leah Schwebel (las235@txstate.edu)
Megan Murton

This roundtable honors David Raybin and Susanna Fein's long and fruitful editorship of *The Chaucer Review* through a discussion of the role of scholarly journals as gateways to the field of Middle English literary studies for both their readers and their authors. Specific topics include the diverse audiences served by scholarly journals; practices for mentoring first-time authors; the use of journal articles in pedagogy at various levels; and a journal's role as a forum for ongoing, field-defining conversations.

Chaucer Review (4): Chaucer and Italy

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Chaucer Review
Organizer: Leah Schwebel (las235@txstate.edu)
Megan Murton

This session is dedicated to re-evaluating Geoffrey Chaucer's multifaceted relationship with Italian literary, cultural, and geographic landscapes. It welcomes a range of methodological and theoretical approaches to the poet's Italian engagements. We encourage submissions that interpret this dynamic relationship through various lenses, including but not limited to source studies, manuscript culture, and classical reception. Possible areas of inquiry include new perspectives on Chaucer's travels to Italy in the 1370s and their impact on his development; reconsiderations of his acknowledged and unacknowledged borrowings from Italian poets; and analysis of his engagement with Petrarchan humanism, classicism, and lyric form.

Chaucer Review (5): Chaucer and Philosophy

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Chaucer Review
Organizer: Megan Murton (murton@cua.edu)
Leah Schwebel

This session invites fresh perspectives on Geoffrey Chaucer's philosophical engagements and the many forms in which they surface in his poetry. Papers are welcome on a wide range of topics, from the subtle currents of nominalism and voluntarism in his narratives to his most explicitly philosophical text, his translation of Boethius's *De consolazione philosophiae*. Possible focal points include set-piece philosophical speeches and the interpretive problems they raise; reinvention of Boethian metres as lyric poems; deployment of philosophical jargon, including for comic effect; challenges of translating in the Boece; and Chaucer's early reputation as a "noble philosophical poet."

Animals in the Monastic World

Modality: In-Person

Sponsor: Cistercian and Monastic Studies
Organizer: Ellen E. Martin (hamptonphantom@hotmail.com)
Tyler Sergent (sergentf@berea.edu)

What do the roles animals play in monastic life tell us about monks' or solitaries' ideas about animal and human life? Papers drawing on Rules, guides to vowed life, allegories, saints' lives, and medical or culinary notes, tease out the criteria by which monastics assess the places of animals in their world. Are meat, hunting, good wool, fish ponds, a well-fed horse, or more than one cat, allowable supports of life, unjustifiable luxuries, or useful reminders of symbolic meanings? Are the charms of animal companions distractions, secondary pleasures, or proof they are framed by God?

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)

Beyond their historical aesthetic interest, Cistercian and monastic art and architecture played a vital and meaningful role in the religious practice and daily life of the Middle Ages. In the twenty years since the last study of art and architecture was published by Cistercian Publications, new voices have emerged, offering new interpretations, relating new discoveries, and expanding the temporal and spatial boundaries of study. Acknowledging these changes, this panel seeks papers reappraising the 'work' of art and architecture in the Middle Ages and early modern era and seeking to further contextualize their cultural role in lay and religious life.

Benedictine and Cistercian Monastic Profession

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

The ritual of monastic profession described in RB 58.17–29 took on different nuances in different monastic communities. This session invites papers revealing evidence of how monastic profession occurred in different monastic communities as evidenced in customaries, cartularies, vitae, liturgical documents, chronicles, commentaries, and other monastic documents. Possible topics include the profession ritual, monastic promises, monastic dispossession, the suscipe, the petitio, and the monastic habit.

Benedictine Art and Architecture

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

This session welcomes papers pertaining to the architecture of medieval Benedictine monasteries, the art of Benedictine monks and nuns, and art which portrays Benedictine monks or nuns.

Caring for, Caring with, with Caring in Cistercian and Monastic Culture (A Roundtable)

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

Care work is often framed around the idea of repair, fixing something or someone which is broken. What happens when care is not focused on brokenness but on the relationships forged between caring, carer, cared, and community? This panel proposes an expansion of the relationality implicit within care work to support not simply caring for the other but communal approaches to caring with others and subsequently being with caring. Building on the 2026 roundtable, Out of Work, the panel seeks papers and stories that examine what we can learn from historical and contemporary Cistercian and monastic culture to care.

Cistercian and Monastic Culture in Contemporary Media

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

In his 1964 novel, *Les pierres sauvages*, Fernand Pouillon wrote of his desire to extract from the twelfth-century Abbey of Thoronet “the constancy of an art which purifies itself unceasingly by the play of variations on the same theme.” Thoronet Abbey has captured the imagination of architects, such as Pouillon, who seek to learn through its reconstruction something of its history and relevance. Similarly, this panel seeks papers on the use and reuse of Cistercian and monastic culture in contemporary media—film, novels, poetry, perhaps even video games, as an alternative approach to learning from and about monastic culture.

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 most crucial phenomenon in the history of culture of the Western world since it deals with the highest goals and values of the 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. The history of mysticism in the Western world is a history about the highest and most important ambitions and possibilities of the individual regarding the understanding of oneself and the divine.

Helfta and the Embodiment of Cistercian Theology

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Cistercian and Monastic Studies
Hagiography Society
Magistra: A Journal of Women's Spirituality in History
Organizer: Ella Johnson (JohnsonEllaL@sau.edu)
Tyler Sergent (sergentf@berea.edu)

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.

Love and Friendship in the Cistercian Tradition

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

This session investigates Cistercian understandings of love and friendship, with special emphasis on High Medieval Cistercian spirituality as a turning point in Christian tradition. We welcome papers on Cistercian reception and development of the tradition—for example of biblical, patristic, classical, secular medieval, liturgical, or Victorine thought on love and friendship—as well as papers on Cistercian understandings, models, or practices of love and friendship generally.

Memory and Monasticism

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Cistercian and Monastic Studies
Organizer: Chad Turner (chad.turner@culver.org)
Tyler Sergent (sergentf@berea.edu)

Mary Carruthers has written about memory as a predecessor to virtue for medieval thinkers while Patrick Geary explored the monastery's role in preserving the memory of those in the wider community, both lay and religious. Memory, alongside reason and will, made up the three parts of the Augustinian conception of the mind which informed many medieval monastic thinkers. This session invites papers examining the different ways memory was understood, cultivated, and preserved within medieval monastic life, whether in ways that were theological, liturgical, social, pedagogical, or commemorative.

Monastics as Neighbors in Strange Territory

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

In Spring 1996 seven monks from the Cistercian abbey of Tibhirine, in the Atlas mountains of Algeria, were kidnapped and murdered. Their lives of friendship and collaboration with their Muslim neighbors offer a window into a distinctive kind of monastic life neither isolated nor evangelical. This session invites consideration of the lives of other Christian monks and nuns who have lived together humbly and collaboratively with neighbors distinct from them in faith, nationality, or history.

Spiritual Friendship in Cistercian Writers

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Cistercian and Monastic Studies
Organizer: Isaac Slater (isaacslater1974@gmail.com)
Tyler Sergent (sergentf@berea.edu)

Spiritual friendship is a hallmark of the early Cistercian tradition, a space for communion, transformation, and fruitful collaboration. As a privileged expression of charity, Cistercian friendship was meant to support and encourage monastics in their search for God and their compassionate service to their neighbor. Previous approaches to the topic of friendship in classic, patristic, and monastic literature were revisited and developed within the context of the words in John's Gospel "I no longer call you servants but friends", breaking the boundaries between human and divine friendship.

Papers will explore different aspects of the distinctive Cistercian approach to spiritual friendship.

Dante

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

This panel explores Dante scholarship through both established methodologies and emerging approaches within Dante Studies. We examine Dante's works situated within historical contexts and material/visual culture; Dante studied from multilingual, globally comparative, and transnational perspectives within medieval studies; Dante's reception and influence across centuries; and the application of manuscript studies and book history as frameworks for understanding Dante's texts and their transmission.

Explorations in Medieval Culture: Celebrating 30 Volumes and Looking Forward to New Horizons

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: De Gruyter Brill
Organizer: Larissa "Kat" Tracy (katracy@comcast.net)
Kate Hammond

Since the publication of its first volume in 2015, Explorations in Medieval Culture has encouraged scholars across the academic spectrum to publish interdisciplinary work in medieval and early modern studies outside the traditional boundaries of research. This session features papers by recently-published authors and authors and editors currently finishing projects for the series, highlighting the diversity and innovation of their work and the aims of the series.

Turning the Dissertation into That First Book: Roundtable on Best Publishing Practices

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: De Gruyter Brill
Organizer: Larissa "Kat" Tracy (katracy@comcast.net)
Kate Hammond

To celebrate the publication of Volume 30 in the Brill series Explorations in Medieval Culture, this roundtable encourages discussion and practical advice about getting MA theses and PhD dissertations into publishable form. Early career researchers face all kinds of challenges in today's academic market and this roundtable, with notable

publishers in the field and experienced editors and authors, will open the floor to questions, comments, and a conversation about the reality of publishing.

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)

A substantive lecture on a topic proposed by the invited speaker who is a recognized scholar in medieval military history followed by a response from a scholar with recognized expertise in the lecture topic and a question-answer period. The lecture is published in the Journal of Medieval Military History the following year.

Medieval Military History (1): Early 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 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: 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 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: 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 Early Modern period. Papers that would transcend early/late periodization could fit here as might papers that focus on topics such as military technology, communications and logistics, siegecraft, female lordship, administration and finance, espionage, unlikely sources, pedagogy, newly-merging research directions, etc.

Inquiry and Artistry: In the Library, in the Workshop, in the Parlor

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

Objects and images created over the course of the Middle Ages manifest a range of strategies for visualizing and concretizing knowledge. Diagrams could pictorialize theological hermeneutics, sculptures could bear traces of the techniques used in their own production, and figurative illuminations could capture practical wisdom for corporeal well-being, cultivation of land, or the movement of the stars, among many possible examples. We invite papers structured as case-studies, revealing the medieval intersections of art and knowledge in arenas ranging from the circles of ecclesiastics and courtiers to urban artistic ateliers to the domestic abodes of burghers.

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.

The Proof is in the Pudding: Project Outcomes, New Visions, and Things Discovered by Digital Medieval Summer Institute Participants

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

We have now had several years of classes in the Digital Medieval Studies Institute, and we are interested in hearing about how the tools taught by the institute either here at Kalamazoo or at Leeds have granted you new insights into your work. As such, we would like to invite papers from anyone, but with an emphasis on former participants, talking about how they have used the skills they gained from the topics taught at DMSI and what it allowed them to discover. Works in progress are welcome; part of digital work is its iterative nature, after all.

"Active" Old English? Speaking Old English in the University Classroom

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

In this workshop, participants will learn about the value of speaking and composing sentences in an Old English language learning classroom. They will practice composing in Old English by following a series of syntactic prompts and play games that simulate an active Old English classroom

Dress and Textiles (1): Transfers and Crossings

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 (1): Transfers and Crossings." We seek papers addressing the movement of dress/textile items, methods, or concepts between individuals, regions, classes, purposes, etc. Papers might focus on such angles as trade, gifts, bequests, remaking, stylistic influences, terminology, and technology transfer, among others. Any scholarly approach to medieval or early modern clothing or textiles is acceptable; we particularly encourage interdisciplinary analyses. Papers presented at the session will also be assessed for publication potential in the journal *Medieval Clothing and Textiles*.

Dress and Textiles (2): In-Person Presentations on Textiles and 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 and Texts." Papers should address clothing/textile references in text (e.g. documents, literature), or the use of text in clothing/textiles (e.g. inscriptions, lettering). Any scholarly approach is acceptable; we particularly encourage analyses that contextualize or illuminate written references with 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*. This session will be in-person; another session on this topic will allow for virtual presentation.

Dress and Textiles (3): Virtual Presentations on Textiles and Texts

Modality: Virtual
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 and Texts.” Papers should address clothing/textile references in text (e.g. documents, literature), or the use of text in clothing/textiles (e.g. inscriptions, lettering). Any scholarly approach is acceptable; we particularly encourage analyses that contextualize or illuminate written references with 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*. This session will be virtual; another session on this topic will allow for in-person presentation.

Dress and Textiles (4): In-Person Presentations on Reading Artifacts and Images

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: Reading Artifacts and Images.” We seek papers that make a close examination of a specific dress/textile artifact or depiction, from any angle: construction, significance, use, symbolism, social implications, history, object biography, etc. Any scholarly approach is acceptable; we particularly encourage interdisciplinary analyses. Physical examples and reconstructions are welcome. Papers presented at the session will also be assessed for publication potential in the journal *Medieval Clothing and Textiles*. This session will be in-person; another session on this topic will allow for virtual presentation.

Dress and Textiles (5): Virtual Presentations on Reading Artifacts and Images

Modality: Virtual
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: Reading Artifacts and Images.” We seek papers that make a close examination of a specific dress/textile artifact or depiction,

from any angle: construction, significance, use, symbolism, social implications, history, object biography, etc. Any scholarly approach is acceptable; we particularly encourage interdisciplinary analyses. Physical examples and reconstructions are welcome. Papers presented at the session will also be assessed for publication potential in the journal *Medieval Clothing and Textiles*. This session will be virtual; another session on this topic will allow for in-person presentation.

Medieval Dress and Textile Arts Display and Demonstration

Modality: In-Person
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)

A display of reproduction textile and dress items by DISTAFF associates, handmade using medieval methods and materials. Items include textiles, decorative treatments, garments, dress accessories, and more. Exhibitors demonstrate techniques and are available to discuss the use of historic evidence in reproducing artifacts of material culture. Artisans interested in exhibiting their work who are not already involved in DISTAFF may contact us to discuss that possibility.

Medieval and Byzantine Medicine and "Magic"

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library
Organizer: Richard P. H. Greenfield (greenfie@queensu.ca)
Nicole Eddy

The ways in which people in the pre-modern world sought to prevent and handle illness necessarily reflected their understanding of the body and nature. They thus involved not only knowledge and manipulation of the creatures, plants, and minerals which surrounded them, but also of the spiritual and supernatural forces with which they co-existed. Although at one time the distinction between medical and so-called "magical" responses to illness might have seemed clear, that is no longer the case. We welcome papers considering healing in Medieval Europe and/or Byzantium, from a variety of perspectives – historical, textual, archaeological, or cross cultural.

Problems in Late Antique and Medieval Latin Poetry

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library
Platinum Latin
Organizer: Nicole Eddy (eddyn01@doaks.org)
Danuta Shanzer

DOML has been organizing high quality Latin sessions at the Zoo for about a decade; Platinum Latin for over two. 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: Nicole Eddy (eddyn01@doaks.org)
Danuta Shanzer

DOML has been organizing high quality Latin sessions at the Zoo for about a decade; Platinum Latin for over two. 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: Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library
World Philology Union
Organizer: Nicole Eddy (eddyn01@doaks.org)
Danuta Shanzer

DOML has been organizing high quality Latin sessions at the Zoo for about a decade; the World Philology Union, Oslo (founded in 2021) more recently. 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.

Classical Knowledge: The Transmission of Classical Works from Manuscript to Print

Modality: In-Person

Sponsor: Early Book Society
Organizer: Martha W. Driver (marthadriver@hotmail.com)

Ovid's *Metamorphoses* is one example of a classical text that remained popular in the Middle Ages, transmitted in versions often very different from the Latin original. Medieval versions reshape the original stories to fit a particular audience or to suit the tastes or social mores of the time. Other works drawing on classical models include Chaucer's *Troilus* and Lydgate's *Siege of Thebes*, for example. Papers might consider one or more medieval versions of classical texts and their transmission from MS to MS or from MS to print or trace the representation of classical stories in medieval illustration.

Coding and Codicology: New Practices in the Study of Manuscripts and Books

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Early Book Society
Organizer: Martha W. Driver (marthadriver@hotmail.com)

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, databanks and how to access them, 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 or exploration enabled by AI.

Copying, Editing, and Correction: How Accurate Is It?

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Early Book Society
Organizer: Martha W. Driver (marthadriver@hotmail.com)

Papers in this session will compare manuscripts and/or printed books with their exemplars (when known) or with other copies to show how texts are changed by writers, editors or correctors. Authors might emend their own texts, as in the case of Gower's *Confession Amantis*. In MS chronicles, the text is ongoing and updated by later writers as time unfolds. Printers sometimes 'improve' texts or censor them. Speakers might address how texts are revised to appeal to specific audiences or how revision can introduce misreadings and sometimes inadvertently comical errors (or potentially disastrous ones in medical texts).

Family Reading: Tracing Ownership of Manuscripts and Books

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Early Book Society

Organizer: Martha W. Driver (marthadriver@hotmail.com)

This session addresses MSS and books that passed through families, as well as questions of provenance. Scholars have cited annotation and the recording of family events in the calendars of Books of Hours, Bibles and in other texts as evidence of ownership through many generations. Volumes belonging to women that passed through families is also one emphasis in the online resource Books of Duchesses: Mapping Women Book Owners, 1350-1550, curated by Kappie Kaplan and Sarah Wilma Watson. Papers might explore the reading of mercantile, gentry, noble or royal families as recorded in the pages of the manuscripts or printed books.

Manuscripts and/or Printed Books as Memorial Artifacts

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Early Book Society
Organizer: Martha W. Driver (marthadriver@hotmail.com)

The book functions as a repository of memory, which may or may not be fully understood over time. There are, for example, the cobbled biographies in early printed editions of Chaucer. There are also collections, in both MS and print, of epitaphs (Higden's Polychronicon includes obituaries or elegies). Papers might discuss early mnemonic works like the Ars memorandi, or scholars may interpret the theme more metaphorically, looking at the ways in which a manuscript or book preserves a specific occasion or memory, or elegies written in MSS or recorded in early printed books.

Networks of Influence: Scribes, Artists, Printers, Binders

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Early Book Society
Organizer: Martha W. Driver (marthadriver@hotmail.com)

William Caxton based his earliest type fonts on the writing of Colard Mansion, a scribe, printer and bookseller in Bruges, and on the hand of David Aubert, a scribe based in Ghent. Continental illustration in printed books provided some of the earliest models for woodcuts in English books, some of which were also drawn from manuscripts. This session considers connections of manuscript exemplars with printed books, or illumination that is influential on woodcuts, or relations between MSS or early printed books and binding practice, as well as cross-cultural exchange. Or one might consider MSS copied from printed books.

Digital Humanities Projects on Medieval England, ca. 1100–1350

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Early Middle English Society
Organizer: Carla María Thomas (carlathomas@fau.edu)

This paper panel is meant to provide a space for scholarship being done on any topic in, near, or tangential to England, ca. 1100-1350, that is using digital humanities in some way to interrogate, visualize, or share such research. Medieval digital humanities projects are only growing and becoming even more accessible than ever before, and we invite anyone doing work in this area related to the Early Middle English period to share their work with us.

Queering Early Middle English (A Roundtable)

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Early Middle English Society
Organizer: Carla María Thomas (carlathomas@fau.edu)

In a period that saw great transition and instability, Early Middle English texts, manuscripts, and their socio-political contexts provide rich ground for an application of queer theory. Whether scholars approach this idea of “queering” literally or figuratively, either drawing out potential queer readings in an otherwise heterosexual tradition or, perhaps, queering the material record as we know it, we welcome abstracts for a roundtable presentation on some aspect of Early Middle English—perhaps even the very notion of the period itself (ca. 1100-1350)—with a fresh queer perspective.

Proverbs and Narration (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Early Proverb Society (EPS)
Organizer: Sarah M. Anderson (sma@princeton.edu)
Johanna Kramer (kramerji@missouri.edu)

A proverb is a detachable unit of wisdom that also functions within a narrative's movement: its operations include interrupting, accelerating, framing, concluding, pace-shifting, and speaking authoritatively from within a text to the addressed audience. As a “small form,” a proverb appears dense and complete (Bachelard; Stewart) yet contributes large-scale effects. This panel seeks to lay those effects bare. How do proverbs shape narrative temporality, voice, and closure (Genette; Ricoeur)? Do proverbs stabilize meaning and resolve conflict, or do they continue the tense ecosystem of narration (Baroni) by being misunderstood, misapplied, or misaligned, thereby generating new forms of narrative tension?

Short Sentences, Fast Judgments: Medieval Proverbs as Heuristic Statements

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Early Proverb Society (EPS)
Organizer: Sarah M. Anderson (sma@princeton.edu)

Johanna Kramer (kramerji@missouri.edu)

Medieval proverbs are both abbreviated truths and cognitively efficient forms that enable rapid judgments in many types of texts. Their economy of style adapts readily in textual environments in which memory, time, and information are constrained. Proverbs operate as culturally transmitted heuristics: they are rules of thumb that structure cognitive and verbal actions while obscuring the reasoning compressed within them. The short proverbial sentence acts as a lofty epistemic authority while also operating locally to solve problems and to take quick action. This session investigates the tensions between a proverb's brevity and the processes it directs to solve human problems.

New Research in Medieval Eastern European Studies (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Early Slavic Studies Association
Organizer: Paul Milliman (milliman@arizona.edu)

The Early Slavic Studies Association would like to bring together scholars in all fields of medieval eastern European Studies to have a conversation about their current research projects. Please share your research with us and meet new colleagues by presenting your current research in a roundtable.

Medievalists in the Archives: Archiving and Researching the Papers of Medievalists

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Elizabeth A. R. Brown Medieval Historians Archive
Special Collections and Rare Books, Western Michigan Univ.
Organizer: Meg Phillips (phillip7@upenn.edu)
Susan M. Steuer

Scholarship is an ongoing conversation among scholars and primary sources. The papers of earlier scholars may become primary sources, allowing the further exploration of research topics and historiographical investigation of medieval studies itself. This panel will focus on the research collections of medievalists that have been deposited in archives and libraries. Such collections offer insights into medievalists, their scholarship, and also the communications among scholars that spread ideas and affect research trajectories. We welcome papers from archives and libraries holding such collections, medieval studies programs that foster scholarly networks, and researchers who have explored the papers of earlier scholars.

Fabulated Lives: Black Feminist Approaches to Medieval Archives (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: English Dept., Temple Univ.
Organizer: Sarah Baechle (sebaechl@olemiss.edu)
Carissa M. Harris

We invite short talks considering how Black feminist archival praxis invites new critical insights into medieval archival materials. How do we ethically and generatively make meaning from archival silence? How can medievalists hold together the importance of historical record and the biases and silences of the records deemed worthy of archiving? Papers can detail how, precisely, to practice feminist care and critical fabulation with medieval materials, or they can deploy critical fabulation to examine a medieval document or archival figure. We particularly welcome talks inspired by Saidiya Hartman on critical fabulation and Marisa Fuentes on archival practice as vigil.

"Relations" with the Laity

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Episcopus: Society for the Study of Bishops and Secular Clergy in the Middle Ages
Organizer: Benjamin Anthony Bertrand (bbertrand3@fordham.edu)
Kyle C. Lincoln

As so-called "princes of the Church," medieval bishops were often the ultimate authorities in ecclesiastical jurisdictions throughout the Christian West. This can perhaps lead to the image of the bishop as a solitary figure who primarily interacted with only the upper echelons of medieval society. Yet, as members of the secular clergy, their official duties and daily rhythms often revolved around interactions with everyday laymen and women. This panel explores these dynamics between bishops and the laity: as dependents, partners, peers, lovers, and at times adversaries. We welcome papers from all disciplines.

Brevia: A Lightning Incubator Session

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Episcopus: Society for the Study of Bishops and Secular Clergy in the Middle Ages
Organizer: Kyle C. Lincoln (klincoln@se.edu)
Benjamin Anthony Bertrand

For the fifth year, Episcopus is sponsoring a lightning-round panel that gives up to 10 scholars ca. 3 minutes each to present a current research idea in some area of medieval history. These ideas should be in an early stage of development as part of new research projects, especially as part of graduate student research. The audience

and session participants will then respond with suggestions about where to take the ideas. This panel aims to foster research in its very early stages and to generate paper proposals for the International Congress in 2028.

Iberian Spaces of Ecclesiastical Power: New Directions and Focuses

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Episcopus: Society for the Study of Bishops and Secular Clergy in the Middle Ages
Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies
Organizer: Susana Guijarro Gonzalez (susana.guijarro@unican.es)

This session provides a venue for examining the spatial turn in the Iberian Peninsula. Presenters working on all of the major religious communities in Medieval Iberia are welcome. The session is particularly interested in promoting new forms of inquiry and fostering scholarly connections, and is hosted virtually to facilitate such encounters. This is a session sponsored by a research project ("La configuración de las Diócesis en el noroeste de la Península Ibérica: Agentes y Procesos (siglos X-XV)") funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science, Investigation and Universities.

Devotional Lives of the Poor Clares

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Franciscan Institute, St. Bonaventure Univ.
Hagiography Society
Organizer: Lezlie S. Knox (lezlie.knox@marquette.edu)
Hannah Jones (hjones@tamut.edu)

Building on a very successful panel in 2026, this session will continue to explore the religious practices of the enclosed Franciscan sisters. We seek papers that examine the hagiographic texts, art, sermons, and/or liturgical offices that shaped their devotional lives.

Caveat emptor: Trade in the Fourteenth Century

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: 14th Century Society
Organizer: Debra A. Salata (debra.salata@lmunet.edu)

This session seeks submissions that explore trade in the 14th century, including, but not limited to, who was involved in trade, types of trade, what was traded, how trade was conducted, and the effects the crises of the 14th century had on trade.

Follow the Money: Fourteenth-Century Economics

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: 14th Century Society
Organizer: Daniel K Williams (dkw999@aol.com)

This session seeks submissions that explore the economic rationale (known or imagined) behind various activities, from building monasteries, water mills, and ships to outfitting expeditions, organizing crusades, and more, in Europe during 14th century. Special attention should be given to why something was done, rather than just a description of what was done and who was involved.

Religious Men and Women in the Fourteenth Century

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: 14th Century Society
Organizer: Sarah Ifft Decker (iffdeckers@rhodes.edu)

The 14th century was a moment of religious upheaval and transformation. European Christians experienced the rise of new religious orders and reform movements, intensified violent persecution of heretics, and the challenges posed by the Great Western Schism. The crisis of the Black Death left people grappling with new questions about death, faith, and divine authority, and inspired religious reactions that encompassed self-mortification, charitable donations, public processions, and slaughter of heretics and Jews. This panel seeks papers on how religious professionals, men and women, lived, worked, and prayed at this pivotal moment. Papers that look beyond European Christianity are welcome.

The Environment in the Fourteenth Century

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: 14th Century Society
Organizer: Sarah Ifft Decker (iffdeckers@rhodes.edu)

The 14th century experienced its own climate change, the Little Ice Age, which lasted for approximately five centuries. This moment of environmental change makes discussion of human relationships with the environment particularly fruitful. This session seeks papers on topics including, but not limited to, use of environmental resources, landscape design, emotional ties and reactions to the environment, and representations of the environment in different types of medieval sources. The panel seeks to draw together an interdisciplinary array of papers, drawing on visual sources, literary texts, and documentary records, within in a global framework that includes non-Western contexts.

Medieval Mendicant Preaching

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

Preaching by Franciscans, Dominicans, and other mendicant orders was a key component of life and thought of Western Europe (and points beyond) in the later Middle Ages. This session will cover all aspects of mendicant preaching.

Saint Francis of Assisi

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

October 3, 2026 will mark the eight hundredth centenary of the death of Francis of Assisi. A cult was already flourishing, soon enhanced by Pope Gregory IX's canonization on July 16, 1228. This session seeks papers that address representations of Francis' sanctity in both a range of genres (hagiographical vitae, liturgical hymns, art, material objects, etc.) as well ones that historicize its changes and themes over the later Middle Ages in a range of spaces and places.

Medievalists Design Games II: The Games We Make in Practice

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Game Cultures Society
Organizer: Clint E Morrison (morrisc@uww.edu)
Thomas C. Sawyer
Betsy McCormick (bmccormick@mtsac.edu)

Do you and your students make use of games in the classroom? Do you want to experiment with the affordances of responsible games-based education? This demonstration hour offers an opportunity to show off what you and your students have made – and to see the creative approaches colleagues are taking in their classrooms to learning with play. Fellow educators, experienced designers, and interested hobbyists will be available for focused playtesting. Bring your game to ICMS 2027, explore further development possibilities, and experience creativity in our own growing community of specialist designers.

Medievalists Design Games: How to Make a Game in Theory (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Game Cultures Society
Organizer: Clint E Morrison (morrisoc@uww.edu)
Thomas C. Sawyer
Betsy McCormick (bmccormick@mtsac.edu)

This roundtable invites prior participants of the December 2025 conference, Medievalists Design Games, alongside new voices, to critically reflect on the making of historically- and theoretically-conscious games, and the balance between game design for the classroom and the public sphere.

Replay: Reconsidering Play and Game in Medieval Drama

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Game Cultures Society
Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society (MRDS)
Organizer: Clint E Morrison (morrisoc@uww.edu)
Jeffery G. Stoyanoff
Betsy McCormick (bmccormick@mtsac.edu)

Our taxonomy of terms for medieval performance is complicated and messy. Unpacking our existing taxonomy offers opportunities to reconfigure and reimagine medieval performances and our connection to them. This session proposes a re-evaluation of our use of “ludic”, “play”, and “game” as they relate to premodern drama. We invite papers that engage with the role of play and game in premodern drama. Theoretical approaches are of particular interest, but practical application of games played during performances offer glimpses of premodern play in action.

Boundaries of Legitimate Violence in the Premodern World (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Goliardic Society
Organizer: Benjamin N. Yusen (byusen@iu.edu)
Anna K. Davis
Benjamin H. Hoover (bhhoover@iu.edu)

Recent conflicts have sustained questions regarding the legitimacy of violence. As executive, legislative, judicial, and religious powers vie for authority to sanction violence, as premodernists, we should reflect on the manner in which jurisdictional claims evoke both history and narrative. Given this context, this roundtable seeks to address how premodern texts and history can inform the study of sanctioned violence. How are the variegated claims to legitimate violence complicated by those from other centers of

authority, whether religious, secular, or intersectional across boundaries of estate, class, gender, sexuality, or non-humanness?

Jokes and Joyful Language in the Middle Ages (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Goliardic Society
Organizer: Spencer P. Bennett (spencer.p.bennett@wmich.edu)

Medieval Studies is often presented as a serious field of study that requires knowledge of dead languages. This session attempts to highlight humor and fun in Medieval Language studies. Jokes, puns, and witty turns of phrase, which can be found in texts of any language, may serve as a catalyst for research, serve as a learning opportunity, and even spark a lifelong love of language. This session is open to scholars of any level of experience, including graduate students, and the panel focus is on any geographic area during the years 500-1500 CE.

Medieval Material Meanings

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Goliardic Society
Organizer: Spencer P. Bennett (spencer.p.bennett@wmich.edu)

Medieval Studies is an interdisciplinary field. With an emphasis on religious symbolism, this session attempts to highlight aspects of materiality in the Middle Ages. Architecture, clothing, relics, folk items, pilgrim badges, and more all contribute to our understanding of the Middle Ages. This session is open to scholars of any level of experience, including graduate students, and the panel focus is on any geographic area during the years 500-1500 CE.

Animals, Animalities, and Ecocriticisms in Hagiography

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Hagiography Society
Medieval Ecocriticisms
Organizer: Julia Salkind (julia.salkind@marquette.edu)
Grace K. DiModugno (gd69@fordham.edu)

Hagiography frequently focuses on its human subjects, yet more could be said about the natural world which lies beyond the human. Such analyses of the natural world are increasingly a concern in our modern world and exploring the intersections between our planet and saints opens the way to larger ecological discussions. This session invites paper proposals which explore the natural world from flora to stones, to animals and animalities, and other sects of the natural world living in hagiography, connecting these discussions to larger concerns pertaining to our natural world and its divinity today.

Introduction to Hagiographies (1): Across Religious Traditions (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Hagiography Society
Organizer: Laura Ackerman Smoller (laura.smoller@rochester.edu)
Amy V. Ogden

Scholars are invited to present a very quick overview of their topic and a bibliography of the most important resources for working in their subfield. We hope to present these guides on the Hagiography Society website after the conference. Junior scholars who wish to participate are encouraged to team up with a senior scholar in their field to ensure deeper scholarly context. This first roundtable will present different religions' (or sects') approaches to holiness/ holy people (acknowledging that some of the religions or sects may not recognize saints). Guides might include Byzantium, Judaism, Buddhism, Sufism, Islam, Hinduism, etc.

Introduction to Hagiographies (2): Hot Topics (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Hagiography Society
Organizer: Laura Ackerman Smoller (laura.smoller@rochester.edu)
Amy V. Ogden

Scholars are invited to present a very quick overview of their topic and a bibliography of the most important resources for working in their subfield. We hope to present these guides on the Hagiography Society website after the conference. Junior scholars who wish to participate are encouraged to team up with a senior scholar to ensure deeper scholarly context. This second roundtable will dive into topics that have garnered significant interest over the past decades and are rich for undergraduate courses and common background for much scholarship. Topics could include the environment, relics, death, gender, mendicant orders, etc.

Legacies of Virgin Martyrs

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Hagiography Society
Organizer: Julia Salkind (julia.salkind@marquette.edu)

This session invites paper proposals which explore the legacies of virgin martyrs, examining how they have influenced not only their religious devotees, but also how they live on into the modern day in various ways ranging from technological concerns about artificial intelligence and social media to socio-political topics regarding sexual violence and the condition of women.

Miracles at Scale: Building a Database for Medieval Hagiography (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Hagiography Society
Organizer: Alice Morandy (Amorandy@princeton.edu)
Kara Kersh

This roundtable will bring together scholars interested in hagiography and digital humanities to discuss the intellectual, technical, and collaborative possibilities of a centralized, open-access database devoted to medieval miracles. Participants will consider what a miracle database should contain, how the miracles might be categorized/tagged, and what methodological opportunities emerge when miracle collections are studied comparatively and at scale. The session is conceived as a collaborative conversation about the digital future of hagiographic studies and as an assessment of the feasibility and scholarly value of an open-access miracle database.

Music and the Saints

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Hagiography Society
Musicology at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Veronica Arntz (veronica.nygaard@marquette.edu)
Melanie Batoff
Suzanna Feldkamp

Saints' lives and music are often intertwined in both hagiographical and non-hagiographical medieval sources. Examples include saints singing, playing, and composing music; liturgical and non-liturgical songs in saints' vitae; Proper Offices for Saints and historiae, and ultimately, the reception of saintly cults through liturgical and non-liturgical musical sources. This session is open to a wide variety of proposals on the intersection between saints' lives and music in hagiographical, literary, and liturgical sources.

Saints and the Divided Church

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Hagiography Society
Organizer: Laura Ackerman Smoller (laura.smoller@rochester.edu)

Studies by Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski and Frances Courtney Kneupper have reminded us how important the words of holy people were during the Great Schism (1378-1417). This panel invites papers from all disciplines addressing the ways in which the voices and cults of saints were mobilized during periods of division throughout the

Middle Ages, whether in support of one side or another in a papal schism, or in pleas for peace and reconciliation.

Saints in Translation: Crossing Language

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Hagiography Society
Organizer: Simon Samuel Kootstra-Ford (simon.kootstrafor@gmail.com)

Martyr texts, apophthegmata, saints' lives, and miracle stories are among the most widely circulated and often adapted texts of the Late Antique and Medieval periods. This panel invites participants to explore the nature and mechanics of this dissemination, as well as the narrative productivity, of hagiography through the lens of translation. Taking a broad approach to the reception and transmission of texts between languages, topics might include the mechanics of medieval translation, language use/selection, translation as rewriting, genre and authentication across linguistic traditions, as well as adaptations which reflect the new cultural and historical context(s).

Saints Outside Hagiography: Liturgy, Literature, and Beyond

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Hagiography Society
Organizer: Dolan Gallagher (dgallagher@fas.harvard.edu)

Most of us know the saints we work on most intimately through their vitae, but they can be seen in many other materials in the medieval world. This panel proposes to look at ways that saints are depicted outside their hagiographic contexts, when they appear in liturgies, sermons, prose, art, and any other non-hagiographic sources. A saint with a limited hagiographic tradition might be studied through their presence elsewhere in culture, or a new context could provide insights into our understanding of a popular saint's reception. Paper proposals are welcome from any field or discipline within medieval studies.

Teaching Saints Across Time

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Hagiography Society
TEAMS (Teaching Association for Medieval Studies)
Organizer: Meg Cotter-Lynch (mcotter@se.edu)
Deborah M. Sinnreich-Levi (profsinnreichlevi@gmail.com)

While many of us research saints in their medieval contexts, we teach about them in the 21st century. This panel solicits considerations of how we, as teachers, connect medieval saints with modern audiences, i.e. our students. Topics might include comparative devotional practices across time; medieval and modern material culture of

saints (e.g. churches, icons, manuscripts); 21st century hagiographic texts and media; and/or classroom exercises that connect modern students with medieval saints. Papers that provide concrete examples of pedagogical practice are encouraged.

The Digital Humanities and the Study of Hagiography

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Hagiography Society
Organizer: Cecilia J. Barnard (barnar3@clemson.edu)

The Hagiography Society is pleased to solicit proposals that demonstrate the application of computing and digital humanities to the continued study of medieval hagiography. In an increasingly digital present, computing changes the way we study the past. Scholars are encouraged to submit anything that combines digital humanities techniques like mapping, textual analysis, network analysis, or digital public history with the broad study of the lives of medieval saints.

Beyond Beowulf: Historical Aspects of Engla land

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Haskins Society
History Dept., Ave Maria Univ
Organizer: Christopher Riedel (criedel@albion.edu)
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.

Laura L. Gathagan's *The Queenship of Mathilda of Flanders, c. 1031-1083: Embodying Conquest* (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Haskins Society
Medieval People
Organizer: Amy Livingstone (ALivingstone@lincoln.ac.uk)
Charlotte Cartwright
Laura L. Gathagan (laura.gathagan@cortland.edu)

Laura L. Gathagan's biography of Mathilda of Flanders provides the first-indepth analysis of the life of the first Norman queen. The book places Mathilda's contributions at the center of Anglo-Norman politics and offers an innovative approach to writing the

lives of medieval elite women. The roundtable would include scholars working across the medieval world from different periods. Their task would be to comment upon what they see as Gathagan's contribution to the scholarship on queenship power. These scholars would have a range of expertise and would include senior scholars as well as early career academics.

Mulieres obscurae: Women in the Early Middle Ages, ca. 400–1100

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Haskins Society
Organizer: Brittany J. Orton (borton@uccs.edu)

This session offers a space for those researching early medieval women in both the European world, and more broadly, European women and their connections to the wider Mediterranean. The organiser welcomes papers focusing on either elite, non-elite, and/or ecclesiastical women for the period between 400 and 1100. This panel aims to be as inclusive as possible, so a wide variety of topics that include work on material and literary cultures, as well as historical aspects of early medieval women are encouraged. This session seeks to create a collaborative space and foster discussion between scholars specifically researching early medieval women.

New Voices in Medieval History

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Haskins Society
Organizer: Amy Livingstone (ALivingstone@lincoln.ac.uk)
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. Panelists who present their papers in person are eligible to apply for a modest travel bursary from the Haskins Society.

The Normans in 2027

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Haskins Society
Medieval People
Organizer: Amy Livingstone (ALivingstone@lincoln.ac.uk)
Charlotte Cartwright
Laura L. Gathagan (laura.gathagan@cortland.edu)

2027 will be the year of the Normans. Many events have been developed to celebrate this anniversary, including exhibiting the Bayeux Tapestry in London for the first time. This millennial celebration provides an ideal opportunity to evaluate the Normans. Charles Homer Haskins was foundational in what we think about the Normans. How has our understanding of the Normans changed or evolved since Haskins' time? What has remained consistent? What new methodologies have been employed? What areas have been examined that Haskins didn't consider?

Horror in the Middle Ages (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Horror Joy
Organizer: Brian T. O'Camb (btocamb@iu.edu)
Jeffery G. Stoyanoff

Since the horror genre is having a moment, we want to consider its presence in the past. This session invites participants to discuss and theorize horror in the Middle Ages. Some questions we aim to explore: what medieval writings might be read as horror and to what ends? What horrified medieval persons, and how did they experience horror? Without time machines, how can scholars today understand horror as an affect in period specific terms based on medieval writings, artworks, and objects alone? How can contemporary horror literature and cinema's conventions inform our knowledge about about medieval horror (and vice versa)?

Flipping the Script: Innovative Approaches to Aljamía Studies

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Ibero-Medieval Association of North America (IMANA)
Organizer: John August Bollweg (trecento@comcast.net)
Donald W Wood (donald.wood@greenriver.edu)

This session invites papers applying bold or innovative approaches to the study of Aljamía languages and texts from across Medieval Iberia. "Aljamía" may include Aljamiado-Morisco, Judeo-Español, Judezno, Judeo-Arabic, Judeo-Portuguese, Haketía, and other script-language contact phenomena within or adjacent to the Iberian Peninsula. Studies may engage with older theoretical frameworks in new or exploratory ways, or with new theories and approaches such as decolonial or postcolonial theory, discourse theories, sociolinguistics, digital philology, cross-script semiotics, adaptation theory, and linguistic anthropology. We seek new ways of thinking about Aljamía that cast it as a dynamic creative force and a site of theoretical possibility.

Inside the Aljama: Partial Sovereigns in Coexistence and Conversation in Medieval Iberia and the Mediterranean

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Ibero-Medieval Association of North America (IMANA)
Organizer: John August Bollweg (trecento@comcast.net)
Adam Mahler
Wiktoria Bryzys

Building on recent scholarship on medieval Iberia's ethnoreligious communities, this session seeks to reimagine these groups as partial sovereigns operating within larger hegemonic powers. How did Iberian ethnic communities govern themselves internally, and how did aljamas, the dhimma system, and the administrative apparatus impact and become legible in literature, visual arts, and material culture? We invite papers spanning literary and historiographic works composed between the 8th and 17th centuries in all languages of Iberia and the Sephardic and Morisco diasporas that examine questions of mediation, coexistence, class hierarchies, translation, and both intra- and interconfessional relations.

Boosting the Volume: The Norms, Forms, and Future of the Edited Collection (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Index of Medieval Art, Princeton Univ.
Organizer: Pamela A. Patton (ppatton@princeton.edu)

In a rapidly evolving scholarly landscape, the edited volume remains an enduring yet adaptable medium. This round table, convened to mark the tenth anniversary of the Signa book series published by the Index of Medieval Art with Penn State University Press, invites perspectives on the format and its future. What makes an edited volume succeed? How does it reach its readership? How might online publishing and digital search tools (including AI aggregators) affect how authors and editors present their work? We invite 5-minute contributions from editors and publishers to prompt discussion with authors and readers at all stages.

Medieval Ruins from Poetic Motif to Modern Archaeology: Past, Present, and Future

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Institute for Medieval Studies, Univ. of New Mexico
Organizer: Lisa Myers (myersl@unm.edu)

People are fascinated by ruins, remnants of the past that reach across time, highlighting its passage as well as the decay and death that all face. While emphasizing the transience of human accomplishments, ruins also offer the hope that some small part of

our world might survive into the future to attest to our memory. This interdisciplinary session invites proposals on ruins and the medieval world, including, but not limited to poetic ruin motifs, the appearance of ruins in global medieval literature, ruins in works of medievalism, and modern archaeological studies and preservation efforts aimed at medieval ruins.

The Outlaw Tale Beyond Robin Hood: Literary and Historical Influences on the Development of the Outlaw as Hero

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Institute for Medieval Studies, Univ. of New Mexico
Organizer: Lisa Myers (myersl@unm.edu)

Robin Hood, as the most enduring medieval outlaw, casts a long shadow across the corpus of medieval outlaw tales. By the time the earliest Robin Hood poems were recorded c. 1450-1500, though, the outlaw tale as a generic form with specific tropes and motifs had long been established. This inter-disciplinary session seeks proposals on any aspect of global medieval outlaw tales and outlawry not directly focused on Robin Hood, including, but not limited to outlaw tales, historical outlaws, historical and legal studies on medieval outlawry, and new interpretations of medieval literary and historical figures as outlaws.

Voices From the Margins: Reenvisioning Old English and Anglo-Latin Literature

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Institute for Medieval Studies, Univ. of New Mexico
Organizer: Luke J. Sheppard (ljshepp@unm.edu)
Cody West (cwest22@unm.edu)

This session invites papers that reconsider early medieval English literary culture through innovative, interdisciplinary, and philologically grounded approaches. We seek to explore how Old English and Anglo-Latin texts negotiate identity, spaces, bodies, environments, and the transmission of knowledge. We welcome contributions engaging a range of methodologies, including but not limited to philology, formalism, historiography, manuscript studies, ecocriticism, affect theory, sound studies, gender studies, disability studies, posthumanism, theology, translation studies, and intellectual history. By bringing together diverse critical and historical perspectives, we aim to foster new and continuing conversations about the interpretive possibilities and continuing relevance of early medieval English literature.

Centring the "Periphery": New Perspectives on Agency and Women Religious in Iberia

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Instituto de Estudos Medievais, Univ. Nova de Lisboa
Organizer: Paula Cardoso (pcardoso@fcsh.unl.pt)

Women religious are now widely recognized as active participants in medieval society. Recent scholarship has demonstrated that these women were far from passive actors, and that agency was not limited to exceptional cases. Yet regions traditionally considered peripheral, such as Iberia, remain underrepresented in the historiography despite emerging studies on the subject. By foregrounding current research in this area, this session seeks to help correct this imbalance. We invite papers exploring the different ways Iberian women religious exercised agency, from a range of disciplinary perspectives — including history, art history, musicology, literary studies, and digital humanities — and methodologies.

Foretell and Forth-Tell: Prophets, Prophecies, and Prophetic Discourse in Text and Image in the Greater/Global Fifteenth Century

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

We invite a range of topics on all streams of the prophetic tradition as expressed by Gerson, Chartier, and their contemporaries throughout the greater/global fifteenth century and in all faith traditions, including the voices of women. Based in many passages of the Bible and other sacred text, possible topics include prophecy as “foretelling,” with some forms of prediction deemed heretical, and the varieties of prophecy as “forth-telling,” voicing moral advice and correction without fear or favor. Modes of prophecy included the forthright “voice of one crying,” poetic speech, and visionary experience reported by the prophet. Visual arts may be incorporated.

Comparing Early and Late Medieval Anchorites (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Anchoritic Society
Organizer: Michelle M. Sauer (michelle.m.sauer@und.edu)

Early anchorites include all the Desert Fathers and Mothers, but also might include the first “wave” of anchorites in the eighth and ninth centuries. These trailblazers established the discipline and left a legacy expanded upon by later practitioners. The

comparison is useful to understand the tradition as a whole across the world. Roundtable presenters may discuss anchorites in any part of the world and various religious traditions. We especially hope to attract people to present on Byzantine recluses, which need more work done on them.

Julian of Norwich (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: International Anchoritic Society
Organizer: Michelle M. Sauer (michelle.m.sauer@und.edu)

We welcome proposals addressing anything and everything about Julian of Norwich.

Sacred Isolation and Medieval Subjectivities

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: International Anchoritic Society
Organizer: Michelle M. Sauer (michelle.m.sauer@und.edu)

This session considers how voluntarily enclosed people in the Middle Ages understood themselves, their inner lives, and their relationship to the world. Far from the rigid, one-dimensional figures often assumed, medieval individuals experienced complex, shifting senses of self through deeply interconnected frameworks. For recluses, the self was also viewed through a spiritual lens. The mind was seen as a space where the divine and the demonic battled, and introspection was an act of examining the soul's proximity to God. This session is wide open as far as religious tradition, geographical location, sex/gender of the practitioner, etc., are concerned.

Temporalities and Reclusion (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Anchoritic Society
New Queer Medievalisms
Organizer: Michelle M. Sauer (michelle.m.sauer@und.edu)

St. Augustine famously contemplated temporality, arguing that the past exists only as memory and the future as expectation. He posited that through contemplation and inner virtues, the human soul can transcend temporal constraints of our physical existence, anchored in sequential time, and access a deeper sense of the present or the eternal. This roundtable seeks presentations that examine the multifaceted connections among time, space, and reclusion both within the mystic tradition and elsewhere.

Arthur In Between the Medieval and the Modern

Modality: In-Person

Sponsor: International Arthurian Society, North American Branch (IAS/NAB)
Organizer: Sian Echard (sian@mail.ubc.ca)
Kevin J. Harty (harty@lasalle.edu)

The legend of Arthur did not stop developing with the sunset of the Middle Ages and then start up again in the early twentieth century. This panel asks for papers that discuss the manifestations of the Arthurian legend over the nearly six centuries between the medieval and the modern in literature, art, or music. Why did authors, artists, and composers continue to turn to Arthur's story for inspiration in post-medieval times? What did their embrace of Arthur say about his legend's adaptability and timelessness, and how do their works further attest to Arthur's continuing status as once and future king?

Arthurian Economies

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Arthurian Society, North American Branch (IAS/NAB)
Organizer: Sian Echard (sian@mail.ubc.ca)
Molly A. Martin (martinma@uindy.edu)

The Arthurian world is often presented as one of unexamined wealth: courts regularly hold lavish feasts; knights ride out expensively armed and mounted; and kings reward their followers with land, retainers, and other forms of wealth. But around the edges, there are suggestions of something else. There are some knights described as poor (and often overlooked as a result); there are vavasours who have fallen on hard times; there are peasants taking pigs to market mown down by military attack. This session invites papers that consider any of the many ways the Arthurian economic world is revealed, concealed, or interrogated.

Comparing the Rich Traditions of the Tristan and Isolde Materials (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Arthurian Society, North American Branch (IAS/NAB)
Organizer: Sian Echard (sian@mail.ubc.ca)
Evelyn Meyer (evelyn.meyer@slu.edu)

This roundtable seeks to bring together scholars from a broad range of disciplinary backgrounds (e.g., textual, visual, linguistic, codicological) to tease out the similarities and differences in the rich and diverse Tristan and Isolde traditions. Presentations may focus on what some of the unique features are in one tradition and why the story was adapted in this way in each cultural context. Do text and image in the medieval context tell the same or a different story? How was the material adapted into modern contexts? We welcome roundtable presentations from all disciplines and cultural areas.

War and Violence in the Arthurian Tradition

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

Violence, whether as ritualized chivalric performance or organized warfare, is central to the lives of both the knights and kings of the Arthurian tradition. It is also a place that manifests the tensions at the heart of romance tradition, as the same actions can be praised or blamed, sometimes making success and failure hard to distinguish. Victims of violence sometimes have their stories told, and at other times seem barely to exist. We invite papers on any aspect of war and violence in the Arthurian tradition.

Objects in the Robin Hood and Outlaw Tradition

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

Material studies allow for a focus on objects in literary tradition and in culture in general, including film adaptations. In the scholarship of the Robin Hood tradition and medieval outlaw tradition more broadly, some of what has been analyzed so far includes the types of weapon represented as being used by outlaws, with particular emphasis on such emblematic objects as Robin Hood's bow and arrow. Further analysis could investigate the clothes that feature in the many adaptations of the Robin Hood and outlaw legends, or any other objects that are important for the development of the respective plots.

The Death(s) of Robin Hood (1): The Death of Robin Hood (2026) (A Roundtable)

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: International Association for Robin Hood Studies (IARHS)
International Society for the Study of Medievalism
Organizer: Alexander L. Kaufman (alkaufman@bsu.edu)
Angela J. Weisl (angela.weisl@shu.edu)

This roundtable will explore the representation of Robin Hood's literal and metaphorical death(s) in the A24 film *The Death of Robin Hood* (2026). We are particularly interested in papers that focus on Robin's character arc in this film and his death through the focused analysis of such themes as medievalism, ageism, ableism, religion, life-after-death, community, others and othering, death and dying, the environment and space, and representations of violence. We welcome perspectives that place this film in dialogue with other media works that depict Robin Hood's death and explore any of the above themes.

The Death(s) of Robin Hood (2): Literary Representations

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: International Association for Robin Hood Studies (IARHS)
International Society for the Study of Medievalism
Organizer: Angela J. Weisl (angela.weisl@shu.edu)
Alexander L. Kaufman (alkaufman@bsu.edu)

This session seeks papers that examine Robin Hood's death in medieval and post-medieval poems, plays, novels, and other written texts. Robin is not the once-and-future king, but in many ways he is the once-and-future king of the (good?) outlaws as his character often dies and is reborn in successive works. Papers that examine narrational concerns, religious themes, historical contexts, cultural frameworks, ethical implications, and theoretical and philosophical constructs of Robin Hood's death and dying are most welcome.

Boethius as "Last of the Romans, First of the Scholastics"

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Boethius Society
Organizer: Megan Murton (murton@cua.edu)

Boethius's position as a transitional figure, situated on the boundary between Late Antiquity and the early Middle Ages, is the focus of this session, which invites papers that address his liminal historical position. Possible topics include his contributions to the liberal arts curriculum; his role in theological and political controversies; his biography and its dissemination; his tomb and local cult in Pavia; the textual transmission of his works; his translation projects from Greek into Latin; and the vernacular translation tradition of his final work *De consolazione philosophiae*.

Literary Reception of Boethius's *De consolazione philosophiae*

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Boethius Society
Organizer: Megan Murton (murton@cua.edu)

This session addresses the multi-faceted influence of the *Consolatio* on medieval Latin and vernacular writers such as Dante, Alain de Lille, Guillaume de Machaut, Gower, and Chaucer. Papers are welcome on such topics as their use of prosimetric form; deployment of the trope of Fortune and her wheel; engagement with the work's philosophical argumentation; and use of allegory. This robust reception history continues in the works of modern-day writers influenced by medievalism, and papers are equally welcome on the Boethian resonances of works such as C.S. Lewis's *The Great Divorce* and John Kennedy Toole's *A Confederacy of Dunces*.

Provenance Research for Medieval Art (1): Museums, Markets, and Me

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: International Center of Medieval Art (ICMA)
Organizer: Christine Brennan (Christine.Brennan@metmuseum.org)
Scott D. Miller

This three-session, ICMA-sponsored panel offers medievalists the opportunity to examine the history, goals, and methods of provenance research and to reflect on its value to the study of medieval artworks of all media, including manuscripts. The first session, "Provenance Research I: Museums, Markets, and Me," invites professional provenance researchers to discuss the ethical and legal landscape of their work, along with the current goals, methods, and working practices of their field.

Provenance Research for Medieval Art (2): Collecting History

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Center of Medieval Art (ICMA)
Organizer: Christine Brennan (Christine.Brennan@metmuseum.org)
Scott D. Miller

This three-session, ICMA-sponsored panel offers medievalists the opportunity to examine the history, goals, and methods of provenance research and to reflect on its value to the study of medieval artworks of all media, including manuscripts. The second session, "Provenance Research II: Collecting History," gathers research focused on the history of buying, selling, and collecting medieval art in modernity. Papers in this panel call attention to post-medieval processes that redistributed medieval artworks, intervened into their physical appearance, appropriated them for a range of ideological goals, or otherwise established their presence in contemporary society.

Provenance Research for Medieval Art (3): Objects Live!

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: International Center of Medieval Art (ICMA)
Organizer: Scott D. Miller (sm1187@princeton.edu)
Christine Brennan

Provenance research now occupies a prominent position in the academic research and the popular discourse around medieval artworks. This three-session, ICMA-sponsored panel offers medievalists the opportunity to examine the history, goals, and methods of provenance research and to reflect on its value to the study of medieval artworks of all media, including manuscripts. The third session, "Provenance Research (3): Objects Live!" spotlights historical research that follows individual objects through multiple generations of human subjects.

Provenance Research for Medieval Art: The Workshop

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Center of Medieval Art (ICMA)
Organizer: Christine Brennan (Christine.Brennan@metmuseum.org)
Scott D. Miller

This workshop is a complement to the ICMA-sponsored session(s) on “Provenance Research for Medieval Art,” and offers participants the opportunity to practice the methods of provenance research under the guidance of area experts. In the first half of the workshop, expert provenance researchers will deliver a brief presentation that defines object provenance, describes how to read provenance statements, and introduces methods and resources frequently used in this line of research. In the second section, the group will split into teams and use these resources to develop a provenance statement. Participants are asked to provide their personal laptop.

Great Christine de Pizan Scholars: Christine Reno

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

Papers in this session will examine the works of Christine Reno, her impact on Christian studies, and how her vision shaped scholarship on Christine de Pizan and medieval women writers.

The Uses and Abuses of Christine de Pizan

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

Abstracts are welcome on topics related to the life and works of Christine de Pizan, and how they were used and abused, in medieval, early modern, and contemporary times. Abstracts on Christine's place in Academia, in politics, in literary and intellectual stories are welcome.

Courts in Images/Images in Courts

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

Gloria Allaire (gkallaire@gmail.com)

The physical appearance or social aspects of courts depicted in both written and visual forms convey signs of power and opulence. Portrayals of courts can demonstrate external magnificence (castles, architectural features, land holdings such as hunting parks) or more intimate interior scenes (throne rooms, banquet halls, chambers). Depictions of terrestrial or celestial courts and their rulers may even be morally charged. Images within these spaces --whether real or fictive -- include armorials, frescoes, sculptural elements and wall decor. Courtly imagery also appears woven in tapestries and courtly attire.

Honoring Lorraine Kochanske Stock (A Roundtable)

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

The International Courtly Literature Society (North American Branch) would like to continue its tradition of honoring a colleague who has been contributing to research, teaching, and - most importantly - mentorship in courtly literature over decades of a productive professional career. We will bring together colleagues, friends, students, and admirers who have been benefitting from Lorraine's work on e.g. Arthurian literature, wild men, and Robin Hood to present work which was influenced by Lorraine's. Dr. Stock herself will serve as respondent.

In Memory of Mark Host

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

After a long and heroic battle, Mark Host died of cancer in 2026. A PhD student in English at Fordham University, he had returned to academia after a successful career in IT. And although he was at the beginning of his career as medievalist, he had already made an impact with his research on Arthurian literature and gaming, and by combining his skillsets with his significant contributions to multiple websites. We would like to gather teachers, friends, and students of Mark's to commemorate him, his work, and his indefatigable spirit in a session related to the topics he cared about.

Before Chinon: Joan of Arc's Origins, Callings, and the Threshold of History

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

Joan of Arc's story effectively begins for most audiences at Orléans--and yet the years before her departure from Domremy, the three rejections by Robert de Baudricourt, the leave-taking from her family, and the slow assembly of a public identity constitute one of the most contested and generative spaces in Johannic studies. The documentary record is thin, the mythologizing is thick, and the interpretive stakes are high. This panel invites scholars to examine Joan of Arc's origins--historical, literary, and cultural--with particular attention to the threshold period between private calling and public action.

Marie de France

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

The body of work attributed to Marie de France, a twelfth-century woman writing in French at the English court, 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.

Medieval Performance: Performing Dreams, Visions, and Memory

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Marie de France Society
La corónica: A Journal of Medieval Hispanic Languages,
Literatures, and Cultures
Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society (MRDS)
Organizer: Tamara Bentley Caudill (tcaudil1@ju.edu)

This session is a Global Medieval Languages collaboration, with colleagues performing medieval poetry or dramatic pieces in a spectrum of medieval languages. This year's performances will focus on performing dreams, visions, and/or memory. 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 with a guided discussion afterwards.

Reimagining Marie de France: Adaptations, Translations, and Fan-Fiction (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Marie de France Society
Organizer: Genevieve R. Berendt (g.berendt594@gmail.com)
Karen Casey Casebier (karen-casebier@utc.edu)

The Lais of Marie de France have been the subject of a number of translations, adaptations, and even fan-fiction. There are medieval translations like the Old Norse Strengleikar, contemporary adaptations such as Emilie Mercier's animated short film and Kel McDonald's graphic novel, and even novels about Marie de France, like Lauren Groff's *Matrix*, a sort of fan-fiction that re-imagines the context of Marie's Lais. This roundtable seeks contributions on any aspect of translating, adapting or re-interpreting Marie de France, using any methodological approach, in order to better define the history and significance of the works of Marie de France.

Demystifying Sermon Studies (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Medieval Sermon Studies Society
Hagiography Society
Organizer: Andrew Reeves (andrew.reeves1@mga.edu)
Noah Cole

Scholars in political, cultural, and intellectual history, literature, theology, and more besides end up coming into contact with sermon studies. The study of the sermon often requires a familiarity with the structure and organization of the sermon, the modern indices, and specialized terminology that goes along with it. All of these can end up being daunting to the scholar coming into contact with sermon studies. This roundtable will be a discussion how to facilitate communication between scholars of the sermon and those in related disciplines, to demystify the study of the medieval sermon.

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. We

invite proposals from both early career and established scholars using literary, historical, theological, philosophical, or interdisciplinary approaches to sermon studies.

Introduction to Working in French Archives and Libraries (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: International Medieval Society-Paris (IMS-Paris)
Organizer: Gabriela Chitwood (gabriela.chitwood@gmail.com)
Tori Schmitt (torischmitt@ucla.edu)

The International Medieval Society - Paris (IMS-Paris) was founded two decades ago in order to assist emerging and seasoned scholars with their research in France's many archives and libraries. Planning research abroad can be daunting, a feeling only exacerbated by recent changes to archive and library protocols. In order to prepare graduate students and scholars, IMS-Paris will host this roundtable, inviting scholars with extensive field research across France, to share best practices and their advice. Speakers will give brief 5 minute remarks on their particular archive experience, followed by a Q&A.

Reception and Adaptation of Pearl, Cleanness, Patience, and Erkenwald

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

This session invites papers exploring ways that Pearl, Cleanness, Patience, and St. Erkenwald have been engaged and transformed at specific moments and across time. While acknowledging the rich corpus of adaptations, translations, editions, and other engagements with Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, this session seeks to shift attention to those remaining poems of the "Pearl-Poet canon" and the perhaps comparatively overlooked, but no less intriguing, scholarly and popular responses they have inspired. Topics of relevance may include (but are not limited to) reception history, adaptation, translation, and textual scholarship.

The Pearl-Poet and the Arts of Rhetoric

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: International Pearl-Poet Society
Organizer: Jonathan Juilfs (jjuilfs@redeemer.ca)
Jane Beal (janebeal@gmail.com)

As Copeland and Sluiter's anthology *Medieval Grammar & Rhetoric* (Oxford 2009) illustrates, later medieval manuals on the Art of Rhetoric were required reading in the emerging universities and widely available in Western Europe. A fresh evaluation of the influence of this textual tradition on the poems of the Pearl-Poet (including St

Erkenwald) is long overdue. This session invites readers of the collected poems to engage with the Arts of Rhetoric tradition and to explore how this tradition may have shaped the language and narrative art of the Pearl-Poet.

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 "New Voices" sessions sponsored by ISSEME provide a venue for early career scholars to present their research and showcase recent advancements in this field of study. 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.

Animals in Medievalism

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: International Society for the Study of Medievalism
Organizer: Angela J. Weisl (angela.weisl@shu.edu)
Carol L. Robinson (clrobins@kent.edu)

While many human tropes have been considered in medievalism studies, thus far we have not seen any examination of the role of animals. This session seeks responses that consider animals in many forms—as pets, as familiars, as symbols, as representations, as commercial objects, as main characters or versions of main characters, as costumes, as images, as subjects. What is the function of animals within medievalism? What roles do they play, and how do these roles reflect, or not reflect, their medieval antecedents? Are these medievalized animals affected by contemporary ideas about animal rights and/or ideologies of identity?

Medievalism and Dr. Who

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: International Society for the Study of Medievalism
Organizer: Angela J. Weisl (angela.weisl@shu.edu)
Rachael K. Warmington (rachael.warmington@shu.edu)

The International Society for the Study of Medievalism has now sponsored several years of successful sessions on Science Fiction Medievalisms. In focusing on the long-running television program Dr. Who, we seek to expand consideration of the use of the medieval in a variety of futuristic spaces. Since the show has been popular for many years, featuring different casts all travelling through time, the discussion of medievalism

in the corpus is past due. We invite papers that explore any aspect of medievalism in the program, whether in narrative, genre, aesthetics, story telling, references, etc.

Medievalism in the Americas

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: International Society for the Study of Medievalism
Organizer: Angela J. Weisl (angela.weisl@shu.edu)
Luiz F. A. Guerra (anchietaguerra@gmail.com)

This session puts together discussions of North American medievalisms (including Canada) and South and Central American medievalisms. The topic of how fascination with the medieval was transferred to the Americas deserves scholarly attention. The similarities among those transfers could be tracked along with the emergence of what for example Altschul called “medieval Brazil,” although discussions might also consider other medievalist iterations, including the use of the nation’s pre-colonial past or contemporary culture. The reasons behind introducing medievalism in the Americas could also be scrutinized; what is the value of this kind of inquiry?

Introducing Library and Archival Research (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: International Society of Medievalist Librarians
Organizer: Allison M. McCormack (allie.mccormack@utah.edu)

Visiting libraries and archives is an important part of the research process, but it can be daunting to do this for the first time. How do you locate suitable primary source materials in catalogs and other databases? How do you set up a research appointment? How do you make the most of an on-site visit? What if you need additional information after you return home? A panel of librarians, archivists, and researchers both new and experienced will answer these important questions and more for students, early career scholars, and anyone embarking on a new research journey.

Medieval Roots and Modern Branches: Medieval Poets and J. R. R. Tolkien

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: International Pearl-Poet Society
Tolkien at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Jonathan Juilfs (jjuilfs@redeemer.ca)
Jane Beal (janebeal@gmail.com)
Yvette Kisor (ykisor@ramapo.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. We also welcome reception analysis of related literary and filmic texts.

(Re)Presenting the Past in Medieval Italy

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Italian Studies@Kalamazoo
Organizer: David John Wright (djwrig85@gmail.com)
Melissa Dow

This panel brings together scholars on medieval Italy from across disciplines to explore acts of reconstituting the past in the present. We envision representations of the past in medieval Italy as an expansive category, encompassing various fields, including history, art history, literature, performance studies, and beyond. This session seeks papers that address how medieval Italians reworked "old" material and media for new audiences—from adapted narratives to reusing spolia to recycling literary and/or visual motifs and beyond. Participants are invited to engage with the question: what are the implications of repeating, mediating, translating, and copying the past into/onto the medieval present?

Aquatica: Waters of Medieval Italy

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Italian Studies@Kalamazoo
Organizer: Toni Veneri (toni.veneri@austin.utexas.edu)
Daniel W. Morgan (morgandw@alumni.unc.edu)
Nicholas T. Fair

This panel explores Italian medieval sources that reveal the interactions between water (in all its shapes and forms) and a variety of different actors, whether humans or non-humans, living or inanimate. Prioritizing a world suffused and shaped by water, it examines how Italy's intimate connection to its surrounding sea played a special role in the Mediterranean as it was traversed, described, and disputed. Drawing on the burgeoning field of the blue humanities, it simultaneously looks at how waters both still and flowing conditioned human and non-human interactions, and found expression in the art, culture, and politics of the time.

Italian Footnotes

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

Landscapes Lost and Found: Describing Change in Medieval Italian Cities

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Italian Studies@Kalamazoo
Organizer: Toni Veneri (toni.veneri@austin.utexas.edu)
Lee Morrison (l.m.morrison@wustl.edu)

This panel aims to explore how changes in the social, cultural, political, and environmental fabric of Italian cities throughout the Middle Ages fueled multiple practices of description and visualization. Bridging the material with the symbolic, architecture with the making of place, it also seeks to foreground the role of artistic, literary, and scientific description in the historical evolution of urban topography. Particularly welcome are papers that engage with questions of mobility and identity, public space and authority, visibility and invisibility, memory and redevelopment, infrastructure and everyday life as ways of connecting textual and visual representations of urban life and landscapes.

The Lyric Moment: Time and Anniversary: 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)

With April 6, 2027 marking the septcentenary of Petrarch's first encounter with Laura, a pivotal event revisited throughout his oeuvre and foundational to humanistic and poetic traditions, this panel invites innovative approaches to time in Petrarch, Petrarchism, and their global circulation. We will examine time's affordances and limits, its expenditure, ruin, measurement, and commemoration/remembrance, including anniversary practices Petrarch himself comments upon in Latin and vernacular works. The panel also considers time critically to challenge longstanding perceptions of an insular Petrarch, encouraging sociopolitical, transhistorical, comparative, and plurilingual frameworks that reveal a more globally-situated Petrarch through new critical methodologies and perspectives.

Faith-Based Perspectives on Violent Conflict, Peace, and Pacifism in Text and Image in the Greater/Global Fifteenth Century

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Jean Gerson Society
International Alain Chartier Society

Jean Gerson Society

Organizer: Joan E. McRae (Joan.McRae@mtsu.edu)
Wendy Love Anderson
Linda Burke (lindaebb@aol.com)

We invite a range of topics relating to faith-based perspectives and debate on war and peace in the works of Gerson, Chartier, and their contemporaries throughout the global/greater fifteenth century and in all faith traditions, including the voices of women. Areas of focus may include responses to teachings on violence in the Bible, crusade propaganda, crusade ideology and practice, and "just war" theory, as well as opposition to crusading, personal disillusionment with war, the emergence of a coherent peace theory, advice on peacekeeping, and even pacifism. Images are welcome, as the debate was served by iconography as well as text.

Fashioning Gower: Style, Selfhood, and Materiality

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

This panel explores the many "fashions" of John Gower, from literary style and rhetorical performance to clothing, embodiment, manuscript aesthetics, and self-presentation. We invite papers that examine how Gower constructs and performs identity across textual and material forms. Possible topics include dress and adornment, bodily representation, disability, gender, affect, authority, vernacular style, manuscript culture, and comparative or transnational approaches. By treating "fashion" as both material practice and conceptual frame, this session aims to open interdisciplinary conversations about what Gower's texts and their transmission can tell us about medieval identity-making.

Of Kinde and Kin: Family, Community, and Textuality in Gower

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

John Gower's writings are deeply invested in familial relationships at political, literary, and linguistic levels. This panel invites papers exploring how concepts of family shape Gower's corpus, from his depictions of regnal and domestic relationships to his awareness of writing within a textual genealogy. Treating family as both a social and

textual structure, the panel aims to encourage new ways of understanding how Gower imagines family connections. Papers might address dynastic politics, inheritance and legitimacy, poetic influence and affiliation, multilingual composition, household politics, material culture, sibling, filial, parental relations, or family relationships across texts, manuscripts, and communities.

Archaeology of Medieval Europe

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Journal of Early Medieval Northwestern Europe (JEMNE)
Organizer: Deanna Forsman (ddforsman@gmail.com)
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.

Pathways to Publishing (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures (JMRC)
Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship (SMFS)
Organizer: Barbara Zimbalist (barbara.zimbalist@utrgv.edu)
Jessica Barr

This roundtable will bring together a group of editors from the Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures, Medieval Feminist Forum, and Chaucer Review (among others) to provide practical, actionable guidance for publishing as a graduate student and early career scholar in new and established disciplines, methodologies, and areas of inquiry.

La corónica International Book Award: A Roundtable in Honor of Anita Savo for Portraying Authorship: Juan Manuel and the Rhetoric of Authority

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)

Each year the Editor-in-Chief of La corónica announces the award for best monograph published on medieval Hispanic languages, literatures and cultures at the Saturday plenary to be followed by a roundtable. Anita Savo's monograph, Portraying Authorship,

is an important contribution to the study of medieval authorship. She brings together, with remarkable clarity, literary analysis and manuscript culture to show how Juan Manuel crafted an authorial identity that feels strikingly modern within the context of 14th-century Castile.

Reclaiming the Manuscript in Iberian Studies

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: La corónica: A Journal of Medieval Hispanic Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
Ibero-Medieval Association of North America (IMANA)
Organizer: Adán J. Ramírez-Figueroa (aramirezfigueroa@g.harvard.edu)
Michelle M. Hamilton (hamilton@umn.edu)

In an age in which the critical edition dominates literary analysis and is, more often than not, the first kind of interaction any given reader has with a medieval Iberian text, this panel invites reflection on the role that direct engagement with the manuscript (or facsimile) plays in modern scholarship. We also ask how the study of material realities can affect, transform, or influence analyses of the literary texts. Additionally, we seek to reflect on the inherent difficulties of this kind of study, from access to materials to specialized academic training to other challenges.

Unsettling Terms, Titles, and Chronologies in Medieval Iberian Studies (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: La corónica: A Journal of Medieval Hispanic Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
Organizer: Isidro J. Rivera (ijrivera@ku.edu)
Christi Ivers (civers@udallas.edu)

During our field's evolution, scholars proposed terms that subsequent generations have adopted, reconsidered, and displaced. This roundtable considers inherited terminology previously deemed useful that has become unsettling. "Convivencia," "reconquista," "sentimental romance," "Iberia," even "medieval" are notable —and perhaps not yet settled— past examples. Contributors will choose some term, title, or chronology that is central to their work and reflect on these questions: What does this term do for our field? How has it advanced your own work? How is it limiting? What would our field look like if we thought around or beyond it —if we "unsettled" it?

Lone Medievalists and Activism (A Roundtable)

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

It is a truth universally acknowledged that Lone Medievalists wear many hats; in past panels, we have explored many of these roles. In this roundtable, we will explore the role of Lone Medievalists in activism, working for causes or topics about which they have a passion, and how that activism intersects with our roles as medievalists, scholars, and teachers. This work may manifest in various ways - participation in scholarly organizations that focus on specific issues, dedication to teaching underrepresented topics, application of medieval expertise in non-academic spaces, etc. Participants will discuss their approaches, difficulties, questions, and particularly their successes.

Editors Behaving Badly: Editorial Interventions in Medieval Texts

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

The edition often holds a place of primacy in scholarship because of practicalities regarding access to manuscript texts and the desire to have a clean source to work from. Unfortunately, this makes scholarship subject to the decisions made by editors, which are not always clearly delineated in their editions and can have consequences for the scholarship built upon them. As such, the Lydgate Society would like to invite papers on the topic of “Editors Behaving Badly,” speaking to any negative aspect of editorial intervention on medieval manuscripts in the construction of editions, with fifteenth-century English works as the priority.

Genre and the Fifteenth Century

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

Lydgate and other fifteenth-century authors are often experienced solely through the codex and the editions built on those codices. This includes instances, such as Henry Noble MacCracken’s relegation of Lydgate’s mummings and disguisings to “occasional poems,” where the genre of Lydgate’s works may be incompletely understood because of editorial decisions, with implications for our scholarship. To push back against this, the Lydgate society invites papers on the topic of “Genre and the Fifteenth Century.” Topics such as the multimodal manuscript, genre and nuance, the conversation between fifteenth-century authors, and fifteenth century authors outside of the codex are encouraged.

Teaching the Divide: Methods for Teaching Works Between Chaucer and Shakespeare (A Roundtable)

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

Ever since David Lawton's "Dullness and the Fifteenth-Century" there has been a concerted effort to reassess the literary accomplishments of authors such as Lydgate and Hoccleve; these efforts have not translated to the average undergraduate British Literature Survey, where books such as the Norton anthology tend to leave these poets as a bit of an afterthought relegated to ancillary online material. To combat this we would like to invite participants to a virtual roundtable (to cast as wide a net as possible) regarding methods to bring fifteenth-century authors into the undergraduate classroom in the best possible light.

Say My Name: Named and Nameless Women in the Medieval World

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Magistra: A Journal of Women's Spirituality in History
Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship (SMFS)
Organizer: Judith Sutura (jsutura@mountosb.org)
Kristina Kummerer (kkummere@nd.edu)

In the medieval world, a personal name was more than merely a designator or descriptor; it was intrinsically connected to one's identity, character, and even physical presence. This panel invites papers exploring the names of medieval women. Which women – real or imagined – are consistently named or left nameless in medieval sources? What power lies in naming – and in un-naming? Who are the unnamed women whose impact is nevertheless felt? What patterns emerge regarding named/nameless women in status, historicity, narrative influence, or agentic power? How might these patterns reflect or affect the lived experiences of medieval women?

The Lives of Holy Women

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

There are some well known medieval holy women, but there are many others whose stories are less well known. This session will explore many dimensions such as biographies, their cultural or religious milieu, material aspects or anything else to do with how holy women lived.

The World of the Helfta Nuns

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Magistra: A Journal of Women's Spirituality in History
Organizer: Laura Marie Grimes (lauramariegrimes@gmail.com)
Judith Sutera (jsutera@mountosb.org)

The study of the monastic community of Helfta and its renowned writers has expanded in recent years to include the material culture, the relationships among the nuns, and the authorship of the works. An international group of scholars is exploring many aspects as the effort continues to have St. Gertrude the Great named as a Doctor of the Church.

Critical Perspectives on the Historiography of the Medieval Eastern Mediterranean

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art and Culture
Organizer: Brandie Ratliff (mjcbac@hchc.edu)
Catherine McNally
Andy Chen

This panel reexamines the twentieth-century historiographical frameworks that have shaped the study of the medieval Eastern Mediterranean, with particular attention to the scholarly marginalization of communities that resist clear confessional, ethnic, or imperial categorization. Long governed by disciplinary models rooted in nationalism, positivism, and colonialism, Byzantine historiography has often privileged imperial centers rooted in doctrinal orthodoxy at the expense of peripheral, typically heterodox communities that complicate fixed notions of empire. The panel will bring into conversation scholars working across fields to reevaluate the period's historical reality and to reflect on the epistemological conditions through which Byzantium has historically been construed.

Healthscaping the Medieval Hospital: Patients, Providers, and the Body Politic

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Medica: The Society for the Study of Healing in the Middle Ages
International Network for the History of the Hospital
Organizer: Nichola E. Harris (harrisn@sunyulster.edu)
Anna M. Peterson

This panel explores the varied functions of hospitals within networks of medieval health and healing. Hospitals acted as dynamic centers of physical, mental and spiritual care that served overlapping demographics: pilgrims, the poor, lepers, the elderly and infirm.

By exploring the varied functions of a medieval hospital, the panel highlights how these spaces bridged municipal authorities, canon law, monastic communities, and lay patrons. It also considers demographics of care, including the function of hospital outreach programs, almshouses, and leprosaria within local communities as well as their role in sustaining trans-regional travel and pilgrimage networks.

Medieval out of Bounds: Getting Outside Your Disciplinary Comfort Zone (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Medieval Academy Graduate Student Committee
Medieval Academy of America
Organizer: Heidi Zmick (rav2pp@virginia.edu)
Zoey Marie Kambour (zokambour@pm.me)

This roundtable session aims to provide a space where graduate students/early career scholars learn from trained medievalists who have worked across disciplines/boundaries/periods, providing models of how training in medieval studies can cross boundaries and be applied broadly. As medieval studies graduate students and early career scholars are encouraged to work across boundaries of place, discipline, and period, developing skills to articulate significance to wide audiences is essential. This roundtable provides guidance from scholars who have successfully applied to competitive interdisciplinary grants, incorporated DH and STEM methods, and built careers through collaborative work.

Eventful Paleographies

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Christopher Newport Univ.
Organizer: Sharon M. Rowley (srowley@cnu.edu)

Building on recent studies of "eventful" archaeologies, writing as a socio-cultural practice, and medieval manuscript books, this session invites papers that explore and critique the study of paleography as "eventful"; that is, as an art and a practice that reflects human agency and creativity in relation to material resources and the contingencies of historical and social context(s). An eventful perspective recognizes that styles change with and because of use. Issues ranging from changes in style and variation(s) of many sorts can be read as information reflecting dialogic interactions between humans working in complex environments with different motivations and material constraints.

Claire Sponsler's Drama and Resistance Thirty Years On

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society (MRDS)

Organizer: Jesse Njus (jessenjus@u.northwestern.edu)

Thirty years ago, Claire Sponsler argued that medieval drama was a site of resistance that enabled medieval spectators to contest dominant formulations of power. Medieval drama imagined “alternate possibilities of action and being,” including “forbidden acts such as cross-dressing, social and sexual misbehavior, and violence against the body” that challenged prescriptive power and served as a locus of transgressive production and consumption by medieval subjects who resisted the “passive absorption” of official narratives. Thirty years on, MRDS invites participants to continue Sponsler’s thoughtful conversation about the ways in which medieval drama enables strategies of disruption and dissidence.

Morality Plays and Moral Interludes

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society (MRDS)
Organizer: Matthew Sergi (matthew.sergi@utoronto.ca)

Medieval drama scholars have come newly to recognize that present ideas of “moralities” as a coherent play genre largely took form after the fact. Still, we can see productive resonances across those extant 14th-16th century plays that feature personified concepts (virtues, vices, tendencies, practices) engaged, alongside divine and diabolic forces, in a struggle to sway a human subject toward ethical or unethical choices. The MRDS invites fresh perspectives on any such play(s): especially those that connect substantially with, and complicate, published work from the 2010s or later, and/or those that find ethical lessons in these plays still arguably applicable today.

New Voices in Early Performance Studies

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society (MRDS)
Organizer: Jeffery G. Stoyanoff (jxs2323@psu.edu)
Harry Cushman

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.

Performing Premodern Ecologies

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society (MRDS)

Organizer: Robert W. Barrett (rwb@illinois.edu)

This panel seeks papers exploring the interface between premodern performance and ecology. Presenters might examine on-stage enactments of more-than-human entities (e.g., Balaam's talking ass, Noah's dancing water iris, or Shakespeare's pursuivant bear) or presentations of ecological systems (e.g., the Eden of the cycle plays or the agricultural cycle of Summer's Last Will and Testament). We are especially interested in papers that address medieval and early modern performance practice as Harawayan natureculture: how is premodern drama itself an ecosystem, either in its original context or its modern revival?

Apocryphilia: Apocalypse Now

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)
Brandon W. Hawk

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: Apocalypse Now" at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in 2027. 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 to apocalyptic subjects.

Experimental and Experiential Pedagogy: Crafting and Performance in the Classroom (A Roundtable)

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

Medievalists are amazing teachers. This session invites you to share your most creative, dynamic, out-of-the-box, artistic, crafty, or experiential learning activity from your medieval studies classroom. Share how you lead your students to create, experience, perform, LARP, or otherwise use their senses to come to learning in the period of the Middle Ages. In this round table format, attendees will come away with many new teaching methods and ideas. This session will prioritize hands-on teaching examples over the theoretical, and will welcome proposals from all areas of teaching: literature, history, the arts, library and museums, and others.

Finding the Medieval in Medievalism: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, The Green Knight, and Connecting Past and Present in the Classroom (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Association of the Midwest (MAM)
International Pearl-Poet Society
Organizer: Jonathan Juilfs (jjuilfs@redeemer.ca)
Melissa Ann Crofton (mcrofton@fit.edu)

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight is a popular tale among medievalists, and with the release of David Lowery's film adaptation, *The Green Knight*, it continues to attract modern audiences, with interest showing no signs of slowing. Far from remaining a part of a distant past, this medieval tale finds new life and meaning today, creating valuable opportunities for educators to foster student engagement with medieval literature.

Heroes and Villains

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Association of the Midwest (MAM)
Organizer: Mickey M. Sweeney (msweeney@dom.edu)

This panel will focus on the theme of heroes and villains to explore how creators use(d) medieval symbols, theologies, ideologies, assumed gender norms, and class approaches to showcase and justify their own ends. These ideas, now popularized and re-appropriated might indicate we are witnessing the "simplification" of medieval texts and contexts in real time; or, are modern creators simply re-envisioning a medieval function of those very ideas? Were heroic knights always a form of propaganda? Focusing the discussion, this panel will emphasize the ways heroes and villains can be portrayed variably, regardless or despite their actual actions.

Modern Medievalisms: Pilgrimage, Journey, and Space(s) in Contemporary Culture

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

What is the modern answer to the medieval pilgrimage and pilgrimage culture? This session invites papers on the modern expressions of medieval pilgrimage, journey, and space(s) and their uses, abuses, and misinformation or disinformation about them, in contemporary culture. This session orients toward the way that using medieval texts,

spaces, artifacts, and ideas, can create a journey in themselves as a “touch across time,” connecting contemporary audiences to medieval pasts. This session also welcomes papers on the great era of Victorian medievalizing and its afterlife, as well as works of medievalism of Tolkien, Lewis, and other authors that use medievalism.

Mysticism, Transcendence, and Embodiment: Medieval Cosmologies and Their 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)

Monasticism is often viewed as the primary path to the divine. However, philosophical transcendence, cosmologies, and practices of embodiment also foster personal or communal spiritual connections, including secular adaptations. By broadening the medieval framework for relating to higher powers, marginalized communities, often omitted from theological study, are included. This session encourages interdisciplinary approaches, inviting contributions from various fields to deepen understanding of mystical themes across the global Middle Ages and their ongoing influence. 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.

The Natural World in Medieval Thought: Animals, Real and Imagined

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Association of the Midwest (MAM)
Organizer: Ann M. Martinez (amart108@kent.edu)

During the Middle Ages, people had a complex view of and relationship with animals. Animals could be real or fantastical, benevolent or devilish, tools or status symbols, beautiful or monstrous, companions or vermin. This session will explore the relationships people had with their animals, or the animals around them, and the representation of animals in the cultural moment—from birds, to insects, to cats, horses, dragons, and more. Papers can approach the topic of animals from a variety of critical angles, including comparative source studies, ecocriticism, animal studies, history, literature, art, and philosophy.

Theorizing Medievalism: Imagining the Medieval in Contemporary Media

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

By exploring the signs and symbols of the medieval in contemporary media, contemporary scholars gain insight into modern questions of justice and beyond,

ranging across discipline and critical lens. What dialogues between past and present exist when many of their medieval origins have been stripped of their contemporary re-imaginings? What critical approaches might be deployed, and on which texts, to most fruitfully engage with medievalism's growing involvement in contemporary media? Particularly interested in papers by graduate students as they engage with the state of the field of medieval and medievalism studies.

Viking Beauty

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Association of the Midwest (MAM)
Organizer: Eric Shane Bryan (bryane@mst.edu)

Violence is certainly the characteristic most often associated with the seagoing marauders referred to as the Vikings, yet a sense of art, aesthetic, and even beauty often lingers near the cultural spaces occupied by the Vikings during the Viking Age. Such beauty might be manifest in many forms: the human body, ritual, poetry, storytelling, visual art, music, inscription, or even violence itself might reflect a sense of Viking beauty. This session invites papers that explore what Viking beauty might be in any manifestation either during the Viking Age or in later medieval or post-medieval remembrances of the Vikings.

The Lives and Legacies of Medieval Comics: A Commemoration of Ninety Years of Hal Foster's Prince Valiant

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Medieval Comics Project
Association for the Advancement of Scholarship and Teaching of the Medieval in Popular Culture
Organizer: Michael A. Torregrossa (medievalinpopularculture@gmail.com)

The comics have a long history of adapting aspects of the Middle Ages, and, while many series and characters have disappeared over time, Hal Foster's comic strip Prince Valiant has persevered, continuing under a series of writers and artists over nine decades. In commemoration of the ninetieth anniversary of Foster's comic in 2027, we'd like to assess the ways that comics (and their adaptations across media) have contributed to the public's understanding of the medieval past and to illuminate strategies for expanding knowledge of and interest in this corpus as creators, researchers, and teachers.

Eco-Crafting: Material and Experience (A Roundtable)

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

Coral Lumbley (clumbley@macalester.edu)

Medieval Ecocriticisms invites proposals for the roundtable Eco-crafting: Material and Experience. Participants are invited to give 5-minute presentations on their personal experiences in crafting with materials also used by medieval artisans. Participants should highlight one object (or, better, bring the object or component materials) to support their discussion of how working with the physical material supports new perspectives on a particular medieval object or artisanal tradition. Ultimately, the roundtable's goal is to illuminate how crafting connects our medieval scholarship to the natural ecological world. Crafts might include glassmaking, ceramics, natural dying, fiber and textile work, papermaking, leatherwork, and ink-making.

New Voices in Medieval Ecocriticism

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Ecocriticisms
Organizer: Asher Esra Courtemanche (ac2457@cornell.edu)
Ryan A. M. Randle (rar348@cornell.edu)

The Society of Medieval Ecocriticisms (SMECO) invites proposals for papers by emerging scholars in ecocriticism. Presenters for 'New Voices' include graduate students, early career scholars, and other scholars newly engaging with ecocritical studies. Paper proposals on any topic relating to environment or environmental history, animal studies, place-based studies, landscape studies, trans/queer ecologies, critical Indigenous studies, and/or engaging with methods or approaches rooted in ecocriticism are all welcomed.

Rethinking Ecotheory (1): Disentangling Medieval Ecocriticism

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Medieval Ecocriticisms
Organizer: Hunter Allen Phillips (hap48@cornell.edu)
Basil Arnould Price

This series of sessions questions 'entanglement' as the predominant idiom of ecocritical thinking, arguing that the medieval past both yields and necessitates alternative ways of thinking about our ecological investments, both affective and ontological. How can ecocritical discourse benefit from attuning to bodies and environments in the Middle Ages for whom entanglement is either a problem or an impossibility? We welcome papers that "rethink nature as a limit" (Swarbrick & Tremblay, 2024), considering how the natural world or "Nature" in the Middle Ages makes demands on precarious bodies in a precarious world where uncomfortable boundaries trouble or refuse entangled thinking.

Rethinking Ecotheory (2): Disappointing Medieval Ecocriticisms

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Ecocriticisms
Organizer: Hunter Allen Phillips (hap48@cornell.edu)
Basil Arnould Price

This series of sessions questions 'entanglement' as the predominant idiom of ecocritical thinking, arguing that the medieval past both yields and necessitates alternative ways of thinking about our ecological investments, both affective and ontological. In this session, we invite papers which grapple with the disappointing, dissatisfying, and disconcerting relationalities embedded within medieval ecological imaginaries or practices, or the ways in which the premodern past eludes our desire for eco-motional rescue. We welcome papers from any area of medieval studies that explore the bad feelings that attend medieval relations with the environment, and problematize contemporary theorisations of a harmonious, reciprocal mesh.

The Weird and the Horrific: Eco-Horror and the Eco-Weird

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

Environmental thought as it intersects with weirdness, horror, wonder, and alterity. Proposals might engage with the uncanny, the eerie, the horrific, hauntings and the ecology of haunted places, wonder and horror as responses to the natural world, environments that create a sense of "wrongness" or weirdness, the alterity of the natural world, environmental crisis as a "weirding" of the natural world, the weird gap between the human and non-human, alienation as a response to the natural world, ecological terror, and more.

Medieval French Literature Now (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval French in the Midwest
Organizer: Johannes Junge Ruhland (jjungeru@nd.edu)
Anna Klosowska (roberta2@miamioh.edu)
Julie Singer

Recent scholarship in medieval French literary studies has taken diverse approaches to the premodern Francophone world's multilingual, materially embedded, environmentally situated, and digitally analyzable cultural networks. In this roundtable we invite scholars to present new work illustrating and reflecting upon current approaches to medieval literature or to propose new methodological paths forward. We are especially interested in contributions that address how translations into modern languages sustain dialogue

with the critical approaches that matter now. What are the next critical “turns” that will advance knowledge and confirm the vitality of medieval French studies?

Translating Medieval French: A Workshop

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval French in the Midwest
International Arthurian Society, North American Branch (IAS/NAB)
International Courtly Literature Society (ICLS), North American Branch
Organizer: Kathy M. Krause (KrauseK@umkc.edu)
Julie Singer

This interactive workshop will offer hands-on practice translating medieval French texts into English. Featured speakers (translators and editors of recently published translations in Medieval French Studies) will present the state of the field, addressing topics such as the choice of texts, translation best practices, and publication strategies.

Northern Medieval World (2): New Directions

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Institute Publications
Richard Rawlinson Center
Organizer: Robert F. Berkhofer
Theresa Whitaker

We are interested in new approaches or new scholarship about the northern medieval world. Proposals may deal with any aspect of the North Sea, Baltic Sea, or Atlantic and adjacent regions, or those which interact with them. Early career scholars from any discipline are encouraged to apply.

Publishing as a Potential Career: What, Why, and How of Getting into the Field (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Institute Publications
Organizer: Theresa Whitaker (theresa.m.whitaker@wmich.edu)

There are many potential career paths after an academic degree has been completed, and this roundtable hopes to shed some light on one of those options: publishing. What are the various job opportunities at a press, and how do you find information about job listings? What experience is needed, and how can you get that experience? What exactly happens day-to-day at a publisher?

Speaking Outside the Law: Outlaws and Offense in Medieval Literature

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Speech Act Society
Organizer: Alexander Vaughan Ames (amesa@mailbox.sc.edu)

Outlaw literatures written in diverse medieval languages (e.g. Anglo-Norman, Old French, Old and Middle Irish, Latin, Middle English, Middle Scots, Old Norse, Welsh) frequently feature instances of performative speech effecting offense, including speech acts such as flyting, oaths, mockery, accusations of vice, and, of course, declarations of outlaw status. Offensive utterances alter social and legal realities, make moral critique, inflict vocal violence, and provide comic relief, giving voice to the linguistic and cultural conflict essential to the genre. This session, therefore, seeks papers which combine the complementary studies of offensive performative speech acts and outlaw literature writ large.

Weird Beowulf

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Studies Institute (MEST), Indiana Univ.
Organizer: Jonathan Davis-Secord (jwds@unm.edu)
Joshua Pontillo (jpontill@iu.edu)

Building on conversations that began in 2024, this year's "Weird Beowulf" panel similarly seeks out new and unconventional ways of reading the poem. While the field of Old English studies and scholarship on Beowulf often gravitate towards conservative methods and approaches, this panel invites papers that engage with new critical lenses regarding the poem. Likewise, readings that turn to weird fiction and other speculative fictions as a means to reinterpret and better understand Beowulf are welcome. This panel hopes to enliven the field of Old English studies by presenting alternative ways to think about its principal text, Beowulf.

The Future of Female Scribe Studies: Methods, Challenges, and New Directions (A Roundtable)

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

This roundtable brings together scholars working on women's scribal practices across different regions, languages, and disciplines to discuss the future of female scribes and manuscript studies. Moving beyond the recovery of individual women, participants will examine broader methodological, conceptual, and practical questions facing the field. Topics may include attribution and anonymity, archival silences and recovery, cataloguing practices, digital humanities, multilingualism, material and textual practices, musical notation, decoration, collaboration, and new approaches to literacy and

manuscript production. The session aims to foster dialogue between established and emerging scholars and to identify priorities for future research.

When Research Takes a Village: A Roundtable on Community-Engaged Research in Medieval Studies

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Medieval Studies Program, Yale Univ.
Organizer: Camila R Marcone (camila.marcone@yale.edu)

A manuscripts specialist collaborates with a religious order to restore a codex created by a former member, the living custodians of medieval irrigation practices work with archaeologists to map ancient waterways, these are examples of community-engaged research about the Middle Ages. From study design to project deliverables researchers in disciplines as far afield as archaeology, heritage preservation, chemistry, and history are finding ways to produce knowledge about the Middle Ages in collaboration with non-academic community partners. If you are working with non-academic stakeholders, we want to know: what does community-engaged research of the Middle Ages look like for you?

The Animal in Jewish and Christian Thought

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Studies, Central European Univ.
Jewish Studies, Bar-Ilan Univ.
Organizer: Jonnie Schnytzer (jonnie.schnytzer@gmail.com)
Gerhard Jaritz (jaritzg@ceu.edu)

This panel explores constructions and patterns of animality in medieval Jewish and Christian cultures through comparative and interdisciplinary perspectives. Whether real or imagined, symbolic or material, animals occupied a central place in medieval attempts to define being, the human, the sacred, and the boundaries of identity. We invite papers examining animals as theological symbols, moral exempla, agents of alterity, or participants in broader cosmological or social imaginaries. Topics may include predation, hybridity, monstrosity, domestication, legal and ethical attitudes toward animals, or the relationship between animality and constructions of race, religion and gender.

Bad Letters: Curious Alphabets, Pseudo-Scripts, and Forgeries

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Studies, Purdue Univ. Fort Wayne
Organizer: Damian Fleming (dfleming@pfw.edu)

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."

Beowulf Aloud: A Community Reading

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Studies, Purdue Univ. Fort Wayne
Purdue Univ. Fort Wayne Co-Lab Misfits
Organizer: Damian Fleming (dfleming@pfw.edu)
Liv Hope
Stella Blue Grable

A communal round-robin reading of the Old English poem in Old English or any translation. Everyone is invited to participate or listen.

Reading Runestones: A Bootcamp for Beginners

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval Studies, Purdue Univ. Fort Wayne
Organizer: Zachary Baker (zjbaker@pfw.edu)
Damian Fleming (dfleming@pfw.edu)

This workshop is designed to make the study of runology approachable for non-runologists, and to add another tool to the toolbelt of even the most seasoned Scandinavian Studies scholar. Attendees will be exposed to different stages of Runic alphabets, or fuparks, writing conventions of runic inscriptions, and formulaic phrases that occur in multiple inscriptions in order to (1) be able to identify runes, (2) recognize formulaic phrases, and (3) transliterate runes into the Roman-alphabet. While advantageous, no foreknowledge about runes or Scandinavian languages is required.

Political Medievalisms, Great and Small

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medievalist Toolkit
Organizer: Benjamin Anthony Bertrand (bbertrand3@fordham.edu)

From Kash Patel's invocation of Valhalla to Vladimir Putin's use of the Kievan Rus', imagery from the pre-modern world continues to shape the political discourse of the current moment. At the same time however, implicit ideas about the medieval period reinforce political stances through a wide range of everyday products: from King Arthur flour to "Viking" branded potato chips cooked with beef tallow. This panel will assemble papers dissecting the political medievalisms of our time to better understand how this medieval fixation shapes political dialogue in ways both great and small.

Research for Non-Specialists (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medievalist Toolkit
DISTAFF (Discussion, Interpretation, and Study of Textile Arts, Fabrics, and Fashion)
Organizer: Benjamin Anthony Bertrand (bbertrand3@fordham.edu)

Within the field of Medieval Studies a divide remains between professional scholars and non-specialist communities with a passionate interest in the Middle Ages and a high degree of technical expertise in recreating medieval practices. This panel seeks to bring together academics and non-specialists from a range of different intellectual and professional backgrounds for a discussion of how to bridge this divide. The goal is to provide non-specialist researchers with the essential tools needed to conduct more rigorous research into the scholarly sources while opening dialogue between professional historians and members of the broader medieval community.

Chaucer's Anger

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval-Renaissance Faculty Workshop, Univ. of Louisville
Organizer: Joseph Turner (joseph.turner@louisville.edu)

Anger surfaces throughout Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, for example in response to violations of social propriety, as when Harry Bailey interrupts Sir Thopas, or as preludes to masculinist violence, as in the Manciple's Tale. Recent interest in affect studies has focused less on anger than other 'negative' emotions. This session invites papers addressing anger in the Tales, including how anger illuminates the connections between mind, body, emotion, and action; how anger functions as a significant narrative element; or how anger is embodied and expressed differently according to class and gender; or how Chaucer seeks to provoke anger in readers.

Law and Legal Culture in Early Medieval Britain

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Medieval-Renaissance Faculty Workshop, Univ. of Louisville
Organizer: Andrew Rabin (andrew.rabin@louisville.edu)

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.

Midwest Middle English Studies

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Midwest Middle English Reading Group (MMERG)
Organizer: Ann E Killian (akillian@nd.edu)
Joe Stadolnik

In the collegial spirit of the Midwest Middle English Reading Group, this session invites presentations of research-in-progress in the field of medieval English literary studies. Topics might include cross-linguistic writing practices, generic transformation, manuscript context, or the social positioning of vernacular texts.

Teaching Middle English In and Through Regional Communities (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Midwest Middle English Reading Group (MMERG)
Organizer: Nancy P. Pope (nppope@gmail.com)
Kortney Stern (Ksstern@outlook.com)

This roundtable explores the teaching of Middle English across a range of institutional and community contexts while also reflecting on the role regional scholarly groups play in sustaining medieval studies. Topics may include manuscript studies, prison education, multilingual classrooms, collaborative learning, and community-engaged pedagogy. Organized in connection with the Midwest Middle English Reading Group (MMERG), the session asks how regional intellectual communities foster teaching, mentorship, accessibility, collaboration, and scholarly exchange across institutions and career stages.

Inexplicable, Indescribable, Inconceivable Monsters

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Monsters: The Experimental Association for the Research of Cryptozoology through Scholarly Theory and Practical Application (MEARCSTAPA)
Organizer: Mary Leech (mary.leech@uc.edu)
Thea Tomaini (tmtomaini@gmail.com)

This session seeks to explore the implied monstrosity of characters through their deeds and/or words with physical features left out or minimally described. Through this approach, this session will analyze how monstrosity is not just a physical attribute, but also related to behaviors that threaten to undermine the underlying identity of a

community. Other approaches to this topic include implied monsters or monsters within the community that are not initially seen as monsters. Participants should explore what identifies a monster beyond physicality. We welcome discussions from all fields of study, and encourage viewpoints outside of Western European influence.

Monsters on the Stage: Interdisciplinary Examinations of Alterity in Theatre

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Monsters: The Experimental Association for the Research of
Cryptozoology through Scholarly Theory and Practical Application
(MEARCSTAPA)
Organizer: Tirumular (Drew) Narayanan (narayanantc@appstate.edu)

Theatrical performances create a space where monsters can directly slither, breathe, roar, live, die, and interact with their audiences. This session meditates on how theatre produces or elicits a relationship to monstrosity that might otherwise not be possible through different mediums. This session invites 20-minute papers that consider monstrosity on the stage both hailing from the Middle Ages and its afterlives in medievalism. Far from just fantastical creatures, “monstrosity” may also refer to racialized, gendered, queered or otherwise othered bodies within normative society. We call for a variety of disciplinary treatments such as literature, history, musicology, dance, and visual culture.

Patris, Matris, Monstri: Depictions of Monstrous Parents and Parental Monsters

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Monsters: The Experimental Association for the Research of
Cryptozoology through Scholarly Theory and Practical Application
(MEARCSTAPA)
Organizer: Cortney Anne Berg (archivist@c-berg.com)

What makes a parent, what makes a monster, and what makes a parent monstrous? Can any parents escape the charge? How do these categories intersect in depictions, and what can the overlap tell us about descent, human nature, inheritance of traits, individual will, reproductive biology, and the definition of the human? This session calls for 20-minute papers examining medieval depictions of monstrous parents, or parental monsters, literal, behavioral, or metaphorical. We encourage proposals that crack open essentializing definitions, and welcome proposals for any geography in the long Middle Ages in any methodology. We encourage junior/emerging scholars to apply.

Chant and Liturgy

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Musicology at Kalamazoo

Organizer: Innocent Smith (innocent.smith@nd.edu)
Veronica Arntz
Melanie Batoff

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.

Dialogue in Music

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Musicology at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Melanie Batoff (batome01@luther.edu)
Mary E. Wolinski
Suzanna Feldkamp

This session examines the importance of dialogue in medieval music, across a wide range of medieval monophonic and polyphonic genres in sacred and secular contexts. We invite papers that consider how the musical setting helps to express or enhance the dialogue, and/or how the dialogue can help to shape the music. Possible topics include, but are not limited to, enacted dialogues in liturgical dramas and sacred dramas, debates in the jeux-partis of the troubadours, and the interplay of voices in intertextual motets.

Machaut and His Musical World

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Musicology at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Melanie Batoff (batome01@luther.edu)
Innocent Smith
Mary E. Wolinski

On this the 650th anniversary of his death in 1377, we welcome papers on the music of Guillaume de Machaut and the broader musical culture that he inhabited. As distinctive as his style was, his pieces included relatively old-fashioned genres, such as the lai and hoquet, and current types including secular songs, polyphonic motets and chansons, and the first polyphonic Mass Ordinary by a single composer. With such a comprehensive corpus, both reaching back and moving forward, this session can include studies of Machaut's predecessors, contemporaries, and successors in relation to the music of the fourteenth century.

Medieval Music in the Modern Imagination

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Musicology at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Melanie Batoff (batome01@luther.edu)
Veronica Arntz
Innocent Smith

This session encourages papers that explore (but are not limited to) the following topics: How composers re-imagined the Middle Ages sonically in their music compositions from the Early Modern period on, and how these works help shape our own understanding of the past; how modern instrument makers reconstruct or reimagine medieval instruments; and how medieval music serves as a cue for certain social, religious, and cultural ideas in film, television, video games, and recordings.

Women in Medieval Music

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Musicology at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Suzanna Feldkamp (sgf26@case.edu)
Melanie Batoff
Mary E. Wolinski

Scholars of medieval music have increasingly focused their attention on women's roles in shaping the music in their communities. In monastic settings, as well as in secular ones, women took part in the different stages of musical transmission, including composing, performing, witnessing, and transcribing chant and song. For this session, we invite papers that investigate these and other aspects of medieval women's music making, including studies of their environments and how their work impacted their communities, their compositions, and the sources in which their works are transcribed.

From Making to Meaning

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: North American Catalan Society
Ibero-Medieval Association of North America (IMANA)
Organizer: John August Bollweg (trecento@comcast.net)

What meanings (moralizing, object lessons, self-fashioning) do medieval Iberian makers, performers, writers, draw from the practices of production and consumption (e.g., agronomy, architecture, navigation, trade, cooking, performance)? What rhetorical "moves" (e.g., metaphor, allegory, anthropomorphizing) do these cultural-bearers use to produce meaning? Are the meanings produced or the means of their production traditional or innovating? For this session, the North American Catalan Society and Ibero-Medieval Association of North America seek papers discussing examples of the production of meaning in the description, interpretation, or performance of practices of

making and consumption in medieval Iberian sources, material and textual, Visigothic, Islamic, Judaic and Christian.

Sermons to the Public in Medieval Hispania

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: North American Catalan Society
Organizer: John August Bollweg (trecento@comcast.net)
Alberto Ferreiro

Hispania's distinctive religious landscape—marked by Christian, Muslim, and Jewish coexistence and contestation following the Reconquista—makes its sermon corpus especially valuable. Public preaching addressed conversion, heresy, liturgical practice, and confessional identity in contexts of real religious pluralism. Recent historiography emphasizes the sermon as a vehicle for understanding popular piety, the reach and limits of clerical authority, and how ordinary believers encountered theological and moral instruction. For this session we seek papers that explore preaching as both a window into medieval public discourse and a tool through which religious communities negotiated coexistence, hierarchy, and belief.

Christianity in Global Late Antiquity

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: North American Patristics Society
Organizer: David Maldonado Rivera (maldonadorivera1@kenyon.edu)

The North American Patristics Society sponsored session "Christianity in Global Late Antiquity" seeks abstracts engaging with any aspect of the study of Christianity in Late Antiquity (200-700 CE) from any region of West Asia, Africa, the Mediterranean, and Europe. These papers can focus on specific regions; comment on a vast array of written and/or material sources; treat different social, intellectual, and religious developments; or discuss a particular theme, person, or event in the context of late ancient societies. Abstracts can call attention to newer methodologies and approaches to the study of late ancient Christianity and/or various aspects of patristics scholarship.

The Old Saxon Heliand: As Translation and In Translation

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Old Saxon at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Paul Battles (battles@hanover.edu)

This session seeks abstracts examining aspects of the Heliand as translation, both in how it paraphrases Tatian's gospel harmony into Old Saxon verse and in how the Heliand has itself been translated into various forms and languages. Comparisons with other early religious or non-religious verse traditions, such as Old High German or Old

English poems, are welcome. We also encourage creative approaches that present excerpts of the Heliand in translation, or that analyze the difficulties inherent in representing the poem's verbal and stylistic texture for modern readers.

Manuscript Collecting in North America: Considering the Means, Motives, and Opportunities

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Peripheral Manuscripts Project
Digital Scriptorium
Organizer: Liz Hebbard (ehebbard@iu.edu)
Sarah L. Noonan
Lynn Ransom

Regional and national efforts have recently increased the discoverability of the numerous medieval manuscript holdings found in North American collections. Such projects have made more--and better--data about North American manuscripts, revealing complex histories of manuscript circulation on this continent. We invite papers that consider the many motivations that drove collectors, booksellers, and institutions to acquire and trade manuscripts, including economic, political, and social factors relating to the dispersal of libraries and collections in Europe and the Middle East, and the less savory aspects of the trade such as book-breaking, theft, and graft.

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

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Postal History at Kalamazoo
Research Group on Manuscript Evidence
Organizer: David W. Sorenson (dwsorenson@verizon.net)

In a world in which long-distance communication was of necessity through the written word, getting "hard copy" from sender to recipient could be a complicated process. While royal and other "important" messages might be sent post-haste, ordinary letters would be much lower priority, and much less speedy. Government mail might be sent via special courier in a dedicated system, but other mail would typically travel in a less efficient, more ad hoc process. This session is intended to examine the process of transport and delivery of mail, whether in Europe or elsewhere.

Academic Publishing Now: Mentorship, Expertise, Revision (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: postmedieval: a journal of medieval cultural studies
Exemplaria: Medieval / Early Modern / Theory
Organizer: Carissa M. Harris (carissa.harris@temple.edu)
Jason Jacobs

Roundtable participants (editors of journals Exemplaria and postmedieval) will prepare short remarks that speak to the following questions: 1) What does good mentorship look like for early career scholars aiming to publish? What advice do editors wish submitting authors were getting? 2) What is the status of expertise when publishing innovative research (interdisciplinary, comparative, theory-driven, etc.)? What should authors do to cover their bases without sacrificing originality, and how should reviewers leverage their expertise without gate-keeping or forestalling new approaches? 3) You got a “revise and resubmit” (these days, almost everyone does). Now what?

Mentorship in a Multilingual Medieval Studies: Lessons from a postmedieval Publication Project (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: postmedieval: a journal of medieval cultural studies
Organizer: Rebecca De Souza (rdesouza@live.co.uk)

This is a critical discussion on mentorship across languages in medieval studies, reflecting on postmedieval’s inaugural mentorship program for medievalists who have not yet published in English. Running from March 2025 - spring 2026, it saw five academics whose first language is not English prepare an article for publication in English while mentored by a senior scholar. Discussants will include program participants and scholars working on other mentorship initiatives across borders. They will leverage the program’s outcomes to discuss destabilizing the hegemony of English in medieval studies and how scholarly editing might enable exchanges between diverse, global epistemological frameworks.

The Beacons Are Lit! Prester John Calls for Aid! Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious Medievalish Virtue-Signaling on Stage, Screen, and Discord

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Pseudo Society
Organizer: Lisa Evans (evansquilt@gmail.com)

The Pseudo Society once again invites scholars of all types to submit papers exploring the weird, the wild, and the utterly whacked-out facets of medieval life hitherto unknown to academia. Archaeological discoveries humanity was not meant to know, mysterious manuscripts and material culture, codes revealing the hidden truths underlying accepted wisdom, interpretative karate kata of the third kind—all are welcome, nay, encouraged. Phlegmatic, melancholic, sanguine, or choleric—if it’s humorous, the Pseudo Society will give it a good home.

Carolingian Studies

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Renovatio - Studies in the Carolingian World
Organizer: Valerie L. Garver (vgarver@niu.edu)

The book series Renovatio - Studies in the Carolingian World (Trivent Press) provides a venue for fresh interpretations and perspectives regarding the Carolingian Empire (c. 700 - c. 900) writ large. It is sponsoring sessions to encourage research on this formative part of the Middle Ages. These sessions welcome paper proposals that foster discussion of innovative methodologies or multidisciplinary approaches, that investigate links between the Carolingian world and other regions or historical periods, or that offer new findings regarding the Carolingians and their neighbors.

Ecologies of the Book: Materials, Environments, Representations

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Research Group on Manuscript Evidence
Organizer: Cortney Anne Berg (archivist@c-berg.com)
Mildred Budny

Books in the medieval context are not neutral objects: made of materials extracted from the natural world, their production had a profound impact on the local ecosystems. However, books have been critical for disseminating knowledge, including about the natural world and its conservation. This session calls for 20 minute papers examining the roles of books imagined within ecologies broadly: how did the production and consumption of books impact the (perceived) ecosystem around them, for better or worse? We welcome proposals in any methodological lens for any geographic region in the long Middle Ages, and encourage junior/emerging scholars to apply.

"Stayin' Alive": Teaching Dead Languages in the Twenty-First Century

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

The Richard Rawlinson Center seeks fun, interactive ways that people around the world teach dead languages and proposes this workshop so that presenters and attendees can share and learn from each other. We seek presenters who teach languages of early medieval Britain and Ireland, including Old English, Old Frisian, Old Saxon, Medieval Irish, Medieval Welsh, Old Norse, Latin, Anglo-Norman, or Norman French. The workshop offers space to share a particular assignment, in-class activity, etc. that you have found effective for students. If you do something in your classroom that energizes and excites your students, we want to hear from you.

Cities and Settlements in Pre-Norman Britain: Imagination and Reality

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Richard Rawlinson Center
Organizer: Lindy Brady (lindy.brady@edgehill.ac.uk)

How did cities, settlements, and urban spaces in pre-Norman Britain take shape in reality and in the poetic imagination? This session warmly welcomes papers exploring the concept of 'the city' in the historical reality, material culture, or literary traditions of pre-Norman Britain, from scholars at all career stages and working across all disciplines. We welcome papers on the city in literary imagination (How did authors writing in Old English or Anglo-Latin conceive of cities in their works?) and historical reality (What evidence for the material culture of urban spaces in pre-Norman Britain exists?) as well as comparative approaches.

English Fragments, Bindings, and Binding Fragments from Before 1200

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

Papers on fragments and fragmentation of English materials before 1200. May include Old English or Anglo-Latin texts or materials that are "England adjacent," such as Heliand or other Carolingian binding fragments. Work on surviving bookbindings from before 1200 (with or without binding fragments) is also of interest. All papers should put materiality at their heart, but papers primarily dealing with purely textual fragmentation may be considered. Papers considering items already fragmented by ca. 1200 are especially encouraged, but later (or undatable) fragmentation is also of interest.

Northern Medieval World (1): In Honor of Michael H. Gelting

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Richard Rawlinson Center
Organizer: Robert F. Berkhofer

We invite submissions on the broad theme of the "Northern Medieval World" from any discipline to honor Michael H. Gelting, a historian of Denmark and Europe in the central and later Middle Ages. We welcome interdisciplinary and collaborative contributions. Papers dealing with history, law, or power throughout the northern medieval world are encouraged.

Anachronic Old English

Modality: In-Person

Sponsor: Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association
Organizer: Mary Kate Hurley (hurleym1@ohio.edu)
Jonathan Davis-Secord (jwds@unm.edu)
Tarren Andrews

Old English scholarship is, in many ways, fundamentally about time. The concept of time—its definition, measurement, and even temporal linearity itself—comes under question across the canon of Old English. Poems like *Beowulf* manipulate narrative sequence to explore causation, human perception, and the nature of storytelling. Moreover, the field of medieval literary studies has been held hostage by analytical standards that demand avoidance of supposed anachronism, yet deploy it liberally. This session will gather and promote scholars who challenge the arbitrary temporal limits on our analytical tools, and explore what new ideas can be found in anachrony.

Writing at the Margins: Conversos and Minority Voices in Late Medieval Iberia

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

This panel invites papers examining literary and textual production by conversos, Jews, Muslims, women, and other marginalized groups in late medieval Iberia, before, during, and after the Catholic Monarchs' reign. As royal authority expanded alongside the Inquisition and growing demands for religious conformity, minority communities negotiated complex questions of identity, belonging, and survival. We seek contributions on converso authors, inquisitorial texts, vernacularity, minority literary traditions, and religious, legal, historical, and archival sources spotlighting experiences of exclusion, censorship, adaptation, resistance, and cross-cultural exchange. Interdisciplinary, comparative, and diachronic approaches engaging with literature, history, art history, religion and critical theory, are especially welcome.

The Cost of Digital Resources and Projects (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Rossell Hope Robbins Library, Univ. of Rochester
Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies
Organizer: Anna Siebach-Larsen (annasiebachlarsen@rochester.edu)
Dot Porter

While the development of digital resources and projects by medievalists is nothing new, the cost of those resources is rarely understood by those who use them or those who want to build them. Actual costs are difficult to find, creating roadblocks to planning and advocacy. This roundtable will discuss these costs, both tangible and intangible.

Participants will provide practical frameworks and templates for building digital resources, including dollar amounts and formulas necessary for funding applications. They will discuss the often-unseen costs of resources, such as emotional labor, the work of advocacy, and the environmental and social ramifications of digital infrastructures.

Law as Culture XXVII: 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.

"(No?) More Cakes and Ale": Festival and Festivities in Shakespeare's Comedies

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Shakespeare at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Joshua S. Fullman (joshua.fullman@pepperdine.edu)

Though comedies end in a marriage, some comedies open when the feast has already begun. Festival is a clearly delineated moment to cross cultural boundaries and turn the world upside down, allowing us to laugh at our own social structures and the roles we play within them. This session explores the ways in which festival is both celebrated and resisted, as well as how festivities are depicted in Shakespeare's comedy plays. Participants may consider various aspects of festival and merry-making, anti-festival (e.g. mourning, despair), and holy-days. Other topics include social capital, liminality, rites of passage, the carnival, and/or the grotesque.

Counterfeiting the Deep Tragedian: Shakespeare, Performance, and the Medieval (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Shakespeare at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Joshua S. Fullman (joshua.fullman@pepperdine.edu)

Many of Shakespeare's plays take place in a medieval past removed from his own early modern experience. How he might have conceptualized the "Middle Ages" from the vantage point of the "Renaissance" would have had a tremendous impact on how he composed his texts. How Shakespeare thought about the Middle Ages even has significance for how we "moderns" think about the past. This roundtable will discuss various ways in which Shakespeare has recently been performed, helping us think about reception, dramaturgy, and what it means to be medieval.

Uneasy Heads and Bands of Brothers: Political Thought in Shakespeare's Histories

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Shakespeare at Kalamazoo
Organizer: Joshua S. Fullman (joshua.fullman@pepperdine.edu)

This session explores ways in which Shakespeare's history plays discourse with political theory and philosophy. Shakespeare composes dramatic reenactment of histories out of a highly specific Tudor ideology and historiography that saw itself as the dawn of a new era. Participants may wish to consider medieval political theorists, like St. Thomas Aquinas, or early modern theorists, like Richard Hooker, or, further, how modern political theorists connect to history plays. Papers should generally focus on the main tetralogies in how the early modern period conceived of history, but the Roman plays will also be considered.

Abbey of Saint-Victor (1): Community, Material Culture, and Intellectual Life

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 the training of novices, liturgical life, education, manuscripts, the Victorine library, and the role of the Abbey in the religious and intellectual life of Paris and beyond. Publication of Victorine Texts in Translation brings together well-known and lesser-known texts with full introductions to highlight the spectrum of sources available to expand knowledge of the rich life of this twelfth-century community of Regular Canons. We have been invited by Brepols to assemble a volume of essays drawn from presentations at the International Congress, including this session.

Abbey of Saint-Victor (2): Victorine Influence in the Later Twelfth and the Thirteenth Centuries

Modality: In-Person

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

This session brings attention to the influence which Victorine writers had on later figures, particularly the later 12th- and 13th-centuries. Papers could address 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 topics. This session welcomes all papers which explore the influence of Victorine thinkers. Publication of Victorine Texts in Translation brings together texts and resources related to this twelfth-century community of Regular Canons. Outstanding papers may be invited for publication in a proposed volume, if the presenter is interested.

Abbey of Saint-Victor (3): Exegesis, Theology, and Contemplation in Victorine Thought

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

This session brings attention to the three core disciplines that defined the contributions of the Abbey's canons to the intellectual and spiritual life. The Victorines, especially Hugh and Andrew, gave new emphasis to the literal, historical sense of Scripture, and the Abbey participated in the creation of the Glossa ordinaria. Hugh, Richard, and Achard made distinctive contributions to theological reflection. The contemplative writings of Richard, Hugh, Achard and others offer a rich field of penetrating works. We have been invited by Brepols to assemble a volume of essays drawn from presentations at the International Congress, including this session.

Reading and Singing Aloud: Bernart de Ventadorn, Non es meravelha

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Société Guilhem IX
Organizer: Courtney Joseph Wells (wells@hws.edu)

For this workshop, leading scholars in the field guide participants in the reading and then singing of Bernart de Ventadorn's lyric, Non es meravelha. Expert scholars and musicologists will present the fundamental guidelines of Old Occitan pronunciation and singing, model the appropriate pronunciation, and guide workshop participants through one of the most famous troubadour lyrics of the medieval corpus.

Spotlight on Guilhem IX (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Société Guilhem IX
Organizer: Courtney Joseph Wells (wells@hws.edu)

We are soliciting short presentations on the first recorded troubadour, Guilhem IX. While Guilhem has received perhaps the lion's share of critical attention in troubadour studies, fundamental questions remain unanswered: where did he learn to compose vers in Occitan? Who was his intended audience? To what extent was his audience in on the joke? What do the current tools of manuscript studies reveal to us about the transmission of his corpus? While answers have been proposed to these questions, it is time for these answers to be reexamined in light of new critical perspectives on troubadour lyric and medieval transmission.

Tyrants, Despots, Cads, and Bullies in Old Occitan Texts

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Société Guilhem IX
Organizer: Courtney Joseph Wells (wells@hws.edu)

From Ezzelino's mission to have Sordello kidnap Cunizza from her husband to Bertran de Born's and Guillem de Berguedà's diatribes against King Alfons, Occitan texts boast their share of despotic and insolent rulers. We invite contributions that engage with the politics of Old Occitan texts and demonstrate how they can be spaces of resistance or repression. While the lyric provides a plurality of perspectives, narrative texts often set up historical rulers as despots to be dethroned. But lyric texts can also be written from the perspective of the despot: for example, Charles of Anjou's own forays into lyric.

Constructing the Self in Romance-Language Epic

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

The Société Rencesvals, Pan-American Branch, invites proposals from scholars whose research examines Romance-language epics as sites of social discourse. Far from being merely "songs of deeds," these texts were critical commentaries on contemporary ideologies. They thus speak profoundly to processes of self-conceptualization in far-ranging topics including –but not limited to– regional/national identity, faith, gender, and race. This session invites papers that examine how Romance-language epics used discourse to construct value systems that contributed to conceptions of the self, situating this literature in the larger study of the production of ideologies in the Middle Ages.

Rereading *Christian, Saracen, and Genre in Medieval French Literature* (2001): Papers in Honor of Lynn T. Ramey

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

The Société Rencesvals, Pan-American Branch, wishes to honor Lynn T. Ramey in celebration of 25 years since the publication of her first monograph, *Christian, Saracen, and Genre in Medieval French Literature*. We invite proposals that engage directly with the central ideas, arguments, and/or methodologies explored by Ramey in her work, and which discuss the representation of Muslims by Romance language authors c. 1100-1500. We are especially interested in papers that give particular attention to themes of gender and race as they relate to epic depictions of Muslim-Christian relations in chansons de geste, chivalric romances, and lyric poetry.

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 (University of Wisconsin-Madison) at smoedersheim@wisc.edu.

Emblems in Material Culture

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

The Society for Emblem Studies invites proposals on topics regarding allegorical and emblematic imagery in material culture from heraldry, court culture, and royal entries to emblem in arts and architecture, political and religious iconography 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 (University of Wisconsin-Madison) at smoedersheim@wisc.edu.

History and Violence in the Brut Tradition

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

This session extends scholarly conversations on how violence operates in the corpus of poetic and prose Brut texts. We welcome papers exploring violence as a mechanism for securing and projecting political power, as both a destructive force and a tool for empowerment. We also welcome investigations of poetic and rhetorical violence—including on how the translation and redaction of historical texts function as symbolic conquests—and intersections of violence and gender. Suggested topics include: the aesthetics and rhetoric of warfare, conquest, and displacement; gendered dynamics of violence, captivity, and resistance; and the role of environmental devastation (fire, plague) in historiography.

Kings and Governance in the Brut Tradition

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

Building upon scholarly discussions of royal rule and power, this session seeks papers that examine how prose and verse Brut chronicles engage with the mechanisms of rule, including law, institutional politics, warfare, diplomacy, and peacemaking. We particularly welcome studies that ground these representations in historical contexts: Layamon's portrayal of rulers against the backdrop of the deteriorating Angevin dynasty or the prose Brut's kings read through the lens of the Wars of the Roses and the loss of English territories in France. We also welcome codicological approaches examining visual representations of kings in manuscript miniatures, historiated letters, rubrication, and marginalia.

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 seeks abstract submissions for the thoughtful study of any aspect of the late antique world, from any period ranging from ca. 250 to 750, and from any region of Europe, the Mediterranean, and 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, so long as they fall within the bounds of late antiquity.

Forbidden Teaching

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship (SMFS)
TEAMS (Teaching Association for Medieval Studies)
Organizer: Deborah M. Sinnreich-Levi (profsinnreichlevi@gmail.com)
Meg Cotter-Lynch

Increasingly, universities and states have been impinging upon academic freedom by forbidding the inclusion of specific subjects, deemed "controversial," in syllabi and courses. These restrictions directly affect the teaching of medieval topics, as any consideration of the Middle Ages must account for differences in attitudes and beliefs around religion, gender, sexuality, and race. This panel invites papers from scholars willing to discuss the ways in which their own teaching, or teaching at their institutions, has been impacted by these restrictions. Possible topics include aspects of institutional or political pressure, adjustments made to teaching, and potential modes of resistance.

Mothers as Makers: "Bad Moms" in Literature and History

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship (SMFS)
Organizer: Katie E. Despeaux (katiedespeaux@unm.edu)
Lauren E. Wood (lwood@uwsp.edu)

In the Middle Ages, historical and literary mothers were viewed by their contemporaries as "bad mothers" when they sought power or at least were perceived to be seeking power. Sometimes represented as supernatural or as over-reaching, these women are often meant to portray the very worst stereotypes of the time and often overshadow our perceptions of them in today's media. This panel seeks submissions that examine the contemporary and modern reputations of medieval mothers and is open to any field and methodological lens.

New Voices in Medieval Feminist Studies

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship (SMFS)
Organizer: Katie E. Despeaux (katiedespeaux@unm.edu)
Michael L. Howard (michaelhoward@unm.edu)

SMFS is seeking proposals from first-time conference attendees specializing in medieval feminist scholarship. This panel especially welcomes proposals from early career BIPOC and LGBTQ+ scholars who have not previously presented at an

academic conference, however, all emerging scholars are welcome to submit a proposal. We welcome submissions from the fields of literature, history, art history, archaeology, linguistics, interdisciplinary studies and other fields on topics related to intersectional feminist research. Panel organizers will host optional virtual workshops for interested panelists about abstract submissions, acquiring travel funding, and other conference details in order to best prepare panelists for their first ICMS!

NO! Refusal, Complaint, Resistance, and Activism as Feminist Praxis

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship (SMFS)
Hagiography Society
Organizer: Anne Le (anne.le@hunter.cuny.edu)
Maeve Callan
Hannah Jones (hjones@tamut.edu)

Inspired by Sara Ahmed's recent publications *Complaint!* and *No! The Art and Activism of Complaining*, this panel brings into conversation research that looks at premodern moments of refusal, complaint, resistance, and activism through a feminist lens. How can attuning and cultivating our own "feminist ears" to refusal and complaint help us unbury histories of premodern resistance? We welcome papers that explore how a range of figures — from fictional characters to saints — said "no" to prevailing power structures, to oppression, to the status quo, to marginalization, etc. in ways that advance feminist understandings of premodernity.

Scholarship at Teaching Institutions (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship (SMFS)
TEAMS (Teaching Association for Medieval Studies)
Organizer: Meg Cotter-Lynch (mcotter@se.edu)
Deborah M. Sinnreich-Levi (profsinnreichlevi@gmail.com)

PhD's, by definition, are awarded by research universities, and yet most academic jobs are at institutions where the primary focus is teaching. This roundtable addresses strategies for pursuing research at smaller, under-resourced, and teaching-oriented institutions, where time and money for scholarly endeavors are scarce. Participants will discuss their own experiences, lessons, and strategies for conducting research at teaching-oriented institutions, with the goal of helping scholars pursue meaningful research alongside heavy teaching loads.

Languages in Contact: Multilingualism in the Medieval Germanic World

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

Organizer: Adam Oberlin (aoberlin@princeton.edu)
Bradley Weiss

This session explores the multilingual and transcultural dynamics of medieval Germanic-speaking regions. Far from linguistically isolated spaces, medieval Germanic-speaking communities participated in extensive networks of exchange involving Latin, Romance, Slavic, Hebrew, Celtic, and Scandinavian. Institutions and trade routes fostered complex forms of linguistic interaction that shaped literary production, documentary practice, devotional life, and constructions of social and cultural identity. Papers may address topics such as translation and adaptation; code-switching and macaronic writing; multilingual manuscripts; lexical borrowing; mercantile language contact; Jewish-Christian linguistic interaction; language and authority; education and literacy; frontier encounters; or the relationship between multilingualism and genre, audience, or performance.

New Research in Germanic Medieval Studies

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for Medieval Germanic Studies (SMGS)
Organizer: Adam Oberlin (aoberlin@princeton.edu)

Alongside the specific topics in our CFPs for SMGS sessions at the ICMS which result in high-quality presentations and scholarship, we feel it is important to have one open call session so that we can accommodate those scholars working on research projects that do not fit the thematic sessions proposed by SMGS. We then group submissions into a cohesive session.

Notable Books in Medieval Germanic Studies: Religious Women and Literary Agency in the Fifteenth Century (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for Medieval Germanic Studies (SMGS)
Organizer: Adam Oberlin (aoberlin@princeton.edu)

In this unique roundtable session, authors of recently published scholarly books in medieval German Studies present their work in dialogue with one another and the audience. This year we will discuss the work of CJ Jones, Sara Poor, and Sarah Glenn DeMaris, a thematic cluster of studies addressing religious women, Dominican orders, literary agency, and other topics in the fifteenth century. With such linked topics, we hope that they enable an inspiring discussion and help us shape the work of our future students and colleagues.

Praying in the Vernacular: Gender, Manuscripts, and Devotional Agency in Medieval Germanic Worlds

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for Medieval Germanic Studies (SMGS)
Organizer: Adam Oberlin (aoberlin@princeton.edu)
Cj Jones

Vernacular prayer was a formative literary, devotional, and material practice in medieval Germanic cultures. How did prayer books, bilingual manuscripts, fragments, rubrics, images, gestures, and devotional routines shape the emergence of vernacular religious writing? Contributions on women as patrons, scribes, readers, and users of devotional books; on small-format and fragmentary manuscripts; on the relationship between Latin and vernacular textual cultures; and on comparative or methodological approaches to reconstructing networks of prayer, transmission, and use are welcome. By foregrounding prayer as both text and practice, the session seeks to reconsider the place of vernacular devotion in the literary and religious history.

Sensing the Unseen: Sensory Experience, Perception, and Oneiric Landscapes in the Germanic Middle Ages and Early Modernity

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for Medieval Germanic Studies (SMGS)
Organizer: Adam Oberlin (aoberlin@princeton.edu)
Tina Boyer (boyertm@wfu.edu)
Alexandra Sterling-Hellenbrand (hellenbranda@appstate.edu)

We invite new work on the senses/sensory perception in medieval Germanic cultures. The papers in this panel will examine how medieval German texts navigate the senses and sensory experience: from the five senses as experience and perception to the medieval reception of Aristotle to oneiric perception and spiritual senses. This session investigates how medieval German authors depict somatic experience through the senses (including sound, touch, taste, and smell), employing the senses to explore complex theological and secular realities through the landscapes and dreamscapes of secular and religious texts. Because these topics cross interdisciplinary lines, we encourage submissions from diverse methodologies.

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 (pvl@umich.edu)

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.

Abundance and Absence: Queer and Trans Approaches in the Archive

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Society for Queer Medieval Studies (SQMS)
New Queer Medievalisms
Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies
Organizer: Catherine Introcaso (cintrocaso@gc.cuny.edu)
E. Al Grissom

This session invites papers that attend to the partial and resistant ways queerness and transness emerge in medieval archives. Torn pages, smudged images, misplaced marginalia, and fragmentary traces all signal forms of queer archival participation. In reimagining archival potential how might medievalists access, interpret, or refuse archival legibility? Contributions may address explicitly socio-political queer identities and communities, as well as approaching the archive itself as a site structured by both queer and trans abundance and absence. The session welcomes interdisciplinary approaches that reconsider how scholars encounter, interpret, preserve, and reimagine archives beyond inherited frameworks of organization, memory, and scholarly proximity.

Eco Approaches to Medieval Trans Studies

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for Queer Medieval Studies (SQMS)
Medieval Ecocriticisms
Organizer: Johanna W. Alden (aldenja@bc.edu)

Increasingly, the interdisciplinary field of trans studies is engaged in ecocritical analyses, and also in questions of what it means to study premodern transness in the medieval past. This panel welcomes papers that sit at the intersection of such inquiries. How can we better understand the entanglement of trans lives and trans bodies in relation to their environmental context? What does it mean to think ecocritically about premodern trans subjects and trans epistemologies? This panel will showcase research that utilizes ecocritical approaches to trans medieval studies, including approaches thinking through questions of posthumanism, transanimality, the blue humanities, or ecotheologies.

Hiding in Plain Sight: Exploring Queer and Trans Magics

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for Queer Medieval Studies (SQMS)
Societas Magica
Organizer: Felipe E. Rojas (felipe.rojas@westliberty.edu)
Marla Segol

This panel explores transing and queering as a primary mechanism of efficacy in medieval and early modern magic. It's a given that magical works describe the actions required to effect change, but we have often overlooked the ritual efficacy of transformative gendering. This applies to humans, animals, cosmos, and divine, as operators and their objects move through different categories of gender and sexuality, transforming the cosmos along with their gendering. The efficacy of queering and transing is central to ritual power and explicitly described in magical works despite it not being theorized by scholars. This panel works to remedy that.

Medieval Queerphobia, Homophobia, and Transphobia: Hatred and Fear as a Category of Analysis

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for Queer Medieval Studies (SQMS)
Organizer: Logan Spencer (aspencer4@binghamton.edu)
Taryn DeLeon Mendiola

This panel explores the literary, legal, and cultural realities of queerphobia in the medieval world. For scholars of medieval queer lives, we learn to read against the grain of often queerphobic texts. This panel seeks to read these phobic sources on their own terms in order to explore the wide-ranging affective responses of medieval cultures as refracted through anti-queer and trans rhetoric. We will explore hatred and fear as a category of analysis so that we might better understand the cultural policing methods of the medieval period which worked to shore up hegemonic identities and marginalize queer medieval subjects.

Queer and Trans Censorship, Erasure, and Silence in Medieval Studies (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for Queer Medieval Studies (SQMS)
Organizer: Kersti Francis (kerstif@bu.edu)
Vaughan Michael Hennen

This roundtable explores queer and trans censorship, silencing, erasure, and absences across the Middle Ages and modern medieval studies. Throughout government and academic institutions, past and present, queer and trans censorship takes many forms,

from the explicit banning or defunding of research topics to material erasures in texts and archives to the intentional silencing or absence of voices and perspectives. Roundtable participants will offer 5-7 minute reflections on an example of censorship, silence(-ing), or erasure in the Middle Ages or modern state of medieval studies.

The Queer Middle Ages: Medieval Camp

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for Queer Medieval Studies (SQMS)
Organizer: Ophelia Eryn Hostetter (akh58@camden.rutgers.edu)

“Camp” refers to an aesthetic characterized by self-aware & often subversive extravagance, affectation, and exaggeration. Though frequently associated with contemporary LGBTQ+ people, premodern culture is no stranger to camp and the campy, articulated in literature, art, & performance, from grotesques in marginalia, to florid hagiographic melodrama, to elaborate banquet pageants, to medievalizing movies such as Derek Jarman’s *Edward II* or Brian Helgerson’s *A Knight’s Tale*. We are seeking papers of 15–20 minutes exploring camp from a wide variety of languages, traditions, & disciplines. We welcome submissions from scholars of diverse backgrounds, career positions, & approaches.

Reformation (1): Reformation Renaissance Intersections: Reaction, Response, and Impetus in Art, Music, Literature, and Science

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

From the new emphasis on vernacular hymns in music, to the focus on woodcuts and illustrated Bibles in art, and the challenge to authority that paved the way for new development in the sciences and medicine, the Reformation fueled change and transformation beyond its religious and personal roots. Recent research across the disciplines has focused on how the Reformers democratized literature and literacy, elevated congregational music, and infused new life into traditional literatures while fostering the development of new literary genres and frameworks. Papers will focus on Reformation and (often) reciprocal Renaissance intersections both during and after the Reformation itself.

Reformation (2): Borderlands, Peripheries, Liminal Spaces: Mainstream and "Non-Orthodox" Protestantisms in the Reformation

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

In recent decades Reformation research has begun to focus on borderlands, margins, and liminal spaces. Scholars have begun to explore such areas as the linguistic, political and geographical “edges” and have examined confessional coexistence and syncretism in borderland areas. Peripheral regions have been viewed as testing grounds where new views are initiated, and as sites for localized agency. Papers in this session will explore how Reformation views, seen through the lens of borderland studies, developed unique characteristics and underwent sometimes radical transformations both within and in response to mainstream Reformation movements.

Reformation (3): Uncovering the Past and Constructing the Future: Medieval Origins and Modern Developments

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

Recently, Reformation studies have recognized that the Long Reformation is not confined to a single century, culture, or discipline. The Long Reformation is a centuries-long iterative process finding its roots in medieval thought and heterodoxies, and continuing to influence literature, art, politics, religion, and culture in the centuries following the Reformation. The Reformation was not limited to one community, one culture or one historical time. Papers in this session will explore such areas as music, art, literature, or movements and figures either as antecedents or as legacies of the Reformation.

Reformation (4): Interiority, Power, and Voice in the Reformation: Narratives, Sermons, Autobiographies, and Other Writings

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

While many studies of the Reformation have focused on the historical and polemical voices of leading Reformers in sixteenth century texts, recent scholars have broadened their research by exploring more extensively how the personal reflections, writings, spiritual autobiographies and sermons rather than the organized theological discussions have been essential to the Protestant experience. The focus on interiority transformed personal devotion, and the emphasis on individual voices radically shifted power from the institutional to the personal. Papers in this session will focus on the power of individual voices in the Reformation

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.

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.

New Models of Disability in the Medieval World

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Society for the Study of Disability in the Middle Ages
Organizer: Catherine Shepard Bloomer (cbloomer@brandeis.edu)

This session explores new methodological approaches to disability in the medieval world across literary, historical, religious, medical, and material contexts. Particular interest will be given to work engaging social, cultural, religious, and embodied models of disability; sensory difference and lived experience; and emerging methodological approaches, including digital humanities, affect theory, manuscript studies, and material culture. The session invites papers that examine how medieval texts, bodies, objects, and communities produce alternative understandings of embodiment, cognition, dependency, perception, and social relation, while also asking how medieval disability might reshape contemporary critical frameworks.

Biblical Translations and Paraphrases Between Languages, Lines, Columns, and Media

Modality: In-Person

Sponsor: Society for the Study of the Bible in the Middle Ages (SSBMA)
Organizer: Chiara Visentin (cv284@cornell.edu)

Medieval engagements with biblical materials continue to offer intriguing grounds for scholarly inquiry across disciplines. In this session we ask how these materials were creatively translated and adapted not only interlingually, as with vernacularizations, but also intralingually, as with versifications, or across media, as with visual adaptations. We aim to explore and compare processes and mechanisms by which biblical subject matter was refashioned to travel across different forms, their materialities and layouts on the page, as with interlinear glosses. We invite interdisciplinary conversations including, but not limited to, diverse languages and literatures, art history, translation, manuscript and religious studies.

Patriarchs and Matriarchs: Representation, Characterization, and Reception in Biblical and Para-Biblical Materials

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Society for the Study of the Bible in the Middle Ages (SSBMA)
Organizer: Anna Schetnikova (annsch@umd.edu)

This session invites papers on the medieval reception of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs of Genesis - including Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Leah, and Rachel - as well as related figures and narratives. As foundational figures in the shared sacred histories of the Abrahamic religions, the Patriarchs and Matriarchs can serve as a valuable lens for examining medieval biblical interpretation, identity formation, and interreligious transfers. We welcome contributions exploring how Jewish, Christian, and Muslim communities interpreted, represented, and reused these foundational figures in biblical and para-biblical materials, including translations, commentaries, sermons, liturgical texts, narrative retellings, visual culture, and other media.

Digital Tools for Source Study (A Roundtable)

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

As the title suggests, this session invites short (c.5 min.) presentations for a roundtable discussion of possible uses and abuses of digital tools for source study. While databases of various sorts are already standard fare in the field, recent projects (like Göttingen University's ECHOE project) have shown how intricately source relationships can be traced and represented in digital form. The pervasiveness of various AI tools also promises to change the way scholars search for sources--will traditional methods

remain valuable in the age of AI? We invite submissions from all who are interested in source study and/or the digital humanities.

Style as a Source in Early English Texts

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

Source study typically focuses on close verbal echoes: quotations or near-quotations that offer some idea of what an Early English writer was referencing or remembering while composing. This session aims to consider "sources" more expansively, focusing on the sources of an author's style while reflecting on the particular challenges of discerning stylistic debts and wrestling with the aesthetic dimension of Early English and Anglo-Latin texts. We welcome submissions interested in any aspect of style; papers interested in formalist approaches, or that include an historical or theoretical consideration of aesthetics, are especially welcome.

Wearing the Human: Animality, Clothing, and Gender Across the Global Middle Ages

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: Taiwan Association of Classical, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies (TACMRS)
Organizer: Sophia Yashih Liu (yashihliu@ntu.edu.tw)

This session explores how global medieval traditions use skin, clothing, and animal transformation—from European werewolves like Bisclavret to East Asian húlí jīng—to test the boundaries between human/nonhuman, and between masculine/feminine. By comparing Western, Islamic, Buddhist, and Daoist traditions, we examine which anxieties about gender and species are universal and which are culture-specific. We welcome papers on European materials or global cross-cultural dialogues. The medieval body can be explored through feminist, queer, and posthumanist lenses as a threshold. History, literature, law, cultural studies, visual arts, music, philosophy, and theology, as well as other perspectives, are welcome approaches to this topic.

"Will It Bardcore?": Explorations of Medievalist Music (A Roundtable)

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Tales after Tolkien Society
International Society for the Study of Medievalism
Organizer: Rachel Sikorski (rachelcooper201@gmail.com)
Angela J. Weisl (angela.weisl@shu.edu)

During discussion at the 2026 ICMS session 'Off of the Printed Prose Page', Dr. Elizabeth Perry asked the question of various songs: "Will it bardcore?" Although offered partly in jest, the question prompts consideration of what bardcore is, really; what makes for "good" bardcore; what are representative examples of the genre; how the genre borrows from and interacts with Tolkien and other neo/medievalisms; and what purposes and functions are served by the genre? The proposed roundtable offers space for such considerations.

A Porlockian Perspective: Interruptions in Post-Tolkien Medievalist Works

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Tales after Tolkien Society
Organizer: Rachel Sikorski (rachelcooper201@gmail.com)

The International Porlock Society, long meeting at the ICMS, is dedicated to the study and practice of academic interruption. While the Porlock Society focused its attentions on the works of Sidney and Spenser (himself an early medievalist), it is the case that interruption abounds, both in medieval literatures (witness Arthurian legend) and in the medievalist and neomedievalist media that emerge from them. The proposed session investigates the instances, forms, and functions of interruption in works of post-Tolkien neo/medievalist literatures and other media.

Continued Lessons from the Professor: Borrowings from Tolkien, 2020+

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

The stated goal of The Tales after Tolkien Society is the investigation of medievalism in popular culture; it has in its very name a commitment to conducting those investigations through the lens of Tolkien and his works. With the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent upheavals, it may well be that the focus which this lens offers has changed. Papers for the session should look at shifts in use of Tolkien's works, sources, and methods in the years 2020 and following, speaking to the "after" portion of the Society's name with particular emphasis.

Medievalism Outside Academe (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Tales after Tolkien Society
Lone Medievalist
Organizer: Rachel Sikorski

Kisha G. Tracy (ktracy3@fitchburgstate.edu)

Most faculty are contingent. The numbers of contingent faculty are dwarfed by those who, after spending years adjuncting, sought other careers yet still feel called to intellectual life. More yet did not pursue lives in academe but still have insights into the medieval, medievalist, and neomedievalist, as well as how they function. The proposed session looks to present perspectives on the medieval, medievalist, and neomedievalist from outside traditional academic structures, calling back to Richard Utz's ICMS 2015 plenary lecture: medievalist work began as an amateur endeavor. Bringing in nonprofessional, underrepresented, outside perspectives remains worth doing.

Another Year, Another Step Closer to... What? Teaching Medieval Studies as the World (E/De/Re)volve(s) (The TEAMS/Bonnie Wheeler Session)

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

In 2025, academia in general faced dramatic, profound changes to what was once normal. Grants, international students, DEI—gone. 2026 began with other assaults: demands for names of Jews and campus activists; lowered student-loan caps; shrinking enrollments; further assaults on tenure and academic freedom; accreditation and endowment rules shifting; medieval imagery supporting racism and totalitarianism spreading; and GenAI everywhere. Faculty across disciplines will share how teaching medieval studies/medievalism has changed and/or how their departments and administrations have responded to these challenges—realizing that by May 2027, the world will have changed in ways we can't yet imagine.

In Honor of Gale Sigal (1): Lyrics

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: TEAMS (Teaching Association for Medieval Studies)
Organizer: Mary Kate Hurley (hurleym1@ohio.edu)
Arielle C. McKee (mckeea@wfu.edu)
Deborah M. Sinnreich-Levi (profsinnreichlevi@gmail.com)

In this panel honoring Dr. Gale Sigal, we seek papers that address some aspect of her research in female voice and lyric poetry, including but not limited to multilingual lyric, troubadour and trobairitz poetry, pastourelles and the pastourelle tradition, etc. We are particularly interested in papers that offer reassessments of earlier scholarship, genre distinctions, and comparative studies, inspired by Dr. Sigal's groundbreaking *Erotic Dawn-Songs of the Middle Ages: Voicing the Lyric Lady*.

In Honor of Gale Sigal (2): Medieval Studies Teaching and Programming (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: TEAMS (Teaching Association for Medieval Studies)
Organizer: Zach Hines (hines.464@osu.edu)
Mary Kate Hurley (hurleym1@ohio.edu)
Deborah M. Sinnreich-Levi (profsinnreichlevi@gmail.com)

In this roundtable honoring Dr. Gale Sigal, we invite participants to share their experiences teaching medieval topics and developing medieval programming on campuses small and large. Inspired by Dr. Sigal's leadership of TEAMS (including The Once and Future Classroom) and the "Medieval and Early Modern Studies" program at Wake Forest, as well as her long-time support for WFU undergraduates studying at St. Peter's College, Oxford, participants might reflect on: the challenges of establishing medieval studies programs; developing innovative pedagogy and curricula, study abroad programming, and community outreach; or the role of publishing in medieval studies pedagogy.

Playful Pedagogies

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: TEAMS (Teaching Association for Medieval Studies)
Game Cultures Society
Organizer: Clint E Morrison (morrisoc@uww.edu)
Arielle C. McKee (mckeea@wfu.edu)
Deborah M. Sinnreich-Levi (profsinnreichlevi@gmail.com)

Games offer a unique opportunity for cultural analysis of historical and topical content in popular media. The ludic experience relies upon local interaction between human agents. Yet educators frequently comment that the use of games in classrooms poses significant risks, in terms of time spent and objectives achieved. We invite papers that share approaches that have worked – and not worked – in view of future lesson designs for High School and University instruction. This panel seeks to bridge the pragmatic pedagogical use of games with cultural game theory.

Teaching with TEAMS: A Collaborative Conversation

Modality: In-Person
Sponsor: TEAMS (Teaching Association for Medieval Studies)
Russell Hope Robbins Library, Univ. of Rochester
Organizer: Thomas A. Goodman (tgoodmann@miami.edu)
Deborah M. Sinnreich-Levi (profsinnreichlevi@gmail.com)

This roundtable invites short presentations on how and why to teach sources from any of the nine TEAMS Classroom Texts series published by Medieval Institute Publications

for the Teaching Association for Medieval Studies. Editors of volumes (who are of course also instructors) as well as any and all colleagues who make use of TEAMS sources are welcome to share their insights regarding the intriguing aspects of a given source, as well as their approaches to engaging students. A primary objective is to prompt an exchange among panelists and attendees that will explore possibilities across sources and disciplines in medieval studies.

Thomas Aquinas

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

The Thomas Aquinas Society invites speakers who employ theological, philosophical, historical or interdisciplinary approaches to engaging the thought of Thomas Aquinas and its influence up through the current day.

"Hey Dol! Merry Dol!": Medieval Impulses of Tolkien's Poetry and Song

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

This panel seeks papers exploring the rich and varied body of poetry composed, translated, and adapted by J.R.R. Tolkien. While Tolkien's reputation rests largely on his prose fiction, verse occupies a central place in his creative and scholarly life, from early poems and medieval translations to the songs and lays embedded throughout the Legendarium. The recent publication of *The Collected Poems of J.R.R. Tolkien* (2024) has further highlighted the scope and significance of Tolkien's poetic output, and provided new avenues for critical engagement.

Queer and Feminist Medievalisms in Tolkien's Legendarium

Modality: Virtual
Sponsor: Tolkien at Kalamazoo
Society for Queer Medieval Studies (SQMS)
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, identity, language, narrativity, sadomasochism, sex, sexuality, and transgender experience) 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 or to the realization of subjective desires through the practice of

interpretation. All essays should situate their investigations within the theoretical discourses of feminist and queer theories but could certainly explore intersections with class, ethnicity, race, religion, or other topics.

The Silmarillion Fifty Years On

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

In 1977, J.R.R. Tolkien's long-awaited *The Silmarillion* was published. Much medieval-adjacent scholarship has come about as a result of that publication, and fuller knowledge of the stories of the First Age has expanded the legendarium manifold; the *History of Middle-earth* series itself can be seen as Christopher's attempt to "rectify" the difficult choices he had to make to produce a single, unified text in *The Silmarillion*. This session seeks papers that explore how the worlds of Tolkien scholarship, fandom, and Tolkien studies itself have changed and expanded in the fifty years since *The Silmarillion* was published.

The Unfinished Tolkien: Fragments Both Medieval and Modern

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

J.R.R. Tolkien left many projects unfinished. Some had specific medieval aspects that complicated the writings themselves and perhaps led to their unfinished states. Some such projects include the long alliterative poem, "The Fall of Arthur," but others were in prose, like "The Lost Road" whose unwritten chapters were to cover King Sheave and Old Irish and Norse legends. Even Tolkien's "Book of Lost Tales" was intended to conclude with a closure of his invented mythology that reflected Ragnarok. This session explores those medieval perspectives and how Tolkien planned to use them.

The Women of Tolkien's Arda: Uplifting Feminist Voices

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Tolkien at Kalamazoo
Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship (SMFS)
Organizer: Christopher Vaccaro (cvaccaro@uvm.edu)
Yvette Kisor (ykisor@ramapo.edu)

Throughout literature, medieval tradition, and Tolkien's legendarium, female figures appear often, yet rarely are they allowed to speak for themselves. Too often, words are

placed in their mouths that ring hollow, while their inner lives, desires, and motives are filtered through voices not their own. This call invites papers that reconsider the women of Arda beyond the limits of the printed page, asking not only what is said about them, but what they might say for themselves.

Tolkien and Hegemony (A Roundtable)

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

While Tolkien's legendarium features encounters with myriad peoples and cultures, it is also fraught with examples of hegemonic violence, domination, and exploitation. These dynamics—and their presentation—shape our understanding of Middle-earth, informing narrative, theme, and character. This session welcomes papers that examine Middle-earth through postcolonial and decolonial frameworks, contributing to an evolving body of work in medieval studies and Tolkien scholarship. Possible topics include imperialism, colonialism, and Orientalism; identity, alterity, and constructing “the Other”; hybridity and borderlands; refugees, displacement, and migration; racial logics; monstrosity; and intersectional engagement with feminist, queer, indigenous, disability, and critical race studies.

Tolkien, Medieval History, and Middle-earth Historiography

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

From *Ælfwine* to the Red Book, from the Mazarbul manuscript to *Pengolodh*, Tolkien never let go of Middle-earth's history. This session invites scholars to consider Middle-earth's historicity and historiography as a secondary world, joining the conceit that Tolkien was merely transmitting historical documents written by others (whether Eriol, Bilbo, Frodo, or Rúmil), with different interests and possible biases to consider. Scholars may also use this session to explore Middle-earth through contemporary theoretical models used by historians, make connections to medieval history, or examine J.R.R. or Christopher Tolkien as historians themselves.

Die Minneburg: In Honor of Winder McConnell and His Recent Translation

Modality: Hybrid
Sponsor: Truman State Univ.
Society for Medieval Germanic Studies (SMGS)
Organizer: Ernst Ralf Hintz (ehintz@truman.edu)

The fourteenth-century Minneburg has long been under-researched. McConnell's vibrant translation has rekindled interest in this allegorical journey from the "known" into an unknown world, rich in symbolism, bizarre characters, and unexpected spirituality. We invite proposals that illuminate the work of an anonymous medieval author and also that of a remarkable contemporary translator and medievalist. Contact ehintz@truman.edu and boyertm@wfu.edu for more information.

Special Sessions

Special sessions are organized alphabetically by title.

"Quid Hinieldus cum Christo": Monastic Poetics and Old English Poetry (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person

Organizer: Karl Arthur Erik Persson (kpersson@seatofwisdom.ca)

"What has Ingeld to do with Christ?" Alcuin originally directed his pejorative question toward those who neglected holy reading for the sake of secular songs. But given the preservation of Old English poetry in monasteries, it seems that some monks did indeed think secular poetry and their monastic vocation had something in common. This roundtable invites presenters to contribute from a variety of critical and theoretical perspectives regarding monastic interest in and contribution to the corpus of Old English poetry, particularly focusing on aspects of the corpus that might initially seem uninteresting or even scandalous in a monastic setting.

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 Material Turn to Medieval Studies: Considerations of How to Connect Students with Their Studies of Medieval Texts and History Through Classroom Experiences

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

Have you thought about or employed medieval experiences in your classroom? Are your students writing with oak gall ink on parchment or vellum? Have they made their own quills and copied from a medieval text or had a demonstration on weaving or a video on turning flax into cloth? Maybe you have explored some digital possibilities that bring your students "into" medieval life in some way. This panel invites papers that discuss the pedagogical importance, and the possibilities, of bringing the physical realities of medieval life to our students, from actual in-class experiences to digital imaginations.

Adaptations (1): Reuse and Retelling

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Catherine Albers-Morris (camgsh@rit.edu)
Amanda Bohne (abohne@uic.edu)

The discourse around the field of adaptation includes not only film and television adaptations of written works, but also creative retellings in a variety of media, including graphic novels, comics, tabletop and video games, popular literature, fanfiction, and ephemeral popular culture. Many medieval texts, sometimes themselves adaptations of earlier narratives, are adapted into later retellings. We invite papers that engage with medieval texts and the practice and theory of adaptation, broadly conceived, in and of medieval works. We particularly welcome papers that explore how adaptations (medieval and/or modern) grapple with questions of race, class, nationalism, colonialism, sex, gender, and/or sexuality.

Adaptations (2): Using Adaptation in the Classroom (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Catherine Albers-Morris (camgsh@rit.edu)
Amanda Bohne (abohne@uic.edu)

As the field of adaptation studies expands beyond film and television adaptations, so do the possibilities for student engagement with the medieval alongside and through other material— direct adaptations of medieval narratives, depictions in various media, and often their own creative engagement. We invite roundtable presentations on experiences of classroom use of adaptations: in which medieval texts or other creative works have been adapted, especially those in which students have been invited to

adapt the course material as part of an assignment. Presentations could discuss adaptations of particular works or adaptation as a more general pedagogical lens.

Alfredian Texts and Contexts

Modality: Hybrid

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

King Alfred of Wessex ruled during a critical period in early medieval English history, culture, and society. Whatever the degree of his personal involvement, 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; even the designation "the Great" postdates him. "Alfredian Texts and Contexts" invites submissions on the era of Alfred and its later impact from newcomers, independent scholars, and established faculty. Proposals may be interdisciplinary or from any discipline.

Arms and Armor: The Materiality and Depiction of the Body in Conflict

Modality: In-Person

Organizer: Helena von Sadowszky (hvx92@case.edu)

Arms and armor are some of the most poignant remains of conflict in the medieval world. As visual objects they reflect the ingenuity of their creators and the experience and concerns of their wearers. This session seeks to explore the historical and art historical development of medieval arms and armor, as well as the significance of their depictions in written, oral, and visual media. Interdisciplinary approaches are welcome; we invite papers that explore these themes as they appear in medieval and modern warfare across the globe.

Ars medicinae: Medical Notes in Early Music

Modality: Hybrid

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

Texts accompanying early music, spoken or titular, sacred or secular, provide insights into contemporaneous medical practices and concerns. Plague, gout, syphilis, drunkenness, "madness", miasmas, fleas, curses, and condemnations, together with treatments, prognoses, and ideas about transmission, appear in medieval compositions as well as those of immediately later periods. This session seeks a basso profundo dive into historical manuscripts, composers, and performances that reveal to our modern minds early understandings of historical disease and early medical practices as it was captured by perhaps the most popular art form of the day.

Beowulf: An Epic Solo Storytelling Performance

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Sarah Heller
Amy Rummenie (amy.rummenie@gmail.com)
John Heimbuch (john@johnheimbuch.com)

John Heimbuch performs Charlie Bethel's tour-de-force adaptation of Beowulf, the classic Old English poem about a warrior king and three famous monsters. This fierce one-person telling modernizes the wit, vigor, and meaty language of the original Anglo-Saxon epic, making the oldest tale in the English language into a relatable hourlong high fantasy adventure.

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

Modality: Virtual
Organizer: Mariusz Mayburd

This first session invites close readings and 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 the 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 contributors 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, Cognitive Alterities, and More-Than-Human Ecologies

Modality: Virtual
Organizer: Mariusz Mayburd

This second 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.

Chaucerian Consent (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Suzanne M. Edwards

In 2022, Lucia Akard and Alice Raw proposed that "medieval consent studies" has come into its own as a sub-field. The recent publication of Elizabeth Robertson's *Chaucerian Consent* (UPenn, 2027), which explores female agency under constraint in Chaucer's works, provides an opportunity to reflect on "medieval consent studies," particularly since her volume *Representing Rape in Medieval and Early Modern Literature* (Palgrave, 2021), co-edited with Christine Rose, was an early contribution to this scholarly conversation. This roundtable invites responses to Robertson's book, considerations of the history of consent in medieval studies, and reflections on new directions in medieval consent studies.

Chivalry in the Twilight of the Middle Ages

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Peter Sposato

This session examines chivalry's continued importance as a constitutive element of noble identity in the 15th and 16th centuries. Papers consider themes ranging from the role chivalry played in reforming noble behavior to chivalry's valorization of various forms of violence.

Classical Women in Medieval Works

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Mounawar Abbouchi

We invite contributions about medieval retellings of classical women's tales. Contributions should attend to the uses and reuses of the feminine pagan figure by medieval authors, both on their own terms and in contrast with the "noble pagan man." How is the pagan woman portrayed in medieval sources and to what end?

Computus: Timekeeping and Temporalities in Early Medieval Europe

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Rowan Gwenelle Carlacci
Mary Kate Hurley (hurleym1@ohio.edu)

For nearly a thousand years, the Christian calendar in the West was under constant negotiation and recalculation as communities relied on computus to locate themselves temporally; this panel explores the culture and methods of time reckoning that this

practice produced in early medieval Europe. We welcome all papers that engage with computus manuscript materials, or explore the influence of computus in vernacular or Latin texts. Interdisciplinary and theoretical approaches to computus study are encouraged.

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. 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, blogging, creative approaches to translation, use of creative projects in pedagogy, creative ways of sharing our work as medievalists with the public, and more. Please do not send proposals relating to or using AI/LLMs.

Dancing the Middle Ages: Engaging with Medieval Texts, Imagery, and Dance Traditions to Create Modern Movement

Modality: In-Person

Organizer: Rebecca Straple-Sovers

In this workshop, participants will learn about how one modern dancer/choreographer created a modern dance performance that engaged with multiple legacies of the medieval period, including the works of Hildegard von Bingen and medieval performance traditions. Participants will also learn several methods of dance improvisation and medieval dance traditions and will work in groups to draw on a variety of medieval sources and create an improvised work of medieval/modern movement. All are welcome--no dance or choreography experience needed!

Death and Desire in Devotional Literature

Modality: In-Person

Organizer: Ryanne Berry

This session invites reflections on how texts concerning devotional practice navigate the tension between worldly desire and the inevitability of death. In teaching the proper way of living, devotional texts often also instruct their readers how to prepare for death. How do these texts reconfigure or redirect desire toward spiritual ends? Which desires are more or less productive for approaching the problems of mortality and embodiment? How does the desire for God, salvation, union, or suffering shape devotional practice? This session welcomes scholars working in the broad category of devotional literature of any language or religious tradition.

Death, Identity, and Community: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Medieval Mortuary Analysis

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Michelle Hrivnyak (michelle.hrivnyak@wmich.edu)
Jacqueline T. Eng (jacqueline.eng@wmich.edu)

This session invites paper proposals focused on interdisciplinary approaches to medieval mortuary analysis. While mortuary studies have long been a central area of inquiry, continually evolving interdisciplinary approaches and techniques in areas such as funerary archaeology, bioarchaeology, paleopathology, demography, molecular studies, material culture analysis, and the integration of historical sources continue to expand interpretive possibilities. These developments provide new investigative opportunities for the field. This session welcomes interdisciplinary papers addressing all aspects of mortuary analysis from any geographic region, including topics such as (but not limited to) age, gender, identity, ritual practice, commemoration, health and disease, and social organization.

Developing Audiences Beyond the Academy

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Christopher D. Fletcher

This workshop will teach medievalists of all levels how to make their work engaging, exciting, and valuable for audiences beyond the academy. Participants will develop a “game plan” for engaging non-academic audiences in medieval studies by using mindsets, practices, and approaches from the medieval past. Through a short presentation, discussions, and hands-on activities, participants will learn how to identify, cultivate, and sustain enthusiastic and supportive audiences for their work by reframing how they think and talk about their expertise in ways that can inspire enthusiasm, interest, and concrete support from a variety of communities outside academia.

Developments in Second Scholasticism

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Nathaniel H. Olson

Second Scholasticism was a period of philosophy that sought to develop trends of thought articulated in the thirteenth and fourteenth century with the rediscovery of the Aristotelian corpus. This session focuses on researching the development and emergence of scholasticism in the late sixteenth to seventeenth century, focusing on how Jesuit philosophy produced fresh and new perspectives on previously settled questions, and called for renewed discussions among different religious orders. This

session calls for research into scholastic figure(s) or form of scholastic argumentation that developed during this period of reform and philosophy.

Displacing Robin: Interrogating The Traitor of Sherwood Forest (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid

Organizer: Mary K. Ramsey (mary.ramsey@emich.edu)

This roundtable will discuss Dr. Amy S. Kaufman's 2025 novel, *The Traitor of Sherwood Forest*, and its extensive use of the medieval legends surrounding Robin Hood by a scholar of medieval literature. Potential areas of focus for panelists might include Kaufman's use of the lesser-known legends; details of the novel's historical setting; the politics of class and/or gender as portrayed in the novel; notions of authenticity in historical fiction. Participants will be asked to present a brief (5-10 minute) statement or question for consideration, but the overall format will be discussion, which will be informally coordinated before the Congress.

Dramatic Readings From Malcolm Guite's *Arthuriad*

Modality: In-Person

Organizer: Karl Arthur Erik Persson (kpersson@seatofwisdom.ca)

In his bestselling *Galahad and the Grail*, and the forthcoming (November 2026) *The Coming of Arthur*, Malcolm Guite makes ballad meter popular again! Come out and hear portions of Guite's *Arthuriad* as it was meant to be received – read aloud and heard! The performance will be of interest not only to scholars of Arthurian literature, but to anyone who enjoys popular poetry accessible to an audience of all ages. If you are interested in being one of the readers for this performance, please contact the organizer.

Emblematics for Beginners

Modality: In-Person

Organizer: Tomasz Kaczynski
Andrew Hartzell

The emblem was a hybrid form that flourished in the early print era. Composed of a symbolic illustration paired with an epigram and exegetical verse, the emblem invites the reader to contemplate and apply its lessons. Today, as logocentrism gives way to image-saturation, this form is ripe for rediscovery. Workshop attendees will divide into teams to create new emblems. Working from mottos, participants will translate ideas into visual symbols. An attending illustrator will draw those symbols while the group composes the verse. Workshop is limited to twelve attendees. Three illustrators will facilitate. Emblems will be printed for participants to keep.

Encounter, Conflict, and Convergence in the Kingdom of Mallorca

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Anne Derbes (derbes@hood.edu)
Amy Neff (aneff@utk.edu)

The Kingdom of Mallorca exemplifies the transcultural pluralism and interconnectedness typical of the late medieval Mediterranean. Long held by Islamic dynasties but conquered in 1229 by James I of Aragon, Mallorca's capital, Palma, was home to Christians from disparate regions of Europe as well to Jews and Muslims. These groups all played a role in the city's cultural production, both in texts and in the visual arts. We welcome submissions that address interactions, real or imagined, among these groups; we are especially interested in the ways that Christian constructions of non-Christians helped shape texts and images in the city.

Experiential Learning in Pre-Modern Studies (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Kristin Leaman (leamankb@purdue.edu)
Stephen C. E. Hopkins

Today's educators face stiff competition for student attention from ubiquitous devices and so-called generative AI. How can we inspire immersion in study of the premodern world? This roundtable explores tactile, embodied approaches to college instruction. Because physical materials are undeniably present, hands-on engagement empowers students to bring creative curiosity to artifacts of the past. We invite speakers to share experiential learning techniques and approaches to "making" in the classroom, reflecting on how these activities deepen understanding of the pre-modern world. Participants will leave with concrete, adaptable examples for use in their own teaching.

Faery Tales: At the Crossroads of Literature and Preternatural Belief

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Christine M. Neufeld (cneufeld@emich.edu)

While the rise of Monster studies has done much to explain the symbolic significance of preternatural creatures (faeries, djinn, elves) in medieval narrative, the recently expanded scope and regional specificity of folkloric scholarship about the history of fairy belief offers the opportunity to investigate what "veridical" faery tales (historical accounts or use in magical practices) can contribute to our understanding of medieval artistic representations of preternatural creatures and vice versa.

Faith and Reason: Reflecting on the 750th Anniversary of the 1277 Paris Condemnations

Modality: In-Person

Organizer: Magnus Imber (magnus.imber@bc.edu)

Owing to the reintroduction of key Aristotelian texts, the thirteenth century saw in the Latin West an immense confluence of religious belief and philosophical inquiry. The interplay between faith and reason, however, not only prompted collaboration but also provoked condemnation, seen especially in the University of Paris's manifold censures against the teaching of Aristotle. The Condemnations of 1277 stand as the culmination of the thirteenth century's debacle. Yet, 750 years later, it is worth reflecting: what underexplored intellectual or socio-cultural currents might have contributed to the Condemnations, and how might they inform contemporary dilemmas concerning faith, reason, and institutional censorship?

Fighting Against Time: Politicization and Contestation over History in India

Modality: Hybrid

Organizer: Md. Azharrul Haque Mallick

The writing of history in India has long been shaped by political agendas rather than pure academic pursuit. This session explores how historical narratives have been constructed, interpreted, and mobilised from the colonial period to the present day. The ruling parties and the opposition continue to contest medieval Indian history. Successive governments have attempted to rewrite textbooks, rename monuments, and reshape narratives to suit their ideological goals, whether promoting ideas of syncretic culture or majoritarian pride. The session critically examines the politicization of history, its profound impact on national identity, and the ongoing struggle between intellectual integrity and political convenience.

For Crying Out Loud: Disembodied Voices in the Middle Ages

Modality: In-Person

Organizer: Margaret McCurry (mm9659@nyu.edu)

This session examines voices that sound without a body to anchor them: the prophetic vox crying in the wilderness, the speech of the dead, the singing severed head, the ventriloquized utterance, the ghostly whisper. Across literature, liturgy, music, theology, and the visual arts, medieval culture imagined voice as something that could detach from its source and travel, persist, or possess. The session welcomes papers asking where such voices originate, for whom they speak, and what they reveal about medieval theories of sound, presence, and authority.

From the Heavens to the Earth: Honoring Danielle B. Joyner

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Elina Gertsman (exg152@case.edu)
Megan C McNamee (mmcnamee@ed.ac.uk)
Ben Tilghman (btighman2@washcoll.edu)

These sessions will honor the late Danielle B. Joyner, who died suddenly in March 2026. Danielle once described her research trajectory as moving “from the heavens to the earth,” and we seek papers that pay tribute to her broad interests and high intellectual ambitions. Papers on temporality, the elements, female monasticism, eco-criticism, medieval ecologies, and animal studies are welcome, particularly the study of birds, a topic Danielle was pursuing at the time of her passing. Friends, collaborators, and students of Danielle are especially encouraged to apply, but all proposals will be assessed equally, in keeping with her welcoming spirit.

Graphic Novel Antecedents: Sequential Art in the Premodern Era

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Andrew Hartzell
Tomasz Kaczynski

Before mass literacy, creators leveraged imagery to communicate stories. The era is characterized by sophisticated compositions and interplay of image and text. This poster session will highlight novel and noteworthy examples of serial imagery from the Medieval era. Subjects can be drawn from any form, from manuscript to tapestry to altarpiece, as long as they demonstrate narrative progression. Each display will highlight the methods by which sequence and meaning are encoded and the ways in which contemporary viewers would have unpacked this content. Discussion might focus on how time and change were perceived and communicated in the Medieval age.

Health and the Menopausal Body in the Middle Ages

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Nichola E. Harris (harrisn@sunyulster.edu)
Ginger Lee Smoak (ginger.smoak@utah.edu)
Anne C. Leone

In the modern age menopause has been called “the change of life,” a time of physical and emotional turmoil. But was that also true in the Middle Ages? Medical treatises focus on the humoral implications of menstruation cessation, but what other health aspects can we glean about the shift? This session will focus on these health aspects in the medieval menopausal body, looking at menstruation, fertility, and a myriad of “symptoms” associated with menopause then and today, examining solutions we can glean from medieval sources. Are they analogous to the menopause remedies, herbal and otherwise, of the modern age?

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 one spot on the panel will be reserved for a graduate student who submits a promising proposal.

Homosocial Spaces in Monastic Places

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Lindsay Gill

Medieval monks cultivated gender-segregated networks which supported their own learning, dialogues, and customs, which meant people assigned female at birth were essentially locked out of much of intellectual life. Eve Sedgwick's work on homosociality has described "the continuum between 'men loving men' and 'men promoting the interests of other men'." This panel invites work which interrogates the ways in which the patriarchal system of monasticism created structures of male bonding and loyalty which excluded women except for utility, and examines the limits of those structures: questions of resistance and reinvention, male exclusion from policed masculinity, and women's own complicity.

Images and Discourses of Memory and Oblivion in the Iberian Peninsula from the Thirteenth to the Sixteenth Century

Modality: Virtual
Organizer: Javier Herrera Vicente (jherrera@usal.es)
María Carrión Longarela
Juan Pablo Rojas Bustamante (jprboz@usal.es)

The geographical and temporal framework covers the Christian kingdoms of the Iberian Peninsula between the 13th and 16th centuries. We invite papers analyzing how historiographical processes have transformed architectural forms, displaced tombs and reshaped narratives in chronicles, epigrams and other texts, thereby constructing discourses that bridge the Middle Ages and the present day. Although these objects and texts linked to the construction of memory have been studied from formal and typological perspectives, an interdisciplinary perspective is invited here, based on hybrid

methodologies drawn from the anthropology of the image and approaches linked to the 'memorial and spatial turns'.

In the Water: Visual and Material Culture in the Interconnected Nordic World

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Cecily Hughes (cecily.hughes@case.edu)
Justin Kroesen (Justin.Kroesen@uib.no)
Gerhard Lutz (glutz@clevelandart.org)

From fjords to hot pools, from baptismal fonts to aquamanilia, water was a pervasive presence in both the ecological and religious landscapes of the medieval Nordic world. In addition to providing sustenance, the element enabled swift and extensive travel, thereby facilitating wide-ranging commerce and exchange—whether in the ink of illuminated manuscripts or through entire wooden altarpieces shipped across the seas in the holds of Hanseatic cogs. This session taps into recent scholarly currents focused on environment and interconnectivity by considering how water acted as a formidable force that helped shape the visual and material culture of Nordic latitudes.

Intangible, Intelligible, Intractable: Unruly (Re)readings of the Medieval

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Thai-Catherine Matthews
Lisa Camp

Medievalism is often part of the scholarly conversation of Medieval Studies, but we rarely discuss why medievalism is a "genre" or frame of mind that people continually return to and feel fierce ownership of. We seek submissions on unruly (re)readings of the medieval that drive a wedge into Derrida's conception of *différance* between the signifier and signified of the sign. We are interested in work that engages more than traditional examples of medievalism, especially that which might speak for or represent perspectives traditionally deemed "unruly." Underrepresented paradigms encouraged, as are early career scholars and/or nontraditional/interdisciplinary projects in progress.

Interdisciplinary Approaches to Visigothic and Post-Visigothic Spain

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Liz Wells
Emilie L. Bowerman

This panel will explore how scholars from different fields (history, art history, linguistics, archaeology, etc.) approach the period between c. 500 and c. 1000 CE on the Iberian Peninsula. Specifically, we seek to engage a wide range of Iberianist scholars to interrogate the social, political, artistic, economic, and legal realities of the Visigothic,

Asturian, and early Islamic periods, with a special emphasis on connectivity and interrelation across time and space.

Interdisciplinary Ecocriticism

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Isabella Mimi Weiss (weissi@lafayette.edu)

Ecocritical investigations are inherently interdisciplinary. They require consideration of historical traces in a wide variety of archives, including art, material culture, literature, historical records, and the archaeological record inscribed in soil and landscape. This session seeks papers that approach medieval ecocritical studies from an inter- and transdisciplinary perspective. It welcomes papers that interrogate medieval conceptions of nature, ecology, and the more-than-human which: 1) consider more than one form of primary source evidence 2) draw on approaches and methodologies from multiple disciplines 3) imagine new ways to interrogate historical evidence that transcend disciplinary divides

Kingship/Power at the Center and at the Periphery

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Kathryn Walton
Megan Arnott

This session invites papers that look at how concepts of the center and the periphery can be used to negotiate power. For instance, does a king/ruler on the periphery of the medieval concept of the world (somewhere like Norway) draw on the power from somewhere in “the center” (like Byzantium) to help establish their legitimacy? Does drawing on the periphery, like an exogamous marriage, help a ruler at the center to justify their rule? Can center and periphery be used to describe the negotiation of other kinds of power, including any kind of relationship power dynamics?

Knowing by Making: Creative and Reconstructive Practice as Medievalist Inquiry

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Matthew J. Cafiero (mcafiero@pqc.edu)

Creative art and recreated craft do not merely represent medieval scholarship. They can produce it. This session asks what can be known when scholars and makers build their way into medieval experience. A written scene requires choices about sensory detail and motive. A woven cloth requires reconstruction of the material process from fibre to finished object. Game mechanics or forged tools can show how systems become lived experience. Making also exposes the boundary between evidence and invention. What

may be inferred? What must remain unresolved? This session welcomes papers on creative practice as a disciplined method for testing medieval possibilities.

Magic in Medieval Romance (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Megan Arnott
Kathryn Walton

In the past two decades and since the publication of Corinne Saunders's influential *Magic and the Supernatural in Medieval English Romance*, research on magic in medieval literature and society has grown dramatically. In light of these advancements in our understanding of medieval magic, this roundtable invites proposals for contributions on the role, function, and use of magic in medieval romance. Participants are invited to consider romances from any period and national tradition and are invited to consider magic from a social/historical or literary perspective.

Malory Aloud: The Noble Tale of Sir Lancelot

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Rebecca Fox Blok
Elizabeth Pery

Join us for a staged reading of "The Noble Tale of Sir Lancelot du Lac" from the Winchester Manuscript of Sir Thomas Malory's *The Morte D'Arthur*. Each year at ICMS, Malory Aloud presents a selection of *The Morte D'Arthur* in the original Malorian dialect of Middle English. This year's lively (and even raucous) performance of Lancelot's adventures as he faces off against the villainous Sir Tarquin will allow us to explore what qualities, for Malory, make the ideal knight.

Manuscript Poetics

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Tiffany Beechy (tiffany.beechy@colorado.edu)

This session seeks papers that consider manuscripts and compilations as readable forms that are in many ways analogous to literary texts and other works of art. A variety of approaches, including those incorporating more traditional codicology, are welcome.

Manuscripts in Many Curriculum (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Kathleen E. Kennedy

Running for over a decade, the Manuscripts in the Curriculum program loans nine premodern manuscript codices for the duration of a term or semester to libraries for use in teaching and exhibitions. In this roundtable, previous program participants will discuss their experiences in the program, including: developing the courses they taught, exhibition planning, knock-on results of having hosted the program at their libraries, and more. Participants will be encouraged to archive teaching and exhibition materials on BibSite.org, ensuring that future book history courses can continue to benefit.

Manuscripts in Online Exhibitions

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Kees Dekker

Online availability of manuscripts has revolutionised access to world heritage, with many libraries currently using the internet to facilitate scholarly use of manuscripts and early printed books. Online exhibitions of manuscripts or themed groupings of manuscripts and early printed books are less common; yet, such exhibitions are a sustainable way of promoting the humanities in an adverse social climate. This session invites papers in which participants share their expertise on exhibiting manuscripts and early printed books online and reflect on technology (software), interactive design, audiences, types of content, approaches, limitations and possibilities. We include medieval and medievalist materials.

Mary as Building and Builder

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Isabelle Ostertag

Countless churches and chapels were dedicated to the Virgin Mary during the medieval period. This session seeks papers that examine the role of Marian devotion in the creation of architectural spaces. What local influences led communities to construct buildings dedicated to Mary? How did these influences impact the architectural form and material culture of such spaces?

Medieval Architecture and Waterways

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Abigail B. Berry
Alex Casteel
Wren Biszewski Eber

Drawing on the Blue Humanities, this session proposes that seas, rivers, and channels were central agents in the conception, transmission, and material realization of medieval architecture. Waterways did not merely connect architecture—they actively generated and disseminated architectural ideas, forms, and innovation. This session

seeks papers that reposition medieval waterways as active conduits for architectural exchange, challenging the terrestrial bias that has long shaped architectural history. Topics range from Norse building traditions to the Baltic Sea as a corridor for Brick Gothic and the Channel as a vector for exchange between England and Normandy.

Medieval Children's Literature

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Kathryn Walton
Megan Arnott

This session invites papers on any topic related to medieval children's literature and medieval children's literary culture. Participants may consider any subject related to children's literature in the Middle Ages, including any genre or theme from any national tradition. Papers might consider the pedagogical or didactic purposes of educational texts, for example, or read into the lives of medieval children through a courtesy book or mirror for princes. Participants are also welcome to consider children as audiences in texts not specifically intended for children (such as romance or hagiography).

Medieval Jews, Real and Imagined

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Jessie Sherwood

This session invites papers exploring both the experiences and the representations of Jews and Jewish communities throughout the Middle Ages in any area, period, or discipline. With an emphasis on interdisciplinarity, it seeks presentations that explore both the overlap and the disjunct(s) between historically documented Jewish communities and the hermeneutic uses of Jews within other communities' imagination(s) and exegesis. Presentations that draw on history, literature, Jewish studies, art and architecture, archeology, philosophy, economics, law, religion, gender studies, and all other disciplines are welcome.

Medieval Peoples and Their Founding "National" Mythologies

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Megan Arnott
Kathryn Walton

This session invites papers on founding mythologies, including how people or texts use those mythologies in their creation of heroes and/or identity. For instance, how is founding mythology used to establish who is an insider and who is an outsider? Papers about post-medieval concepts of medieval founding mythologies (such as 19th-century reactions to 1066) or post-medieval concepts about medieval concepts of their founding

mythologies (how does the 20th century understand a 12th century trend of establishing a “national” mythology, for example) will also be accepted.

Medieval Sacramental and Liturgical Theology

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Richard Nicholas (amdg2017@gmail.com)

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 Songs in Britain (1): Language and Manuscripts

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Áine Palmer
Ann E Killian

Songs from Medieval Britain were written in hundreds of manuscripts and inscribed on objects that richly contextualize texts that might seem fragmentary or prosaic. Material supports reveal much about the musico-poetic culture from which these songs emerged, and changing scribal practices around the visual presentation of lyric poetry in multilingual contexts. How does our view of “Middle English lyrics” shift when we situate them alongside the many languages spoken in Medieval Britain, and consider the often-invisible presence of music? This session invites papers that take a holistic approach by situating British songs within their wider musical, linguistic, and social milieus.

Medieval Songs in Britain (2): Music and Manuscripts

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Áine Palmer
Ann E Killian

When juxtaposed with song collections made elsewhere in Europe—many of which amount to highly curated anthologies—insular music manuscripts might initially appear sparse or fragmentary. Far from being a hindrance to the study of music in medieval Britain, these sources invite scholars to see medieval insular song as being both embedded in broader cultural practices and as part of a longer history of manuscript recycling and reuse. This session invites papers that consider secular, liturgical, and/or

devotional song in insular manuscripts touching on topics including (but not limited to) transmission and circulation, word-music relations, and music notation.

Medievalists in Dangerous, or at Best Sparse, Times: How Can We Support Each Other in Our Work? (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person

Organizer: Jan Blaschak (eb7549@wayne.edu)

How can we support each other in an academic environment that can be indifferent or even hostile? This discussion will consider the importance of organizations such as the Lone Medievalist and regional organizations (such as the Medieval Association of the Midwest), as well as the larger professional organizations in supporting scholarly work through access to sources and funding. We will also discuss other ways we can support each other with a special focus on the lone or independent scholar who may have little access or funding support. Let's share some ideas!

Methods of Diplomacy and Causes of Conflict Between the Byzantine Empire and the Sassanian Empire During the Sixth and Seventh Centuries

Modality: In-Person

Organizer: Dimitrios Gkinis (jimisgkinis61@gmail.com)

The early medieval era was a tumultuous era defined by continuous imperial conflict and violent, large-scale migrations of groups such as the Bulgars and Turkic hordes. Such power vacuums led to the challenge of imperial claims and brought serious and continuous conflict between the Byzantine Empire and its Eastern counterpart, the Sassanian Empire. Within just 150 years, the two powers engaged in 4 series of conflicts, for an interval that lasted over 76 years. Papers in this session may address the causes of the conflict, their resolutions, and/or intellectual links with medieval Europe.

More Than Meets the Eye: Material Illusions, Medial Transformations

Modality: Virtual

Organizer: Isabel R. B. Brady
Lydia Grace McCollum

Centering the material as subject, this session defines intermediality as an evocation of material: with "the potentials of aesthetic blurring, medial permeability, and semantic openness," as Britta Dümpelmann defines in *Crafting Presence: Material Evocations*, 300–1300 (2025). Inspired by this volume, we envision intermediality as an expansive category, encompassing various times, spaces, and fields, including (but not limited to) literature, anthropology, and performance studies. This session seeks papers

addressing how materials might resemble one another— from simulacrum to mimesis to pareidolia to skeuomorphs and beyond. What are the implications of copying, mapping, and translating one medium into/onto another?

Narratives and Narrators in Early Medieval England

Modality: In-Person

Organizer: Jennifer A. Lorden (jalorden@wm.edu)

Early medieval English literature so often takes the form of narrative—from narrative poems, to saints' lives, to histories, to homiletic exempla—yet almost every aspect of this narration inspires ongoing debate. Scholars particularly debate the speakers of narrative—are there one or two or more? Are they alive or dead? Are they ironic, playful, or sincere? Might any of them be King Alfred, and in what way? To what extent might their narration constitute a truth claim, or evoke something like fiction? This panel considers what we can know of early English narrative and its narrators.

New Research on the Art and Architecture of Medieval Parish Churches (1)

Modality: In-Person

Organizer: Catherine E. Hundley (cehundley@protonmail.com)

Scholars are invited to propose IN-PERSON 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 researchers use to tell the story of the medieval parish?

New Research on the Art and Architecture of Medieval Parish Churches (2)

Modality: Virtual

Organizer: Catherine E. Hundley (cehundley@protonmail.com)

Scholars are invited to propose VIRTUAL 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 researchers use to tell the story of the medieval parish?

Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Medievalisms in British Literature

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

For this session, proposals might explore the factors, both nostalgic and cynical, in shaping nineteenth- and twentieth-century British literature about the Middle Ages. What historical, social, and intellectual views shaped British nineteenth- and twentieth century approaches to the Middle Ages? How are nineteenth-century British medievalisms in particular both a check against and validation of progress? In what ways were these views limited or biased based on what the Victorians, for example, knew and believed and did not know, particularly when compared to advances in historical, psychological, and political knowledge in the next centuries?

Old Norse Law and Literature

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

Medieval Icelandic literature incorporates law and legal ritual extremely vividly and informatively. A better understanding of the legal concept of fellowship (félagsskap) can shed light on characters who have such a relationship. Magic and its practitioners can be analyzed through the lens of law (papers on these two subjects were presented at ICMS 2026). 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.

One Object: A Global Medieval Workshop

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Anna Klosowska (roberta2@miamioh.edu)
Tirumular (Drew) Narayanan
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 consists of 4-5 presentations (five minutes each) followed by 2-3 rounds of discussion (12 minutes each). Presenters bring an object replica or stand-in. In your 200-word proposal: (1) describe your object (2) explain how your object teaches a facet of global medieval studies that needs to be re-thought (3) explain why you present

Outlaws, Bandits, and Exiles in Medieval Literature

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Yi Yu

This session explores how medieval outlaw figures challenge the perception of political authority, law, and sovereignty throughout history. It welcomes papers discussing literary depictions of figures across England, Scotland, and France, such as Hereward the Wake, Joan of Arc, and William Wallace. Rather than treating outlawry merely as marginality, the session asks how exclusion from the law paradoxically becomes a site for reimagining political identity. How do outlaw figures reveal the limits of sovereignty? In what ways do rebels and exiles become foundational to emerging political communities? Papers engaging questions of sovereignty and political theories are especially welcome.

Papers by Undergraduates

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Richard Nicholas (amdg2017@gmail.com)

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

Peace, Repair, and Reconciliation in Medieval Texts

Modality: Virtual
Organizer: Anca OG Garcia
Lorenz A. Hindrichsen (lorenz.a.hindrichsen@gmail.com)

How do medieval texts and artistic traditions conceptualize peace, forgiveness, mediation, and reconciliation? This session invites papers exploring the representation of conflict resolution across literary, visual, religious, legal, and historical materials from the medieval world. Contributions may examine emotional, political, spiritual, or communal dimensions of reconciliation, as well as tensions between violence and peace-making in narrative and artistic forms. Comparative and interdisciplinary approaches are especially welcome.

Pedagogies of Sound: Medieval Music Education in Slavic and European Contexts

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Cynthia J. Cyrus (cynthia.cyrus@vanderbilt.edu)

This session explores music education across medieval and early modern European and Slavic traditions, focusing on the transmission of musical knowledge through

pedagogy, performance, spirituality, and creative practice. Papers may address topics such as theoretical instruction, chant pedagogy, performance traditions, mystical and devotional approaches to musical learning, manuscript culture, and the relationship between theory and practice. The session particularly welcomes comparative and cross-cultural perspectives connecting Western Europe with Russian, Ukrainian, Balkan, and broader Slavic contexts.

Per Capita: The Severed Head in the Middle Ages

Modality: In-Person

Organizer: Margaret McCurry (mm9659@nyu.edu)

The severed head is among the most charged images medieval culture produced: Judith holding the head of Holofernes, John the Baptist's head borne on Salome's platter, the Green Knight retrieving his head and riding from Arthur's hall, Bertran de Born carrying his own head as a lantern through Dante's Inferno, St Denis bearing his head to Montmartre, the traitor's head spiked above the city gate. This session gathers work on beheading and decapitation across the medieval world, in hagiography, romance, law, liturgy, drama, and the visual arts. We welcome papers on the severed head as relic, spectacle, sign and survivor.

Personal Narrative in Medievalist Scholarship

Modality: In-Person

Organizer: Usha Vishnuvajjala (vishnuvu@newpaltz.edu)

This session aims to continue/expand a conversation on personal narrative in medievalist scholarship that has been ongoing, with recent iterations such as Carissa Harris and Sarah Baechle's session "Embodied Scholarship: Personal Narrative and Critical Methodology," proposed for 2020 and held virtually in 2021. Since then, medievalists have continued to incorporate personal narrative into scholarly work on medieval death, sexuality, illness, grief and other emotions, pregnancy, and aging, and to write more fully hybrid works (Elizabeth Boyle's 2022 *Fierce Appetites*, Isabel Davis's *Conceiving Histories*). This session invites proposals from scholars of all career stages, and from editors, on incorporating personal narrative.

Pushing the Envelope: New Directions in Medieval Epistolae

Modality: In-Person

Organizer: Carolyn Cargile

Thousands of epistolae survive from the Middle Ages, yet letter writing as both a technological and rhetorical medium is frequently taken for granted among medievalists. We often assume that letters serve as straightforward directives or conveyances of information, whether as discrete objects themselves or records within larger works. This

session invites papers that offer new directions and considerations in the study of medieval letter writing, broadly conceived. We welcome submissions across any medieval geography, linguistic tradition, or period.

Reader's Theatre Performance of the Towneley Manuscript Offering of the Magi

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Warren Edminster

The biblical story of the Magi's gifts to the infant Christ was a common topic for medieval drama. However, modern readers typically see these dramatic adaptations as generic; that is, there is little awareness of the nuance found in the individual dramatic treatments of the subject. In this session, the Offering of the Magi from the Towneley manuscript will be performed and recorded in authentic pronunciation. Readers include Medieval theatre experts (Warren Edminster, Britt Mize, Joe Ricke, etc.) and historical linguists (Wendy Hennequin, Bernard Lewis, etc.). The performance will be recorded for free online distribution

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

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Tamara Bentley Caudill

The goal of this workshop is to 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 12th-15th centuries.

Religion, Conflict, and Negotiation in Early Medieval Iberia, ca. 300–1000 CE

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Lilian R. G. Diniz (lilianrgd@gmail.com)

This session provides a forum for examining religious conflict and negotiation in medieval Iberia. As a crossroads of cultures and faiths, the Iberian Peninsula offers a particularly rich setting for exploring how legal, political, and religious authorities and communities managed religious diversity. Bringing together approaches from patristics, legal history, material culture and archaeology, the session seeks to foster

interdisciplinary dialogue on the dynamics of interreligious interaction, while exploring continuities and changes between Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. By tracing developments from the fourth to the eleventh century, it aims to illuminate the multiple dimensions of religious conflict and accommodation.

Representation and Reality in Medieval Architecture

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Stephen Westich

In medieval architecture, style, material, and construction technique are so thoroughly entwined that they are often difficult to parse out conceptually. In complex buildings, such as Gothic cathedrals, numerous elements work together through different modes of visibility. Within this spectrum of visibility are complex combinations of representation and reality. In a 'representational' mode, there exists a gap between what we see and what something is made of, like vaults made from timber that appear as stone vaulting. This panel is interested in papers that investigate this blurring of material reality through representational modes throughout medieval architecture of all media.

Scholarly Reflections on Malcolm Guite's *Arthuriad* (A Roundtable)

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

Taking the world of popular literature by storm, Malcolm Guite's recently published *Galahad and the Grail* has fast become a worldwide bestseller, an unusual feat for a long poem written in ballad meter and dealing with Arthurian themes. Given this popularity and Guite's overt medievalism, this roundtable recognizes Guite's work as being of interest to medievalists, inviting contributions considering both Guite's shaping of medieval legends and his own unique voice amidst the corpus of Arthurian literature. Contributions may be on *Galahad and the Grail* or the forthcoming (November 2026) *The Coming of Arthur*.

Semiotics in the Middle Ages

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Nathaniel H. Olson

From Umberto Eco's studies onward, historians of philosophy and medievalists alike have been fascinated with the developments of semiotics, or theories of signification, that developed in the period of medieval and early modern scholasticism. Researchers are asked to contribute to this session by focusing on any piece of scholastic philosophy or figure that focuses or develops theories of signification and signs and the importance it has for philosophy of language and meaning.

Senses on the Journey: Travel and Sensory Experience in the Medieval and Early Modern World, ca. 500–1600

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Karolina Białas
Łukasz Żak (l.zak@pusc.it)

In the pre-modern period, travel exposed people to unfamiliar landscapes, monuments, cultures, shrines, and foods, generating sensory experiences that travelers described and shared with wider audiences. Whether undertaken as military campaigns, diplomatic missions, or pilgrimages, journeys encouraged engagement with new cultural and social environments. Human senses played a central role in shaping how travelers perceived and interpreted foreign traditions, material culture and spirituality. This panel examines sources from 500–1600 that recount the sensory dimensions of travel and explores how such experiences were represented. Contributions may address sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch, or multisensory experience in literary, historical or material sources.

Social Network Analysis for Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages, 250–750 CE

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Ralph W. Mathisen (ralphwm@illinois.edu)
Kalani Craig (kcraig@illinois.edu)

This session will show how Social Network Analysis (SNA) can be applied to the study of people, places, and concepts during Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages (ca. 250-750 CE). Here, SNA is defined as a methodological approach that uses network and graph theories not only to determine degrees of social connectedness among individuals based on the documented nature of their interactions, but also, by extension, to investigate connections among geographical places, intellectual concepts, and other types of data. Papers can look at use of SNA from any of several perspectives, e.g., pedagogically, methodologically, or analytically.

Stones, Cities, and the Stories They Tell: Papers in Honor of Caroline Bruzelius

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Joseph C. Williams (jcwillia@umd.edu)
Alexandra Dodson (adodson@ndm.edu)

This session celebrates the legacy of Caroline Bruzelius as a leading historian of medieval art and architecture. Bruzelius has impacted countless individuals and shaped the field in myriad ways, influencing building archaeology, social art history, material and technical analysis of art, and digital art history. We invite papers exploring any of the

following themes impacted by her thought: medieval constructional or artistic processes; urban/social contexts of church building; the art of religious orders, spiritual movements, and reforms; materials in architecture and sculpture; team-based art-historical research; and digital representation of architectural or urban change over time.

Straight Talk: Sexuality, Able-Bodiedness, Morality, Religious Practice

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Jason Jacobs
Julie Singer

The idea of “straightness” is central to medieval descriptions and depictions of moral behavior, correct religious belief and practice, and physical health and beauty: rectitude, orthodoxy, droiture. This interdisciplinary panel invites scholars to think across the categories of sexuality, religion, (dis)ability, and ethics by interrogating the vocabularies of “straightness” operating across these domains. How do literary, visual, or doctrinal representations of “twisted” bodies, behaviors, or beliefs shed light on normative constructs of orthodoxy and rectitude? What new paths of inquiry might emerge when, in addition to queering the “straight and narrow,” we consider straightness as an ethical and aesthetic paradigm?

Surface and Superficiality in Medieval Visual Culture

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Isabella Mimi Weiss (weissi@lafayette.edu)
Julia R. LaPlaca (jlaplaca@umich.edu)

This session explores the power of surfaces and superficiality in medieval visual culture. What might the emphasis on surfaces in artworks reveal about conceptions of space, reality and knowledge? Where do tensions between “interiors” and “exteriors” generate important ways of understanding an object? And how might discourses on the meaning surface outside of medieval studies—for example, the work of Giuliana Bruno, Oleg Grabar, Jonathan Hay, and Clement Greenberg—allow us to rethink superficiality in medieval media? We invite papers from any discipline that interrogate superficial pictorial constructions and/or other mediating material surfaces, such as architectural façades, skins, textiles, and topographies.

Teaching Global Middle Ages in the Midwest: How Does the Cahokia Mounds Site Near St. Louis, Missouri, Affect Our Understanding of the Middle Ages? (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Sarah A. Burt (sarah.burt@slu.edu)

Just outside of St. Louis, Missouri, is the largest pre-Columbian North American city known as Cahokia Mounds. The city was populated for centuries throughout the Middle Ages, and this history is well known to people in the St. Louis area. This roundtable invites educators and scholars of medieval studies from the St. Louis or Southern Illinois area to share their experiences and advice towards incorporating Cahokia as a part of non-European medieval importance.

Teaching the Middle Ages in the Secondary School Classroom (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Charles Beaucham (charles.beaucham@culver.org)
Chad Turner

An increasing number of medievalists are employed in secondary education, while many non-medievalists are also tasked with teaching the Middle Ages through state social studies standards, which in some cases directly require the teaching of certain medieval people, events, and concepts. This roundtable will provide an opportunity to discuss teaching medieval topics in middle and high schools. Possible topics include broader curricular design, individual texts or themes, classroom activities and assessments, and questions of alignment between medieval content and school or state standards.

The Inked Body: Medieval Tattoos, Tattoo Archaeology, and Cultures of Body Modification

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Rachel Sweeney

Tattooing, a form of bodily modification, has existed as a global phenomenon for centuries, persevering within the distant and near past alike. Yet, only recently have these images embedded in flesh been subjected to thorough scholarly inquiry. This panel invites papers that examine a wide range of issues pertaining to medieval tattoos, including practices of tattooing during the global Middle Ages, recent advances in tattoo archaeology, and modern tattoos portraying medieval themes. Scholars exploring the misuse (and abuse) of medieval images and symbols for contemporary tattoos are especially encouraged to apply.

The Livestock Engine: Zooarchaeological Approaches to Medieval Economies

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Erin A. Crowley-Champoux

The growth of medieval towns, the expansion of monastic granges, and the shifts in regional trade networks were intimately tied to animal economies. This session focuses on the economic and environmental insights provided by medieval zooarchaeology, examining how the management of livestock mirrored broader socioeconomic shifts. Faunal assemblages offer a direct look into the mechanics of medieval supply chains, urban provisioning, specialized butchery and craft industries, and landscape modification. Ultimately, this session highlights how animal materials act as a vital counterpoint and supplement to administrative and manorial records, revealing the raw logistics of medieval survival and commerce.

The Medieval Arabic Archive: Texts, Things, and Knowledge

Modality: Hybrid

Organizer: Intisar Sabah Alshammari (intisarsabah@gmail.com)

This session invites papers exploring the rich diversity of medieval Arabic material culture, textual production, and intellectual life. We welcome contributions on Arabic manuscripts and book culture, science and medicine, philosophy, literature and poetry, and archaeology and material objects. Papers may address Arabic sources on their own terms or in dialogue with other medieval traditions. We particularly encourage methodologically innovative approaches and work that expands the geographic and cultural scope of medieval studies. Scholars at all career stages are welcome. Abstracts addressing any aspect of medieval Arabic material—broadly construed from the seventh through the fifteenth centuries—are encouraged to apply.

The Medieval Tradition of Natural Law

Modality: Hybrid

Organizer: Paul Joseph Cornish

The panels on the Medieval Tradition of Natural Law have been part of the ICMS for over thirty years. The panels provide a venue for a multi-disciplinary approach to the concept of natural law in medieval scholastic philosophy but also in philosophy and political thought before and after the Middle Ages. Most years there have been two panels, one on natural law in philosophy and theology, and one more focused on political thought. In this coming year one panel may be devoted to a discussion of natural law and the apparent failure of the contemporary human rights ethic.

The Medieval Turn and Contemporary Comics Creators (A Roundtable)

Modality: Hybrid

Organizer: Tomasz Kaczynski
Andrew Hartzell

Comics have long drawn inspiration from the Middle Ages, echoing medieval storytelling styles and values such as chivalry and honor. Like illuminated manuscripts, comics emphasize the creator's hand, preserving individual style and immediacy. Today, many creators actively revisit medieval themes and practices, finding fresh ways to integrate them into contemporary works. This panel will showcase comics and graphic novelists who look to the medieval past for creative inspiration.

The Pleasures of the Arthurian Text: The Grail (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Laurie A. Finke

The Pleasures of the Arthurian Text feature a conversation about the pleasures we take in reading various versions of myth of the Holy Grail, as well as the pleasures afforded by bringing its various versions into conversation with one another. There will be no papers, only discussion. First, two participants will have a conversation about medieval versions of the myth, and two will discuss modern versions. Finally, we will open the panel to the audience to extend the discussion.

The Politics of Humilitas: Virtue, Performance, and Power in Medieval Culture

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Adam Davis (davisaj@denison.edu)

This interdisciplinary session invites papers exploring the moral, social, political, and aesthetic dimensions of humilitas in medieval culture. Long upheld as a foundational Christian virtue, humility nevertheless generated persistent anxieties concerning sincerity, embodiment, self-fashioning, and power. How was humility defined, cultivated, represented, performed, or contested across theological, literary, artistic, legal, monastic, devotional, and political contexts? This session will explore how authentic humility was differentiated from strategic self-abasement or theatrical performance. Papers might consider how gestures, rhetoric, material practices, or institutional structures shaped understandings of humble conduct.

Toward an Intermedial Philology: New Perspectives on the Gawain Manuscript (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Melissa Heidi (mheide@colby.edu)
Christopher T. Richards (ctrichards2@alaska.edu)

Scholarship on the Gawain manuscript (BL MS Cotton Nero A.x) has produced rich readings of its poems and extraordinary codicological insight, yet its images remain

underexamined. This roundtable proposes an intermedial approach that treats text and image as distinct but interacting forms of interpretation. We invite interdisciplinary scholars to consider how the miniatures inflect, redirect, or contest textual meaning, and how the poems themselves might illuminate medieval understandings of pictorial agency and these miniatures. What new interpretations emerge when texts are treated as illustrations of images? What unanswered questions do images invite us to ask of these canonical poems?

Tropes and Type-Scenes of Medieval Literature and Beyond

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Dominique Battles

This session is devoted to close readings of common tropes and type-scenes (e.g. the blason, the arming of the hero, the epic descent) in medieval and early modern literature, and medievalism of later centuries, as engines of literary innovation among early poets and their later imitators.

Turn On, Tune In, Drop Out: Psychedelic Approaches to the Medieval

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Sophie Durbin
Clara Poteet

The psychedelic turn in 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 audience. We invite 20-minute papers considering any aspect of the middle ages through a psychedelic lens, or vice versa. Topics may include devotional objects; visionary or mystical encounters; psychedelic approaches to time and chronology; medievalism in 1960s fashion and graphic design; artistic representations of or artifacts associated with psychoactive plant and fungi cultivation; or the synesthetic or multisensory affect(s) of objects, music, and manuscripts.

Unlocking Medieval Marian Devotion: Sources and Methods (A Roundtable)

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Rachel Fulton Brown

Devotion to the Virgin Mary shaped every aspect of medieval Christianity, and yet its origin, structure, and relationship to larger currents of theology, liturgy, society, philosophy and art remain a mystery, contested both within and outside the academy. This roundtable celebrates the publication of the Brill Companion to Medieval Marian Devotion with reflections on the way in which medieval Christians encountered Mary in

prayer, doctrine, exegesis, visions, miracles, magic, and art. Discussion will concentrate on the difficulties of studying Mary, with reference to the types of sources available and the questions they raise.

Visualizing Skin: Ideologies and Aesthetics

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Gerry Guest (geraldbguest@gmail.com)

In a transformational article of 2008 ("From the Self-Invention of the Whiteman in the Thirteenth Century..."), Madeline Caviness argued that artists of the Gothic period placed a new emphasis on whiteness, as well as other skin colors, in depicting the human figure. Since then, there has been a virtual explosion of scholarship on the construction of race in the Middle Ages. This session returns to the question of how skin was visualized and made meaningful in this period. The overarching goal will be to cultivate a number of approaches to the problem, with race as one possible variable among many.

Weathering

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Amy Danielle Juarez (juareza2@union.edu)
Chelsea Rae Silva (chelsea.silva@okstate.edu)

How do premodern texts and material cultures conceptualize weathering—the physical registration of time, climate, and material contact on the surfaces of flesh and stone? How do varying forms of premodern care, craft, maintenance, repair, or reconstruction sustain objects subject to decay? This panel approaches medieval materiality by considering the shared structural vulnerability that defines life within both bodies and buildings. We welcome proposals from all disciplines (such as digital, archival, and manuscript studies, the health humanities, archaeology, ecocriticism, and the history of emotion) and are especially interested in representing a wide range of methodologies, including nontraditional approaches.

When We Mourn: Communal Grieving Practices in Medieval Literature

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Mahlika Hopwood (mahlika.hopwood@asu.edu)

How might grief lead beyond our loneliness? When, how, and why does mourning become a shared endeavor? This session explores depictions of communal grieving practices in medieval literature, asking how grief, as praxis, might bridge the inner and outer landscapes of loss. Proposed papers might examine the intersections of grief and community in their aesthetic, psychological, political, or religious forms. Contributions which theorize collaborative, transformative, or hopeful models of mourning are

especially welcome. Strong papers will gesture toward the ways that medieval approaches to communal grieving might inform or transform the practices of our modern world.

With a Vengeance: Retribution in Romance

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Kristin Burr (klburr@sju.edu)

Revenge is a dish best served cold—or is it? This panel aims to bring together a range of perspectives on retribution in medieval romance, whether it involves protagonists or secondary characters or is a central element of the tale or a subplot. These may include questions of (in)justice, the possibility that vengeance can be both negative and positive, or the intersection of vengeance and gender, identity, or social class. We welcome paper proposals using any scholarly approach to analyzing retribution in medieval romances in all languages.

Women at Work: Objects, Evidence, and Artistic Production in the Late Middle Ages

Modality: Hybrid
Organizer: Rachel E Mauney
Katia Ann Taylor (katiat@umich.edu)

This session explores late medieval women's artistic production through the material evidence of their own works, foregrounding objects as sites for investigating authorship, agency, and creative and intellectual labor. This session considers how recent approaches to materiality illuminate women's work, and asks how scholars can responsibly recover women's voices and their handiwork/craft/traces from the historical archive. Particular attention will be given to women artists from diverse social and economic backgrounds, including both named and anonymous makers, and aims to highlight the varied ways women shaped late medieval visual and material culture.

Wundor in Old English Literature

Modality: In-Person
Organizer: Charlotte Bowyer (charlotte.c.bowyer@kcl.ac.uk)

A sense of wonder runs through the Old English literary corpus, from the marvellous sights described in Alexander's Letter to Aristotle to the ambiguous 'wundorlicu wiht' of the Exeter Book riddles. But what does it mean to be wondrous? This session will explore the multivalence of the Old English term wundor, which holds the simultaneous meanings of marvel, portent and miracle. Its papers will discuss wonder in Old English literature from a diverse range of perspectives, bringing together literary-historical

analysis of phenomena, art-historical studies of marvellous illustrations and considerations of how texts depict affective responses to the inexplicable.
