

Medieval Chronicle

THE MEDIEVAL STUDIES PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON



Tacuinum Sanitatis, Lombardy, late 14th century (Biblioteca Casanatense, Rome).

Director's Note:

Dear Medieval Studies community, welcome to summer!

The second half of the spring semester saw our program wrap up its Anonymous-and-multiple-co-sponsor-funded series on **"Authenticity' and the Middle Ages"** with a series of very stimulating events. We were delighted to welcome **Professor Emeritus Derek Krueger** (Religious Studies, North Carolina-Greensboro) in mid-March for his workshop and then lecture on the question **"Was Later Roman Society Heteronormative?"** (answer: not exactly).

In late April, we learned an enormous amount about fish and medieval fishing practices from **Professor Emeritus Richard Hoffmann** (History, York University) in a workshop on salmon-fishing rights and from his intriguing lecture **"Whispers of Traditional Ecological Knowledge in Fisheries Texts from Medieval Europe."** Finally, **Professor Holly Crocker** (English, University of South Carolina; incoming Hale Family Director of Women and Gender of Studies and English, Boston College) engaged us with her workshop on material virtue and her marvelous talk about accusations of witchcraft and female power, **"Eleanor Cobham's Literary Downfalls, and the Problems of Women's Authenticity in Premodern England."** (*continued, next page*)



In addition to these terrific events, mid-April brought us the very successful **GAMS Colloquium**, organized each year by the graduate students in Medieval Studies.

I am pleased to announce that there will be a new public series for 2025-26 on the theme of **“Border/Crossings”**; with the very welcome support of the Anonymous Fund and ten campus co-sponsors, we will have the privilege of hosting five speakers from a variety of disciplines who will help us consider the fungibility of material borders political, geographical, and otherwise during the Middle Ages, not to mention the very meaning of interdisciplinarity—such as that which sustains our program, for which intellectual border-crossing is a given. Please look out for an announcement in the late summer about our first events of the year!

That announcement will come not from me, but rather from my incoming successor as Director of Medieval Studies, **Professor Jordan Zweck** of the English Department. Many congratulations to her on her election to the role, and my thanks to her for her willingness to serve! I also want to thank my other colleagues in Medieval Studies, particularly those who have served on the steering committee during my directorship, for their support and encouragement over the last three years, as well as the several graduate program assistants and the staff of the History Department, all of whom have made my work easier. **Many thanks** as well to all of you—students, faculty, and community members alike—who have attended our events and offered support to Medieval Studies in multiple ways. (Please don't forget that you can always give a gift to the program any time your heart desires, and that you can follow us on Instagram at @uwmedievalstudies.)

Last but not least, many congratulations to the five just-graduated seniors who leave UW with a Certificate in Medieval Studies, and to the two graduate recipients of this year's Lemoine-Midelfort Fellowship. Winners of the Schulenberg Prize for Excellence in Medieval Studies will be announced in the fall newsletter.

With my best wishes to all for a productive and peaceful summer,



Lisa H. Cooper - lhcooper@wisc.edu

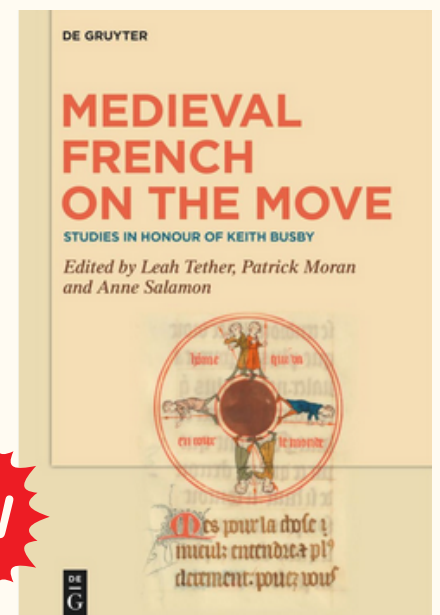
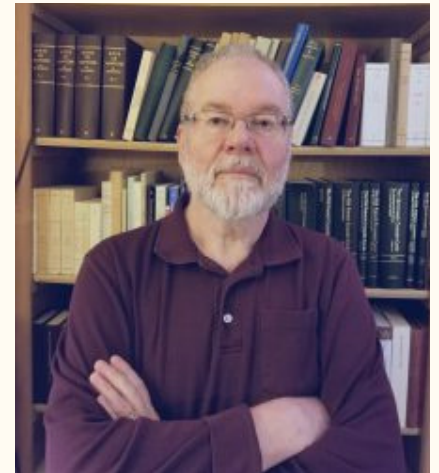
Professor of English and Director of Medieval Studies (2022-25)

Senior Fellow, Institute for Research in the Humanities (2023-27)



Faculty News

Professor Emeritus Keith Busby (French) has been honored with a Festschrift celebrating his distinguished contributions to medieval studies. Professor Busby's groundbreaking *Codex and Context* (2002) reshaped the study of medieval literature and introduced the influential concept of "medieval Francophonia"—now widely used in global scholarship. A new volume of essays, authored by colleagues and former students, honors his contributions by exploring the broad reach of Francophonia and the importance of material philology in medieval studies. Also, Professor Busby's edition and translation of *The Statute of Kilkenny* (1366) is currently in proof and will be published by the Irish Manuscripts Commission in 2025. He has also recently completed a critical edition of Chrétien de Troyes's *Yvain*, forthcoming from Classiques Garnier in Paris.



NEW

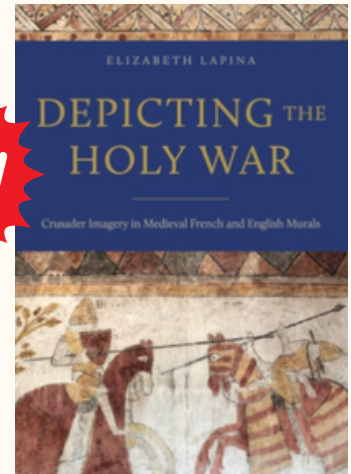
[Click here](#) to view the book!

Professor Kirsten Wolf (Scandinavian Studies), in collaboration with Sune Wolf Pulsiano, wrote an article on mental illnesses as described in Old Norse-Icelandic literature. The article (which is in Danish) is entitled "Mentale lidelser i oldnordisk litteratur." It appeared in *Kampen for livet: Helse, sygdom og medicinsk behandling i Norden i vikingtid og mellomalder*, ed. Else Mundal, Kristin B. Aavitsland, and Ole Didrik Lærum (Oslo: Forlag AS / Scandinavian Academic Press, 2025).



NEW

In Spring 2025, **Professor Elizabeth Lapina (History)** published her second monograph, *Depicting the Holy War: Crusader Imagery in Medieval French and English Murals*, which came out with Penn State University Press. The monograph examines the impact that crusades in the Middle East had on societies in western Europe through the analysis of a heretofore largely ignored type of source: mural paintings. Lapina has two forthcoming journal articles: "A Swift Answer: Wind in the Sources of Crusades" (in *Mediaevistik*) and "Elite Tents and the Hustle for Power on the First Crusade" (in *Crusades*). Her plans for the summer including re-working a conference paper, "Performing Diplomacy: Queen Margaret of Hungary and Frederick Barbarossa," which she gave at the Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, into an article and watching a lot of "medieval" movies in preparation for her History 600 seminar on "The Middle Ages in Film."



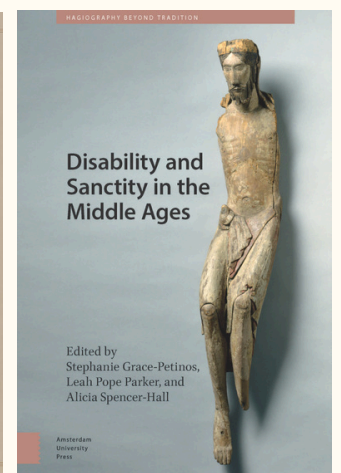
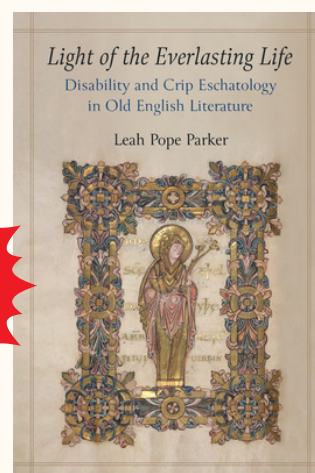
NEW

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Alumni News

Medieval studies alumna **Leah Pope Parker** (Assistant Professor of English, University of Southern Mississippi; PhD UW-Madison English, 2019) has two books coming out in 2025. *Light of the Everlasting Life: Disability and Crip Eschatology in Old English Literature* (Michigan) will be released in August in hardcover, paperback, and open-access ebook formats. *Disability and Sanctity in the Middle Ages* (Amsterdam), co-edited with Stephanie Grace-Petinos and Alicia Spencer-Hall, was published in April. She has also been approved for tenure at the University of Southern Mississippi and will be promoted to Associate Professor of English in August.

Many Congratulations to Professor Parker!



NEW

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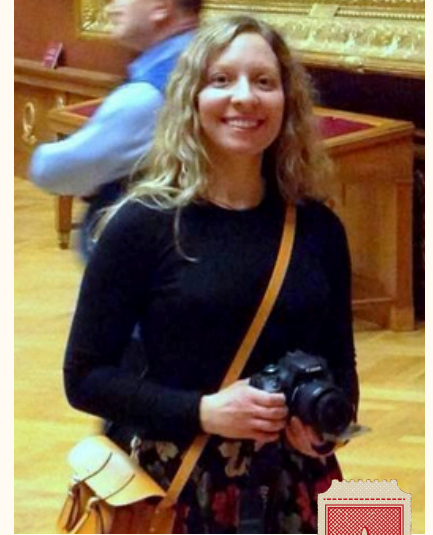
[Leah Pope Parker](#)



Graduate Student News

2025 Lemoine-Midelfort Fellowship:

Özlem Eren (Ph.D. Candidate, Art History) has been awarded the 2025 Robert and Janet Lumiansky Dissertation Grant from the Medieval Academy of America, a **2025 Lemoine-Midelfort Fellowship from the Medieval Studies Program**, and an ICMA (International Center of Medieval Art) Travel Grant for her dissertation research in Georgia and Armenia this summer. The ICMA Grants and Awards Committee wrote, "The project struck this year's committee as particularly worthy and the readers noted how well-equipped you appear to be to handle the research." The research trip to the medieval churches and monasteries in Georgia and Armenia will provide Özlem with an opportunity to examine the exceptionally well-preserved sculptural reliefs on the façades—particularly at Nikortsminda Cathedral—and compare the iconography with the artistic traditions of Vladimir-Suzdal Rus'. She will also examine the Georgian variations of the Byzantine cross-in-square plan, which reflect a blend of local and external influences. The sculptural reliefs, some dating as early as the 7th century, offer insight into the evolution of Georgian artistic traditions and Georgia's strategic position at the crossroads of trade routes.



Congrats!

to Özlem and Chris on receiving this year's Medieval Studies fellowships. We wish them productive and inspiring research travels ahead!

Christopher Herde (Ph.D. Candidate, History) has been awarded the **2025 Lemoine-Midelfort Fellowship from the Medieval Studies Program** for his project, "No One Played Polo Like Him: The Politics of Equestrian Sports in the Mamluk Sultanate (1250–1517)." As part of his research, Chris will travel to Istanbul to study an overlooked manuscript housed in the Topkapi Palace Library: *Kitab fi Ma'rifat al-Khayl wa al-Jihad wa fi 'Ilm al-Darb bi al-Sawalijah* (*The Book of Knowledge of Horses and Jihad and of the Science of Striking with the Polo Stick*).



Undergraduate Student News

Warm congratulations to **Gabriel Germain**, **Xylina Graf**, **Carmina M. Heideman**, **Sage Roberts**, and **Josephine Rose Spata** on their graduation. We celebrate their accomplishments and wish them all the best in their next chapters!



Xylina is graduating with a B.A. in English Literature and Philosophy — plus a Medieval Studies certificate! After commencement, she plans to spend the summer traveling through parts of Latin America while living and working in Madison. Looking ahead to the fall, Xilina hopes to move to Chicago and explore career opportunities in copywriting, publishing, or technical writing.

Best wishes on the exciting journey ahead, Xylina!

Carmina is graduating and heading to the University of San Francisco to pursue a Master of Arts in Museum Studies. We're thrilled to see her continue her academic journey and look forward to all she'll accomplish in the world of museums and public history.

Way to go, Carmina!

Sage is trading textbooks for travel! First stop: the breathtaking Grand Canyon. Then it's back to Wisconsin, where she'll be performing with the UW Marching Band across the state. After a summer of music and adventure, the next step is finding work before possibly heading back to school down the road.

Wishing Sage all the best on this exciting journey!



Cheers to the incredible
achievements of the
Class of 2025!

Upcoming Events

The Medieval Studies Program's speaker series for 2025-26 is **"Border/Crossings."**

Our invited guests will each approach the topic of borders, boundaries, and their crossing from a different angle, helping us to consider the fungibility of material borders political, geographical, and otherwise; the oppositions and intersections of Christian and non-Christian communities; the frequent entanglement of families, friends, and enemies; the cleaving of body and soul; the lines that divide but yet also join art and fashion, utility and beauty, human and divine, trauma and triumphant recovery, and, of course, the medieval and the modern. As a whole, the series will speak to the very meaning of interdisciplinarity, for which border-crossing is a given.

Want more updates and exclusive content?
Follow us on **Instagram** [@uwmedievalstudies](https://www.instagram.com/uwmedievalstudies) and check out **our website** at <https://medievalstudies.wisc.edu/> to stay in the loop with everything we're up to.

Let's keep the conversation going. See you online!

Wishing everyone a restful, inspiring, and fulfilling summer season!

