MRSC VIRTUAL SPRING 2021 SYMPOSIUM     24 April 2021

Arts, Histories, Literatures of the World, 500-1500 CE
Hosted by the Texas Tech University Medieval & Renaissance Studies Center

Register here for the all-day MRSC Symposium:
https://texastech.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYpfu2uqDooGNWsx2PkJLY668JxAvgT

8:15 AM:  Welcome:  Michael Borshuk, Director of the TTU Humanities Center
          Host:  Angela Mariani, Co-Director of the Medieval & Renaissance Studies Center

8:30-9:45 AM:  Rules of the Game: Ways of Reading Medieval Texts
Chair:  Ryan Hackenbracht (English); Zoom tech:  Jennifer Robertson
Kristen York (English), "Escaping Labyrinths in Book of the Duchess: Games of Solace in the Narrator's Search for Consolation"
John Howe (History), "The Necessity of medieval academic rhetoric to understand medieval historical and legal sources"
Chloe Brooke (English), "Giving up Agency: Submission and Obedience in the Pearl Manuscript"
Lauren West (Creative Writing), "A Fictional Recreation of Medieval Britain"

10:00-11:00 AM:  Angels & Demons in Early Modern Italy
Chair:  Brian Steele (Art History); Zoom tech:  Daniel Kephart
Emily Jay (Art History), "The Body of the Saint in the City: Saints Agata and Cristina as Patrons in Sicily"
Stefano D'Amico (History), “Shelters or Prisons? Conservatories for repenting prostitutes and imperiled women in Counter-Reformation Milan
Roberto Sisinni (History), “History of Violence: A Case in the Venetian Mainland During the Carnival in 1576”

11:15 AM-12:30 PM:  The Healthy, the Sick, & the Clothed Body in Pre-Modern Contexts
Chair:  Abigail Swingen (History); Zoom tech:  Emily Jay
Daniel Kephart (English), "The Empress' New Clothes: Pearl, Clothing, and the Rise of European Consumerism"
Julia Peters (Museum), "Cross-National Movement of Culinary Heritage in Early Modern Europe"
Jennifer Robertson (English), "Flood, Fire, and Blood: God's Vengeance as Humoral Cure in Cleanness"
Jacob Baum (History), “Becoming Deaf: Sebastian Fischer's Journey Through Sixteenth Century Medicine"
12:30-1:00 PM:  LUNCH  BREAK

1:00-2:00 PM: Register here for the KEYNOTE ADDRESS:
https://texastech.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jdLLbrCNStWvUAHAlbX7LQ

Introduction: Julie Nelson Couch (English)
Keynote Speaker: 
Professor Geraldine Heng (University of Texas, Austin/Columbia University)
“Teaching the Literatures and Cultures of the Global Middle Ages”

2:30-3:15 PM:  Roundtable Discussion: The Global Medieval: A Roundtable Talk with Geraldine Heng
Host: Julie Nelson Couch (English); Zoom tech: Lauren West
Participants: Jacob Baum (History), John Beusterien (Spanish), Veronica Cora-Castillo (Spanish), Geraldine Heng (UT Austin), Kristina Lewis (English), Angela Mariani (Music)

3:30-4:30 PM:  Reading Race in the Pre-Modern World
Chair: Jacob Baum (History); Zoom tech: Daniel Kephart
Kristina Lewis (English), "Coding "Human": Race, Religion, and "Non-Human" Beings in the Travels of Sir John Mandeville"
John Beusterien (Spanish), "A Dramatic Portrayal of Afro-Hispanics in Early Modern Seville: Is it Possible to Translate Los mirones?"
Veronica Cora-Castillo (Spanish), "When the West writes the Rest: Analysis of Tucapel's monologue in the famous comedy La Confesión con el Demonio"

4:45-6:00 PM:  War, Plague, Piety & Sin
Chair: Ashley Voeks (French); Zoom tech: Lauren West
Andrew Fields (English), "The Soldier's Demetrios"
Brian Steele (Art History), “Titian's Late St. Sebastian (Hermitage Museum): Strife, Plague, and Piety”
Alaurea Holder (History), "The Plague of San Carlo: Secular and Ecclesiastical Response to the 1576 Plague of Milan"
Brooke Johnson (English), “Miltonic Women and Ecological Milieus: An Ecofeminist Study of Sin Personified”

Thanks are due to our TTU sponsors: the Humanities Center, the Office of Research & Innovation, the College of Arts & Sciences, the History Department, and the Medieval & Renaissance Studies Center
The keynote lecture will be presented at 1:00 PM by

Professor Geraldine Heng (University of Texas at Austin/Columbia University)

It is our great pleasure to announce the TTU Medieval & Renaissance Studies Center’s interdisciplinary Spring Symposium, a virtual event, on Saturday April 24, 2021, 8:15am-6:00pm

Register for Dr. Geraldine Heng’s Lecture / Register for Symposium

“Teaching the Literatures and Cultures of the Global Middle Ages”

Sometime around the year 1000 of the Common Era, archeologists tell us that an expedition of people from Greenland and Iceland took advantage of climate change and crossed the Atlantic Ocean to North America. There, they proceeded to build a settlement at L’Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland, erected a complex of houses, smelted iron for tools and weapons, repaired ships, slept, socialized, threw away their trash, wove cloth, and did single-needle knitting. The presence of what might have been a child’s toy hints that a new generation may even have been born there. Beyond that, the archeological record is silent. What these northern Europeans saw in the Americas, why they wanted to be there, what happened in their encounters with native peoples: for cultural details of that kind, we must turn to two literary-historical accounts in Old Norse known as the Vinland Sagas. From North America to Africa, from Islamic civilizations to the Eurasian steppe, from the Mediterranean to South, Southeast, and East Asia, “Teaching the literatures and cultures of the Global Middle Ages” will offer ideas, texts, and guidelines for those who want to explore the worlds of early globalism with their colleagues and students.