

The Maladies, Miracles and Medicine of the Middle Ages, II. Places, Spaces and Objects

The Graduate Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Reading

Friday 23rd March 2018



It is not just the writings, but the spaces, places and objects of both healthcare and of the holy which can inform and shape our research, and thus our understanding. In this, the second ‘Maladies, Miracles and Medicine’ conference, post-graduate and early-career researchers who work on all aspects of the healing and the holy are brought together to explore aspects of faith and the faithful, of ill-health and healing, and of miracles and medicine from this range of perspectives and source materials.

If you are interested in attending this PhD and early-career researcher conference please contact the organisers, Frances Cook and Dr Ruth Salter at gcms.reading@gmail.com, no later than midday on Friday 9th March. Attendance to the conference is free and refreshments and a buffet lunch will be provided courtesy of the [Graduate Centre of Medieval Studies](#) and the [Department of History](#).

9.00-9.30 Registration (Edith Morley Building, room 126)

9.30-9.45 Welcome from Dr Rebecca Rist, Director of the GCMS

9.45-11.15 Panel 1: Physical Places and Objects in Reality and Representation

Chair: Dr Jo Edge, Cambridge University

“Mounds of opportunity”: healing at the barrow of St Amphibalus

Lily Hawker-Yates, Canterbury Christ Church University

Miraculous geography. Giovanni Boccaccio’s *De montibus*

Valentina Rovere and Silvia Argurio, University of Roma Tre

Charms, Amulets, and Ligatures: The Objects of Medicine and Magic in the Middle Ages

Victoria Page, University of Reading

11.15-11.30 Break

¹ Images: paralysed pilgrims at the tomb of St William of York (stained glass, 15thC); blood-letting in British Library, Sloane 2435, fol.11v (manuscript, 13thC); and a man cured of his madness at the tomb of St Thomas Becket, Canterbury Cathedral (stained glass, 13thC).

11.30-13.00 Panel 2: Women's Spaces, Women's Health

Chair: Katie Phillips, University of Reading

Were pregnancy and childbirth seen as maladies in the Middle Ages?

Claire Collins, University of Reading

A very unwanted pregnancy: the miraculous delivery of the Nun of Watton

Barbara Hargreaves, Durham University

13.00-14.00 Lunch (GCMS Room, Edith Morley Building, room g271)

14.00-15.30 Panel 3: Miraculous Medicine (Edith Morley Building, room 128)

Chair: Frances Cook, University of Reading

Adynata in Justinian's Life. Emperors's Healing as a Cover Space. The Illness and a Literary Locus of the Agiography

Antonio Pio Di Cosmo, University of Cordoba

The Cult of St. Cuthbert: Places and Objects in the Anonymous Vita Sancti Cuthberti

Irena Berovic, Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf

The geography of healing miracles and representation of saints

Dr John Beal, University of Leeds

15.30-16.30 Panel 4: Learning and Lay Piety in Medieval Italy

Chair: Prof. Paul Davies, University of Reading

"No illness was able to settle there": Salerno and Monte Cassino in the time of Constantine of Africa.

Anne Jeavons, University of Reading

Miracles during Popular Religious Revivals: The Crucifixes of the Bianchi of 1399

Dr Alex Lee, UCL

16.30-16.45 Break

16.45-17.45 'Paper with a Practical' sponsored by the [Health Humanities Research Cluster](#), University of Reading

Chair: Dr Ruth Salter, University of Reading

William of Norwich's Four Candles: A workshop exploring the significance of wax offerings to the saints in the Middle Ages, with the opportunity to make your own medieval candle

Dr Claire Trenergy, University of Leeds

17.45-18.00 Closing remarks from Dr Ruth Salter and Frances Cook

18.00-19.00 Drinks reception

19.30 Dinner (at own expense)