Call for Papers

The ACMRS and MAP Joint Conference: Magic, Religion, and Science in the Global Middle Ages and Renaissance (2019) is an annual gathering of scholars, students, retirees, and members of the general public interested in medieval and Renaissance studies. ACMRS is proud to announce that its 2019 conference will be held jointly with the Medieval Association of the Pacific. We welcome papers that explore any topic related to the study and teaching of the Middle Ages and Renaissance and especially those that focus on the general theme of “Magic, Religion, and Science in the Global Middle Ages and Renaissance.” The conference lasts four days, from Wednesday, February 6, with sessions beginning at 1:00 p.m., until Saturday, February 9 at 9:00 p.m.

Registration is now OPEN!

Registration for the ACMRS and MAP Joint Conference: Magic, Religion, and Science in the Global Middle Ages and Renaissance (2019) is now open! Click the link below to begin the registration process. Should you have questions, please contact us by calling 480-965-5900 or emailing us at acmrs@acmrs.org.

News from the Director
WELCOME MESSAGE

Hello from the new director of ACMRS

Greetings friends and affiliates of the Arizona Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies! I am writing to introduce myself as the new director of ACMRS. I am honored, humbled, and thrilled to be heading up this vibrant research center, which has been led so effectively by Bob Bjork for the past 24 years. Bob has left large shoes to fill, and I am excited by both the challenge and the opportunity!

Some of you may know me because I was previously at ASU from 2004 to 2013 in the English Department and the dean's office for CLAS. But for those who do not, I am returning to ASU after five years as professor of English at the George Washington University. While I am most often labeled as a Shakespeare scholar, my work spans early modern race studies with a particular focus on race in/as performance. My earliest work was historicist with an intense examination of early modern constructions of race through explicit onstage depictions of torture. My work then migrated to performance studies with the first book-length examination of non-traditional casting. Because of the practical implications of that scholarly work, I now frequently work with actors, directors, and theatre companies around the world; I also serve on the boards of a few prestigious theatre companies. My work routinely seeks to blend early modern history, contemporary and historical performance studies, and critical race studies. While this seemed like an untenable critical marriage when I first began to publish, I am extremely gratified to have influenced a new generation of scholars for whom this is now routine. I have served on the Board of Directors for the Association of Marshall Scholars and as a moderator for executive leadership development at the Aspen Institute since 2008. I am the 2018-2019 president of the Shakespeare Association of America.

In 2017-2018, I had the honor to serve as a Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar, in which capacity I visited ten different colleges and universities, teaching classes, holding workshops, and delivering public lectures. That experience solidified my love of pre-modern literature, culture, and history not only because it requires truly inter-disciplinary work, but also because it enables dialogues that reach into the present moment and point us to different futures. I see the future of ACMRS as enabling and promoting the most expansive, creative, and daring scholarship in Medieval and Renaissance studies. Only as ASU, whose charter claims we will be judged not by whom we exclude but whom we include and how they succeed, could such a vision for the pre-modern scholarship be realized.

Welcome back to ACMRS,

Avanna Thompson
Director of ACMRS and Professor of English

ACMRS

www.acmrs.org
480-965-5900
Coor Hall, 4th Floor, Tempe, AZ 85287
ACMRS Events

The History and Restoration of Mission San Xavier del Bac - Speakers Clague Van Slyke and Craig Reid will discuss the history of Mission San Xavier del Bac and their efforts to restore the Mission known as the White Dove of the Desert, one of the most iconic mission churches in the U.S. Southwest, often described as the finest example of Mexican baroque art and architecture in the United States. The mission was founded by Padre Eusebio Kino in 1692 and the church built a century later as a collaboration between Franciscan friars and the surrounding indigenous community. The presentation will touch on the 10,000-year history of indigenous in-habitation of the area, the geopolitical forces that shaped the area, and the blending of cultural traditions that continue to this day.

Welcome Back, Faculty, Students, and Staff! Here's to a great new academic year!

Welcome Back!
Let's do this.
French of England Translation Series (FRETS), Vol. 11: The Romance of Thebes (Roman de Thèbes)

FRETS v.11. Many well-known medieval figures take center stage in the story of the siege of Thebes, one of the earliest reworkings of classical material by which medieval Europe constructed its identity as successor to Greece and Rome. Questions of the nature and scope of European identity are with us as vividly as ever today and the Romance of Thebes has a foundational role in these questions, since it codes the Western aspects of the Mediterranean inheritance as the defining ones for Europe.

It has been thirty years since the Roman de Thèbes received its only translation into English, though there have been several recent translations into modern French. Ferrante and Hanning offer here a new translation that speaks to the post-nationalizing turn in literary studies and to renewed respect for individual manuscript versions.

The Consolation of Philosophy as Cosmic Image

In this study, Uhlfelder (recently deceased) argues convincingly that, in portraying his literary persona as an exemplum of man in his quest for self-knowledge, Boethius has made the whole Consolatio a cosmic image representing man as microcosm. The mental faculties of sensus, imaginatio, ratio, and intellegentia are arranged as a proportion suggesting both Plato’s famous “divided line” at the end of Book 6 of the Republic and, at the same time, the four elements of the physical cosmos which, according to the Platonic Timaeus, are connected with one another so as to form a geometrical proportion. The philosophical argument of the Consolatio in books II through V comprises another cosmic image with III. M.9 at its exact center; in addition, the other three cosmic depictions, revolving as concentric circles around III. M.9, may be viewed as forming an image of cosmic order. In its structure, then, Boethius’ work is an anagogic eikon which formally depicts its content.

The Legacy of Boethius in Medieval England: The Consolation and its Afterlives

Of all of the works of secular literature that survive from the European Middle Ages, Boethius’s Consolation of Philosophy (ca. 524) was the most widely copied, and the pervasiveness of its cultural influence is difficult to overstate. This study offers the first holistic survey of the reworkings of the Consolation in medieval England, bringing the Old
English Boethius together with Chaucer’s Boece and a host of understudied interlocutors — including Lantfred of Winchester, Abbo of Fleury, Aelred of Rievaulx, Thomas Usk, Thomas Hoccleve, and John Walton — for the first time in a volume of this kind. Arranged into sections on “earlier” and “later” periods, The Legacy of Boethius argues for a reassessment of the medieval English Boethian tradition as a 600-year continuum in vernacular reading and readership.