



Forty-Seventh Annual Sewanee Medieval Colloquium

8-9 April 2022

**ON THE THEME:
“Contact|Touch”**

The University of the South
Sewanee, TN

FRIDAY, 8 April

7:30 A.M. Registration begins, Convocation Hall
(Light breakfast and printed program available)

8:30 A.M.—

9:50 A.M. **SESSIONS 1-4**

1. *Touch and the Body in Early Medieval Culture*
Carnegie Hall 001

Chair: Stephen Hopkins, The University of Central Florida

Paper: “Dead Weight: Touch and Movement in Early Medieval
Commemorative Inscriptions”
Jill Clements, The University of Alabama at
Birmingham

Paper: “Interfacing with Flesh: The Role of Touch in Old
English Remedies”
Erin Sweany, Western Michigan University

Comment: Lori Garner, Rhodes College

2. *Contact in Performance* **DuPont Library,**
Center for
Teaching

Chair: John Sebastian, Loyola Marymount University

Paper: “Performing Brilliance: Divine Light, ‘Murkeness,’ and Lighting Performative Spirituality”
Elizabeth Perry, Texas A&M

Paper: “Kinesthetic Lydgate”
Clint Morrison, The Ohio State University

Comment: Seeta Chaganti, The University of California, Davis

3. *The Ins and Outs of Sexual Contact*

**Dupont Library,
Torian Room**

Chair: Heather Blatt, Florida International University

Paper: “‘Loose your hose, so I may touch your anus’: Leaky Bottoms, Dirty Holes, and the Poetics of Rimming in The Flyting of Dunbar and Kennedy”
Zachary Engledow, Indiana University

Paper: Sexual Accusation and Chivalric (In)Stability in Malory’s “A Noble Tale of Sir Launcelot du Lake”
Abigail Greff, The Ohio State University

Comment: Myra Seaman, The College of Charleston

4. *Gower and Race*

The Social Lodge

Chair: Brian Gastle, Western Carolina University

Paper: “Constantine’s Contagion: Violence, Ethics, & Race-Making in John Gower, Robert Payn, and Juan de Cuenca”

Emily Houlik-Ritchey, Rice University

Paper: “Deceptive Lombard Tyrants in Gower’s Tale of Albinus and Rosemund”

Caitlin Watt, Clemson University

Comment: Steven Kruger, Queens College and The Graduate Center, CUNY

10:00 A.M.—

11:50 P.M. **SESSIONS 5-8**

5. *Embodying Belief, Touching Believers (i)*

Gailor 202

Chair: Jeffery Stoyanoff, Penn State Altoona

Paper: “Performing Convent Drama: Devotion in the Huy Nativities”

Aurelie Blanc, The University of Fribourg, Switzerland

Paper: “Sectarianism, Pluralism, and Belief in the Audience and Among the Critics: The Carpatho-Rusyn Bethlehem Carolers 2015-2022”

Harold Aurand, Penn State University, Schuylkill

Paper: “‘With honed lete me now towch and fele’: The N-Town Nativity and Transgender Touch”

Nat Rivkin, The University of Pennsylvania

Paper: “I am the instrument, and you are the Master’: The
Diagnosis and Therapy of María de Santo Domingo’s
Strung Body”

Alba Lara Granero, Brown University

Paper: “Sight, Sound, Touch: Erotic Epistemology in Richard
de Fournival’s *Bestiary of Love*”

Jonathan Morton, Tulane University

Comment: James Blasina, Swarthmore College

8. *Gifts, Debts, and Payments* The Social Lodge

Chair: Leigh Harrison

Paper: “Silver is Sweet: The History of Money and the Theory
of Debt in *Piers Plowman*”

James Knowles, North Carolina State University

Paper: “Material Cultures of Early Modern Diplomacy:
Glimpses from the Perso-Islamicate World”

Shounak Ghosh, Vanderbilt University

Paper: “Reconstituting Evanescence as Quintessence:
Ekphrasis, Ephemeral Material Culture, and Labor at
Medieval Feasts, c. 1300-1500”

Eileen Morgan, The University of Notre Dame

Comment: Robert Epstein, Fairfield University

12:00 P.M.—

1:00 P.M. **LUNCH, Convocation Hall**

1:00 P.M.—

2:50 P.M. **SESSIONS 9-12**

9. *Embodying Belief, Touching Believers (ii)*
Carnegie 001

Chair: Jeffery Stoyanoff, Penn State Altoona

Paper: “Things Not Seen, or What *Godspell*, Saint Ingatius of Loyola, and University Administration Have Taught Me About the Performance of Faith”
John Sebastian, Loyola Marymount University

Paper: “Playing Belief and Believing Players with a Pluralistic American Audience, from Duquesne University Medieval and Renaissance Players to the Carpatho-Rusyn Bethlehem Carolers, 1998-2021”
Nicole Andel, Penn State University, Schuylkill

Paper: “Playing the Adult Virgin Mary in the N-Town Manuscript as a Presbyterian”
Alexandra Ferguson Johnson, The University of Toronto

Comment: Matthew Sergi, The University of Toronto

10. *Touching Medieval Obscenity* **DuPont Library**
Torian Room

Chair: Jennifer Jahner, The California Institute of Technology

Paper: “A Taste for Turds: On (Not) Interpreting Fabliau Obscenity”

Lucas Wood, Texas Tech University

Paper: “What’s so Obscene about the ‘Hood of Green’?”

R. D. Perry, The University of Denver

Paper: “Full of Ribaldrie, Scaldit in Scurrilitie: Forbidden Topics in the Freeing Verse of Flyting”

Anne Elise Crafton, Notre Dame University

Comment: Holly Crocker, The University of South Carolina

11. *Transhistorical Poetics of Erasure, Medieval to Modern*

**DuPont Library
Center for
Teaching**

Chair: Gabrielle Bychowski, Case Western Reserve

Paper: “‘Pe Æfter Lihten’: Erasure, Intimacy, and Light in *The Grave* and *Pandemercia*”

Carla Maria Thomas, Florida Atlanta University

Paper: “Writing Through Lacunae: Generative Erasures, Medieval Multiverses”

Melissa Ridley Elmes, Lindenwood University

Paper: “Close Reading through Erasure: An Experiment with Late Medieval Crusades Romance”

Leila Norako, The University of Washington

Paper: “Gersonides on Astrology, Emanation and the Interconnected Cosmos”
Maxwell Wade, Boston College

Paper: “Human/Equine Touch and the Translation of Violence into Healing”
Francine McGregor, Arizona State University

Paper: “Touch, Skin, and Intellectual Ability and Thomas Aquinas”
Sarah Bischoff, UCLA

Comment: Emily Steiner, The University of Pennsylvania

14. *Border-Crossing and Cultural Conflict*

**DuPont Library
Torian Room**

Chair: R. D. Perry, The University of Denver

Paper: “Mongols in Montpellier and Other Mysteries: Hearing Contact, Silencing Conflict in Thirteenth-Century Motets”
Eleanor Price, The University of Rochester

Paper: “Dressing Galatea: Trade, Racialized Ivory, and Sexual Economies in the *Roman de la Rose*”
Claire Crow, Yale University

Paper: “Boccaccio’s *De casibus* and the European Borderland Imagination”
Thari Zweers, Cornell University

Paper: "Touching Ancient Books in Twelfth-Century
Literature"
Joshua Byron Smith, The University of Arkansas

Comment: Damian Fleming, Purdue University at Fort
Wayne

5:45 P.M. **PLENARY SESSION**
Edward King Memorial Lecture
Gailor Auditorium

"A Sea Filled with Impostors: The Mediterranean Beyond
Encounter"
Hussein Fancy, Yale University

7:00 P.M. **COCKTAILS AND DINNER**
Convocation Hall

SATURDAY, 9 April

7:30 A.M. Registration continues, Convocation Hall
(Light breakfast and printed program available.)

8:30 A.M.—

10:20 A.M. **SESSIONS 17-19**

17. *Touching Language and Form*

Gailor 110

Chair: James Knowles, North Carolina State University

Paper: “You Can Touch This (Because You Already Have):
Everyday Experience in Thomas Norton’s *Ordinal of
Alchemy*”
Lisa H. Cooper, The University of Wisconsin-Madison

Paper: “‘More declaracioun’: Amplification, Abbreviation, and
The Treatise on the Astrolabe”
Samuel Phillips, The University of North Carolina,
Greensboro

Paper: “Continuity and Compromise: Langland’s Social
Criticism and the Critique of French”
Leigh Harrison

Comment: Katharine Jager, The University of Houston-
Downtown

18. *Manuscripts and the Tactile Text* Gailor 128

Chair: Adin Lears, Virginia Commonwealth University

Paper: “Getting Comfortable: Heat, Health, and Reading Old
English”
Lara Farina, West Virginia University

Paper: “Hands On Books: Physicality of Texts as Thematic
Indicator in Works of Chaucer, Gower, and Hoccleve”
Kathleen Burt, Middle Georgia State University

Paper: “Script and the Portrayal of Intimacy”
Seamus Dwyer, Yale University

Paper: “Block this Contact? The Pardoner, Domestic Confession, and Porous Subjectivity”
Robyn A. Bartlett, Purdue University

Paper: “A Niece of One’s Own: The Relationship Between Nieces and Space in Chaucer’s *Troilus and Criseyde*”
Victoria Thomas, Southern Methodist University

Paper: “What ‘you toucheth and me both’: Movement and Mediality in the Philomena Tale”
Sydney Owada, The University of Michigan

Comment: Candace Barrington, Central Connecticut State University

22. *Touching Hagiography*

Gailor 128

Chair: Lynda Coon, The University of Arkansas

Paper: “The Laughing Saint: Jokes, Feud, and the Politics of a Sainly Body in the *Liber Miraculorum Sancte Fidis*”
Jonathan Sapp

Paper: “At a Distance: Sanctity, Materiality, and Work in Adomnan’s *Vita Columbae*”
Christina Heckman, Augusta University

Paper: “Touching Old to Create the New: The Life and Cult of St. Rose de Lima”
Nancy Warren, Texas A&M University

Comment: Cynthia Turner Camp, The University of Georgia

23. *Early English New Materialisms* **Gailor 130**

Chair: Tekla Bude, Oregon State University

Paper: “The Vibrancy of Familiar Things”
Nathan James Phelps, The University of Notre Dame

Paper: “‘Vertues Worchyng’ and Scales of Being in Higden’s
Polychronicon”
Adin Lears, Virginia Commonwealth University

Paper: “Correspondences: Materiality, Creativity, and
Ecological Crisis”
Ryan Lawrence, Cornell University

Comment: Rebecca Davis, The University of California, Irvine

3:00 P.M.—

3:30 P.M. **BREAK, Convocation Hall**

3:30 P.M.— **SESSIONS 24-26**

5:20 P.M.

**24. *Blood of the Covenant, Water of the Womb: From
Harsh Words to Familiar Conflict* **Gailor 110****

Chair: Leland Grigoli, The American Historical Association

Paper: “‘To the Hurt and Disavail’: Insult, Violence, and
Marriage in the Percy/Neville Feud”

Hannah Keller, The Ohio State University

Paper: “Urraca of Castile as Diplomat and Military Commander: How Women Created Violence Through Making and Breaking Agreements”
Claire Dwyer, Columbia University

Paper: “Vocal Violence and Queer Despair in the Towneley *The Killing of Abel*”
Jeffery Stoyanoff, Penn State, Altoona

Comment: Nancy Warren, Texas A&M University

25. *To Touch or Not to Touch* **Gailor 128**

Chair: Sarah Bischoff, UCLA

Paper: “Maimonides on Aristotle on the Shamefulness of Touch”
Mor Segev, The University of South Florida

Paper: “‘Thorns and Thistles Shall it Bring Forth to Thee’: Medieval Ideas of Touch and Original Sin”
Heather McRae, Westminster College

Paper: “Never Touching, Yet Touching Others: Sensory Deprivation and the Early Medieval Recluse”
Phyllis Jestice, The College of Charleston

Comment: Richard Newhauser, Arizona State University

26. *Translation and Transmission* **Gailor 130**

Chair: Thari Zweers, Cornell University

Paper: “*Quidam Interpretantur*: Tracing the Two Witnesses of
Apocalypse 11 in Early Medieval Hiberno-Latin
Exegesis”
Darcy Ireland

Paper: “Tasting the Fruit of the Orchard: Translating
Catherine of Siena in Late Medieval England”
Elissa Johnston, Fordham University

Paper: “Reach Out and Touch Someone: Chaucer as
Translator”
Candace Barrington, Central Connecticut State
University

Comment: Ardis Butterfield, Yale University

5:45 P.M. **Second PLENARY SESSION**
Brinley Rhys Memorial Lecture
Gailor Auditorium

“Touching the Parchment”
Elina Gertsman, Case Western Reserve

7:00 P.M. **COCKTAILS AND DINNER, Convocation Hall**