



# Medieval Feminist Forum

A Journal of Gender and Sexuality

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**MEDIEVAL FEMINIST FORUM**  
**A Journal of Gender and Sexuality**

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*Letter from the General Editor*

Dear members of the medieval feminist community,

While *Medieval Feminist Forum* does not have a history of publishing letters from the general editor, I do so now on behalf of the editorial board to inaugurate our move to a new press, Medieval Institute Publications, and to announce a new initiative.

In our 35th year of publication and 22nd year as *MFF*, we are delighted to begin collaborating with an established press on the publication of our biannual issues. Our previous ad hoc arrangements were a labor of love and social justice commitment by too many dedicated feminist medievalists to name—and it is high time that the expertise and insight of our authors join a press with an established cadre of medieval journals in recognition of the centrality of feminist studies to medievalist scholarship.

We extend our appreciation to Theresa Whitaker of MIP who has welcomed our journal and worked intensively on the transition, and to the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship's advisory board who proposed the collaboration. To accompany our new venue we have a new webpage, which serves as the submission portal but also narrates the history of *MFF*, details the parameters for special issue proposals, provides recommendations for student and early career writers who are submitting an article for the first time, and gives guidelines for ethical citation practices.

In celebration of this historic move to MIP, we are inaugurating a new section of our journal: Retrospectives. We invite our feminist founders to compose short reflections on the lessons they learned in the course of their careers, as we cannot fully know how to focus our work as feminists if we do not know what has—and has not—changed in the academy. We welcome submissions from authors who have announced their retirement or have already retired.

We expect to publish one or two Retrospectives per issue, in the order in which they are received. We ask that potential authors follow these guidelines:

- Maximum length of 2000 words.
- Please either anonymize your narrative if specific individuals are still alive, or seek their permission for your representation of any episode involving them.
- While the editorial board will honor the voices of all authors, we retain the right to request revisions so that contributions represent *MFF* values regarding the ongoing challenges of racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and ableism.

The editorial board enthusiastically encourages your submissions to *MFF* at MIP, both of Retrospective pieces and of course of original feminist medievalist articles. We look forward to learning from this vibrant community!

Sincerely,  
Jes Boon



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## ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

EMMA O. BÉRAT is an independent researcher living in Artigat, France. Originally from New Zealand, she holds a PhD from Columbia University, an MA from the University of York, and a BA from Colorado College. From 2016 to 2018, she was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Bonn. She has published various articles and chapters on medieval motherhood and women's history writing and is co-editor with Irina Dumitrescu and Rebecca Hardie of *Relations of Power: Women's Networks in the Middle Ages*. She is currently working on a book on women's genealogies in high to late medieval England.

JENNY C. BLEDSOE is an assistant professor of English at Northeastern State University in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, where she teaches early British literature, women's and gender studies, and world literature, including the global Middle Ages. Her research focuses on book history, religious literature, the history of the emotions, and gender studies; she is currently co-editing a new *Companion to Sexuality in the Medieval West* with Michelle M. Sauer. Jenny is also at work on a critical edition of and comprehensive introduction to a previously unstudied English Catholic manuscript of medieval female saints' lives compiled in the seventeenth century, perhaps by an English nun living on the Continent.

SARAH BRAZIL is Senior Research and Teaching Fellow in medieval English literature at the University of Geneva. She is the author of *The Corporeality of Clothing in Medieval Literature: Cognition, Kinesis, and the Sacred* (Medieval Institute Publications, 2018), which argues that central biblical episodes and theological traditions employ clothing as a literary affordance that gives access to mental, emotional, and corporeal states. She is currently working on a book project on the history and function of humor in early English religious drama, which is rethinking many established critical frameworks, such as the carnivalesque. She has also published on early English performance practices in Latin and vernacular contexts, and has an ongoing, interdisciplinary project on premodern cultures of performance.

MEGAN CAVELL is Associate Professor in the Department of English Literature at the University of Birmingham. She works especially on Old and early Middle English and Latin literature, with a focus on riddles and animal studies. She is the author of *Weaving Words and Binding Bodies: The Poetics of Human Experience in Old English Literature* (University of Toronto Press, 2016) and co-editor with Jennifer Neville of *Riddles at Work in the Early Medieval Tradition: Words, Ideas, Interactions* (Manchester University Press, 2020). Her latest project, *The Medieval Bestiary in English: Texts and Translations of the Old and Middle English Physiologus*, is forthcoming with Broadview Press.

IRINA DUMITRESCU is Professor of English Medieval Studies at the University of Bonn. She is the author of *The Experience of Education in Anglo-Saxon Literature* (Cambridge University Press, 2018) and co-editor, with Emma O’Loughlin Bérat and Rebecca Hardie, of *Relations of Power: Women’s Networks in the Middle Ages* (Bonn University Press, 2021). Other forthcoming projects include *Geschlecht macht Herrschaft—Interdisziplinäre Studien zu vormoderner Macht und Herrschaft* (Bonn University Press, 2021), edited with Andrea Stieldorf, Linda Dohmen, and Ludwig Morenz, and *Women in Early Medieval England*, edited with Emily Butler.

MARY C. FLANNERY is Swiss National Science Foundation Eccellenza Professorial Fellow at the University of Bern, where she is the lead investigator on the team project “Canonicity, Obscenity, and the Making of Modern Chaucer, 1700–2020 (COMMode).” She has published numerous articles on medieval studies and the history of emotions, as well as several books, including *John Lydgate and the Poetics of Fame* (2012) and *Practising Shame: Female Honour in Later Medieval England* (2019).

SHIRIN FOZI is Associate Professor in History of Art and Architecture and Director of the Program in Medieval and Renaissance Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. Her first monograph, *Romanesque Tomb Effigies: Death and Redemption in Northern Europe, 1000–1200* (Penn State Press, 2021), received a Millard Meiss Grant from the College Art Association, and her essay on Reinhildis of Riesenbeck (published in *Speculum*) was recognized as February 2015 article of

the month by *Feminae: Medieval Women and Gender Index*. Together with Gerhard Lutz, Fozi also co-edited *Christ on the Cross: The Boston Crucifix and the Rise of Medieval Wood Sculpture* (Brepols Publishers, 2020). In addition to her research on monumental sculpture in the tenth through early thirteenth centuries, she has published several essays on the modern history of collections of medieval art; this interest has led her to teach courses in Museum Studies at Pittsburgh, including the seminars that culminated in an ongoing digital exhibition of medieval manuscript facsimiles (A Nostalgic Filter: Medieval Manuscripts in the Digital Age, University Art Gallery, University of Pittsburgh). Fozi currently serves on the Board of Directors of the International Center of Medieval Art and the Council of the Medieval Academy of America.

SHANNON JANE GARNER received a PhD from Northeastern University. Her interests are in eco-materialism, early modern romance, and gender. Her recent work includes a chapter “Curls to Curled Waves: Romance and Ecomaterial Assemblages in Michael Drayton’s *Poly-Olbion*” in *Poly-Olbion: New Perspectives* (Boydell & Brewer, 2020) and an article “Pathetic Kairos and Prophecy in a Shakespearean Anthropocene” in *Early Modern Culture* (2018). Her scholarship emphasizes the ways in which ecological matter is implicated in questions of gender, agency, and history. Along with working as a technical writer, she writes and researches while caring for her two children and an ever-growing backyard menagerie. Her work on this project inspired her to start beekeeping, fashion an early modern herb garden, and to keep chickens.

JENNIFER GARRISON is Associate Professor of English at St. Mary’s University in Calgary, Canada. She has published widely on later medieval literature and culture, including her book, *Challenging Communion: The Eucharist and Middle English Literature* (Ohio State University Press, 2017). Her current research focuses on how penitential culture shapes and is shaped by medieval models of masculinity.

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