

Words and Matter: the Virgin Mary in Late Medieval Parish Life

Call for papers



Tales about the Virgin Mary were frequently told in the Middle Ages. They were communicated through diverse media and genres, ranging from poetry and *exempla*, were depicted on panels and in manuscripts, and followed the rhythms of hagiography, sermons and chant. Interpreting how these stories were made and disseminated and how these different media and genres intersected is fundamental to understanding the reach and impact of ideas about the Virgin Mary and the place of the Marian cult in late medieval culture and parish life.

The research project *Imitatio Mariae* at Umeå University and the *Umeå Group for Premodern Studies* invite you to participate in a workshop on these interesting and challenging matters. We welcome papers that analyze these media and the overlap between them; the role of Marian themes in parish life, the movement of Marian narratives between text and image in late medieval Europe.

Methodological and theoretical approaches to these complex issues are also welcome. The workshop will include generous time for discussions and for the planning of new multidisciplinary, international projects.

This workshop was born at the Umeå Queen Mary University of London research workshop in autumn 2011. It aims to bring together senior and junior scholars from different disciplines to discuss and

promote the understanding of themes and practices related to the very central and extremely diverse cult of the Virgin Mary in late medieval Europe.

The workshop will take place between 8 and 10 November 2012 at Umeå University. The conference organizers will also host social activities for the participants.

We aim to keep the costs as low as possible through the help of grants. In order to secure funding for the workshop, we now seek expressions of interest, as well as preliminary paper titles before the 15 February 2012. Send the title either by e-mail to jonas.carlquist@nord.umu.se, or by post to Jonas Carlquist, Department of Language studies, Umeå university, 901 87 Umeå, Sweden.

We look forward to welcoming you to Umeå in November!

Jonas Carlquist
Professor of Scandinavian
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Ann-Catrine Eriksson
PhD, Art History

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PhD, English