Fr7 Lecture list 2023-24: Bodies in Space in Medieval French Literature

Convenor: Dr Miranda Griffin

# Background reading for the paper

You don’t need to read all of these over the summer, but do dip into some of these to get a taste of the texts and ideas we’ll be discussing.

Jeffrey Jerome Cohen, ‘Chevalerie’, in his *Medieval Identity Machines* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2003), pp. 35-77

Marilynn Desmond, ‘Christine de Pizan: gender, authorship and life-writing’, in *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval French Literature*, ed. by Simon Gaunt and Sarah Kay, (Cambridge: CUP, 2008), 123-135.

Christopher de Hamel, *Scribes and Illuminators* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1992)

Miranda Griffin, *Transforming Tales: Rewriting Metamorphosis in Medieval French Literature* (Oxford: OUP, 2015)

Geraldine Heng, *The Invention of Race in the European Middle Ages* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018).

Sarah Kay, ‘Legible Skins: Animals and the Ethics of Medieval Reading’, *postmedieval: a journal of medieval cultural studies* volume 2, 2011 pp. 13–32

Peggy McCracken, *In the Skin of a Beast: Sovereignty and Animality in Medieval France* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017)

Alicia Spencer-Hall and Blake Gutt, ‘Introduction’, *Trans and Genderqueer Subjects in Medieval Hagiography (*Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2021).

Karl Steel, *How to Make a Human: Animals and Violence in the Middle Ages* (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 2011).

Victoria Turner, *Theorizing Medieval Race: Saracen Representations in Old French Literature* (Cambridge: Legenda, 2019).

# Topic 1: Race and Place

**Primary texts**

*Floire et Blanchefleur*, ed. Jean-Luc Leclanche (Paris: Champion, 2003)

*Aucassin et Nicolette* (various editions, including in *Nouvelles courtoises*, ed. Suzanne Méjean-Thiolier and Marie-Françoise Notz-Grob, Lettres gothiques series (Paris: Livre de Poche, 1997))

*Aucassin et Nicolette: A Facing-Page Edition and Translation*, by Robert S. Sturges (Michigan: Michigan State University Press, 2015)

**Recommended reading**

William Burgwinkle, ‘Utopia and Its Uses: Twelfth-Century Romance and History’, *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 36:3, Fall 2006

Suzanne Conklin Akbari, *Idols in the East: European Representations of Islam and the Orient* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2009)

Denyse Delcourt, ‘Swords and Flowers: Conversion in *La Chanson de Roland* and *Floire et Blanchefleur’*, *Modern Language Notes*, 127 (2012), 34-53

M. R. Menocal, ‘Signs of the Times: Self, Other and History in *Aucassin et Nicolette’*, *Romance Review*, 80 (1989), 497-511

Sharon Kinoshita, *Medieval Boundaries: Rethinking Difference in Old French Literature* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006) (Chapter on *Floire et Blanchefleur*)

Shokoofeh Rajabzadeh, ‘[The depoliticized Saracen and Muslim erasure’](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/lic3.12548), *Literature Compass* 16 (2019)

Jacqueline de Weever, ‘Nicolette’s “Blackness” – Lost in Translation’, *Romance Notes*, 34.3 (1994), 317-25

# Topic 2: Human, Animal, Monster

**Primary texts**

*Le Conte du Papegau*, ed. and trans. Hélène Charpentier and Patricia Victorin (Paris: Champion, 2004)

Jean d’Arras, *Mélusine*, ed. Jean-Jacques Vincensini (Paris: Livre de Poche, 2003).

**Recommended reading**

Emmanuèle Baumgartner, ‘Géants et chevaliers,’ in *The Spirit of the Court*. Ed. Glyn S. Burgess and Robert A. Taylor (Cambridge: DS Brewer, 1985), pp. 9-22

E. Jane Burns, ‘A Snake-Tailed Woman: Hybridity and Dynasty in the *Roman de Mélusine’*, in *From Beasts to Souls: Gender and Embodiment in Medieval Europe*, ed. E. Jane Burns and Peggy McCracken, (Notre Dame IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2013), pp. 185–220.

Denyse Delcourt, ‘Métamorphose, mystère et fémininité: Lecture du *Roman de Mélusine* par Jean d’Arras’, *Le Moyen français* 33 (1993), 85-107.

Miranda Griffin, *Transforming Tales: Rewriting Metamorphosis in Medieval French Literature* (Oxford: OUP, 2015) (Chapter 4: ‘Sex and the Serpent’).

Sylvia Huot, *Outsiders: The Humanity and Inhumanity of Giants in Medieval French Prose Romance* (Notre Dame: Notre Dame, Press, 2017)

Norris J. Lacy, ‘Convention and Innovation in *Le Chevalier du Papegau*, in *Studies in Honor of Hans-Erich Keller: Medieval French and Occitan Literature and Romance Linguistics*, ed. Rupert T. Pickens (Kalamazoo: Medieval Institute Publications, 1993), 237-46

Marilyn Lawrence, ‘Comic Functions of the Parrot as Minstrel in *Le Chevalier du Papegau’*, *Arthurian Literature* 19 (2003), 135-51

Donald Maddox and Sara Sturm-Maddox (ed.), *Melusine of Lusignan: founding fiction in late medieval France* (Athens, Ga.; London: University of Georgia Press, 1996), especially Spiegel, ‘Maternity and Monstrosity: Reproductive Biology in the *Roman de Mélusine’*, 100-124.

Misty Urban, Deva F. Kemmis and Melissa Ridley Elmes eds., *Mélusine’s Footprints: Tracing the Legacy of a Medieval Myth*, (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2017), especially essays by Bain, Pairet, Weisl, Enstone

# Topic 3: Bodies and books

**Primary texts**

*Le Bestiaire: Version longue attribuée à Pierre de Beauvais*, ed. Craig Baker (Paris: Champion, 2010).

Christine de Pizan, *La città delle dame*, ed. by Patrizia Caraffi and Earl Jeffrey Richards (Milano: Carocci, 1998). [selections shared via Moodle]

*The Book of the City of Ladies*, translated by Rosalind Brown-Grant, (London: Penguin, 1999).

*La Cité des dames*, translated and edited by Thérèse Moreau and Éric Hicks, (Éditions Stock, 2000).

**Secondary reading**

Emma Campbell, ‘Visualizing the Trans-Animal Body: The Hyena in Medieval Bestiaries’, in Trans Historical: Gender Plurality Before the Modern, ed. by Anna Kłosowska, Masha Raskolnikov, and Greta LaFleur (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2021), pp. 313-52

Joël Blanchard, ‘Compilation and Legitimation in the Fifteenth Century: *Le Livre de la Cité des Dames’*, in *Reinterpreting Christine de Pizan*, ed. by Earl Jeffrey Richards, (Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1992), 228-249

Christine Bourgeois, “The Disembodied Tongue, or, The Place of the Book in *the Livre de la Cité des Dames*”, *The Futures of Medieval French: Essays in Honour of Sarah Kay*, ed. by Jane Gilbert and Miranda Griffin, (Woodbridge, Suffolk: Boydell and Brewer, 2021)

Rosalind Brown-Grant, *Christine de Pizan and the Moral Defence of Women* (Cambridge: CUP, 2000)

Marilynn Desmond, ‘Christine de Pizan: gender, authorship and life-writing’, in *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval French Literature*, ed. by Simon Gaunt and Sarah Kay, (Cambridge: CUP, 2008), 123-135.

Marilynn Desmond, Reading Dido: Gender, Textuality and the Medieval Aeneid, (Minneapolis; University of Minnesota Press, 1994), Chapter 6, 195-224

Penelope Haralambidou, ‘The Female Body Politic: Enacting the Architecture of The Book of the City of Ladies’, *Architecture and Culture*, Vol. 8 (3-4), 2020, 385-406.

Sarah Kay, *Animal Skins and the Reading Self in Medieval Latin and French Bestiaries* (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2017).

Sarah Kay, ‘Legible Skins: Animals and the Ethics of Medieval Reading’, *postmedieval: a journal of medieval cultural studies* volume 2, 2011 pp. 13–32

Judith L. Kellogg, ‘Le Livre de la cité des dames: Reconfiguring Knowledge and Reimagining Gendered Space’ in *Christine de Pizan: A Casebook*, ed. by Barbara K. Altmann and Deborah L. McGrady, (Routledge, 2003).

Peggy McCracken, *In the Skin of a Beast: Sovereignty and Animality in Medieval France* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017)

# Topic 4: Gender

**Primary text**

*Le Roman de Silence*, ed. and trans. by Sarah Roche-Mahdi (East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 1992). (edition also available online through idiscover)

*La Vie de Sainte Eufros*ine, ed. and trans. by Amy Ogden (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2021)

**Secondary reading**

Emma Campbell, ‘Translating Gender in Thirteenth-Century French Cross-Dressing Narratives: *La Vie de Sainte Euphrosine* and *Le Roman de Silence’*, Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies 49 (2019): 233–264

Simon Gaunt, ‘The Significance of Silence’, Paragraph 13 (1990): 202–216.

Simon Gaunt, ‘Straight Minds/ Queer Wishes in Old French Hagiography: *La Vie de Sainte Euphrosine*’ *GLQ* 1 (1995) (4): 439–457. <https://doi.org/10.1215/10642684-1-4-439>

Peggy McCracken, ‘“The Boy Who Was a Girl”: Reading Gender in the *Roman De Silence*’, *Romanic Review* 85 (1994)

Amy V. Ogden, ‘St Eufrosine’s Invitation to Gender Transgression’, in ed. Alicia Spencer-Hall and Blake Gutt, *Trans and Genderqueer Subjects in Medieval Hagiography* (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2021), pp. 201-222

Alicia Spencer-Hall and Blake Gutt, ‘Introduction’, *Trans and Genderqueer Subjects in Medieval Hagiography* (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2021)