

# FR7 Bodies in Space in Medieval French Literary Culture

Welcome to FR7! Over the course of the year, we'll be covering four topics, as set out below.

Michaelmas 2022

- Topic 1: Technology and Ecology
- Topic 2: Human, Animal, Monster

Lent 2023

- Topic 3: Otherworlds
- Topic 4: Gender

In the Easter term, we'll focus on revision and writing comparatively. We'll give you more detailed bibliographies in reading lists for supervisions and lectures handouts, but before October, try to get hold of and read the primary texts listed for each topic below. Most of the editions are inexpensive paperbacks or available online. Many are also available in Cambridge libraries – and remember that you can ask your college library to purchase texts too. We've also listed some general background reading which should give you some really helpful context for the various topics. Those marked with an asterisk are available online through idiscover.

## Technology and Ecology

- Guillaume de Machaut, *Le remède de fortune*
  - Palmer et. al., *Guillaume de Machaut, The Complete Poetry and Music Vol. 2 The Boethian Poems*, (Kalamazoo: Middle English Texts, 2019). Available through idiscover; also online [here](#), but without page numbers.
  - If you wish to listen to the songs of the *Remède*, recordings are available [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).
- Christine de Pisan, *La cité des dames*
  - As this text is only available in medieval French in [this](#) edition, with an Italian translation, we recommend that you read either the English Penguin translation with introduction by Rosalind Brown-Grant, or the French translation published by Stock, edited by Eric Hicks and Thérèse Moreau. Extracts of the medieval French will be provided at the time of the lecture for use in essays.

## Human, Animal, Monster

- Werewolves:
  - *Bisclavret and Mélion* in Nathalie Koble and Mireille Séguy eds., *Lais bretons (XIIe-XIIIe siècles): Marie de France et ses contemporains* (Paris: Champion, 2011)
- Giants:
  - *Des grantz geanz*, in Jane Bliss ed. *An Anglo-Norman Reader*, (Cambridge: Open Book Publishers, 2018), pp. 60-75 (available online through idiscover). Short extracts from other texts will be provided at the time of the lecture.
- *Mélusine*:
  - Jean d'Arras, *Mélusine*, ed. Jean-Jacques Vincensini (Paris: Livre de Poche, 2003).

## Otherworlds

- Paradise, Purgatory, Utopia (read 2 or 3):
  - Marie de France, *L'Espurgatoire de saint Patriz*, in *Le Purgatoire de saint Patrick*, ed. Myriam White-Le Goff (Paris: Champion, 2019), pp. 140-267.
  - Benedeit, *Le Voyage de Saint Brendan*, ed. Ian Short and Brian Merrilees (Paris: Champion, 2006) or [Le voyage de saint Brendan \(d-t-x.com\)](http://www.d-t-x.com)
  - *Le Fabliau de Cockagne*, ed. Veikko Väänänen, *Neuphiliogische Mitteilungen* 48 (1947), 3-36 (available on JSTOR <http://www.jstor.org/stable/43341432> ).
- Race and Space (read both):
  - *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 or *Aucassin et Nicolette: A Facing-Page Edition and Translation*, by Robert S. Sturges (Michigan: Michigan State University Press, 2015), which is also available through idiscover.

## Gender

- *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 Saint Eufrosine*
  - ed. and trans. by Amy Ogden (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2021)

Preparatory background reading:

\*Aisling Byrne, *Otherworlds: Fantasy and History in Medieval Literature* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016)

\*Simon Gaunt and Sarah Kay eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval French Literature*, (Cambridge: CUP, 2008), introductory chapters on Guillaume de Machaut and Christine de Pisan

\*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).

\*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).

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

You may like to dip into one of these recent popular non-fiction works on manuscripts to whet your appetite for the manuscript material we'll look at in FR7:

Christopher de Hamel, *Meetings with Remarkable Manuscripts* (Penguin: 2016).

Mary Wellesley, *Hidden Hands: The Lives of Manuscripts and Their Makers* (riverrun, 2021)

Please get in touch with Emily ([ekp26@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ekp26@cam.ac.uk)) if you have difficulty getting hold of particular texts over the summer. We look forward to working with you next year.

Miranda Griffin and Emily Kate Price  
July 2022