

Lecture and Workshop with Amy Hollywood (F 10-24 at 2pm)

Dear all,

I'm writing to let you know about an upcoming workshop and talk with Professor Amy Hollywood. Both events, organized by the Medieval Studies Program for this year's Border/Crossings series, will take place on **Friday, October 24th: the workshop at 2pm in Elvehjem, Hagen Room 150** and the **public talk at 5pm in Elvehjem L140**. If you are interested in attending the workshop, please let me know and I will send along the pre-circulated paper. I've pasted a description of the public lecture as well as a brief biography below. Please feel free to share widely.

I hope to see many of you there!

best,

Adam

Borderline: Richard of Saint Victor and Beatrice of Nazareth, Lovesick for Christ

Richard of Saint Victor's "Four Degrees of Violent Love" draws a very fine line between lovesickness as a sinful disease--a form of narcissistic melancholia that leads body and soul suicidally to waste away—and as the heights of a sanctified and fruitful union with the divine. Beatrice of Nazareth's "Seven Manners of Love" follows Richard and simultaneously subverts the very boundary he attempts to create, describing herself as dying for love, desiring to be dissolved body and soul, in a way her hagiographer refuses to follow. The soul as lovesick for Christ; Christ as lovesick for humanity. These images are everywhere in the late Middle Ages. So, I will ask, how does a disease, a sinful disease, become the mark of the highest perfection?

Amy Hollywood is Elizabeth H. Monrad Professor of Christian Studies at Harvard Divinity School. She is the author of *The Soul as Virgin Wife: Mechthild of Magdeburg, Marguerite Porete, and Meister Eckhart* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1995), which received the Otto Grundler Prize for the best book in medieval studies from the International Congress of Medieval Studies; *Sensible Ecstasy: Mysticism, Sexual Difference, and the Demands of History* (University of Chicago Press, 2002); and *Acute Melancholia and Other Essays* (Columbia University Press, 2016). She is also the co-editor, with Patricia Beckman, of *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Mysticism* (2012) and, with Eleanor Craig, Niklaus Largier, and Kris Trujillo, of a special issue of *Representations*, "The Poetics of Prayer and Devotion to Literature" (2021). *Devotion: Three Inquiries on Religion, Literature, and Political Imagination*, co-authored with Constance Furey and Sarah Hammerschlag, appeared in 2021. She has a number of other projects in the overlapping fields of philosophy of religion, religion and literature, and feminist and gender studies in progress.