SYMPOSIUM:

Medieval Bestsellers vs. Masterpieces:
What We Read Now & What They Read Then

Friday, May 5 / 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Loma Pelona Center

This symposium addresses the strange fact that, in both European and Middle Eastern medieval studies, those texts that we now study and teach as the most canonical representations of their era were in fact not popular or even read in their day. On the other hand, those texts that were popular, as evidenced by the extant manuscript record, are taught and studied with far less frequency. Our symposium will provide cross-cultural insight into both the literary tastes of the medieval period and the literary and political forces behind the creation of the modern canon of medieval literature.

Sponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Department of English, the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, Medieval Studies Program, and the College of Letters and Science.

Shamma Boyarin
(English, University of Victoria)

Matthew Fisher
(English, UCLA)

Christine Chism
(English, UCLA)

Sharon Kinoshita
(Literature, UCSC)

Paul Cobb
(Teaching & Learning, Vanderbilt College)

Elias Muhanna
(Comparative Literature, Brown)