

Creature (Dis)comforts:

On Human Thresholds from Classical Myth to Modern Day

Saturday, June 3, 2017

9:00 Refreshments

9:45 Welcoming Remarks
Sara Burdorff, Conference Co-organizer, UCLA
Department of English

10:00 **Liza Blake** (University of Toronto)
“Fabulous Knowledge: Animal Fables at the Threshold of
Literature and Science”
Session Chair: **Karina A. Roche** (UCLA)

11:00 **Kathryn Vomero Santos** (Texas A&M University – Corpus
Christi)
“Madam, my interpreter, what says she?: Women and the
Thresholds of Language in Early Modern English
Drama”
Session Chair: **Zrinka Stahuljak** (UCLA)

12:00 Lunch

1:00 **Susan Schmidt** (University of California, Santa Barbara)
“The Urban Ecology of Medieval Cities: Testing Thresholds
and Negotiating Boundaries”
Session Chair: **Ronnie Cohen** (UCLA)

2:00 **Robert Watson** (University of California, Los Angeles)
“Boundary Failures and Creaturely Discomforts in
Shakespeare’s *Coriolanus*”
Session Chair: **Megan Lonsinger** (UCLA)

2:30 Coffee Break

2:45 **Mead Bowen** (UCLA)
“Precariously Human: Forming, Deforming, and
Reforming Identity in the *Fourth Branch
of the Mabinogi*”
Session Chair: **Kylie Rostad** (UCLA)

3:15 **Sarah Alison Miller** (Duquesne University)
“Porosity and the Medieval Maternal Breast”
Session Chair: **Christine Nguyen** (UCLA)

4:15 **Laura Lorhan** (UCLA)
“At the Heart of the Riddle: Riddling and Community in
Djuna Barnes’s *Ladies Almanack*”
Session Chair: **Helen Zapata** (UCLA)

4:45 Round Table with Speakers
Moderator: **Joseph F. Nagy** (Harvard University)

5:30 Closing Remarks
Malcolm Harris, Colloquium for Oral and Popular
Tradition Studies, Conference Co-organizer

The threshold of the home constitutes a literal boundary between public and private, between the domestic and the political. It is also a border that, by its very nature, invites transgression. It is a boundary that exists to be crossed.

This conference, organized by Dr. Sara Burdorff (UCLA, English) and the student group Colloquium for Oral and Popular Tradition Studies takes the literal liminality of the domestic threshold as its inspiration, exploring the comparable permeability of more abstract thresholds in a wide range of social, temporal, and interdisciplinary contexts.

Presentations will elaborate on the ambivalent cultural value invested in other intrinsically—even necessarily—violable boundaries between Self and Other, including those between man and man, man and animal, and parent and child.

Sponsored by the UCLA Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies and the Colloquium for Oral & Popular Tradition Studies
Co-sponsored by the the UCLA Department of English.

Advance registration is not required. No fee. Limited seating. Self-pay parking in lots 2, 3, 4, and 5. Parking info at <https://main.transportation.ucla.edu/campus-parking/visitors>

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UCLA Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies

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