Considering that the history of sexuality as a more or less coherent intellectual project is only a few decades old, what we have learned about medieval sexuality so far is remarkable. Precisely because the investigations have only just begun, however, whole areas have yet to be explored. To further this exploration, this conference will bring together scholars from various disciplines and nationalities to take stock of what is being done now and to investigate new areas in the history of medieval sexuality. Attention will be focused on two primary issues: First—What is this thing we call “medieval sexuality”? Does it have any medieval coherence, or, despite what scholars claim to have learned from Foucault, is it just modern sexuality in medieval drag? Second—What can be learned by studying points of exchange, the movement of sexual knowledges or representations across various boundaries? How does sexuality figure in the relationship of medieval text and image? What are the tensions and exchanges between sacred and secular sexualities? And how has the 19th-century science of sexuality defined our ways of understanding medieval sexuality?

Co-organized by Zrinka Stahuljak (French & Francophone Studies, UCLA) and James A. Schultz (Germanic Languages, UCLA)

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The Ahmanson Foundation
The UCLA Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies
The UCLA Vice Chancellor for Research
The Humanities Division of the UCLA College of Letters and Science
The UCLA Center for the Study of Women
The UCLA Departments of Art History, Comparative Literature, English, French & Francophone Studies, Germanic Languages, and History

Registration
Advance registration is not required. No admission fee. Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Parking
Campus parking permits may be purchased for $9 each day from any UCLA Parking Services kiosk.

Information Contact
cmars@humnet.ucla.edu | 310-825-1880
Friday, March 6, 2009
Royce Hall 314, UCLA

12:15 Registration, coffee

12:45 Welcoming Remarks
Brian P. Copenhaver (UCLA), Director, Center for Medieval 
& Renaissance Studies
Zrinka Stahuljak (UCLA), Conference co-organizer
James A. Schultz (UCLA), Conference co-organizer

1:00 Session 1: Within Marriage
Matthew Fisher (UCLA), Chair
Glenn Burger (Queens College and The Graduate Center, CUNY)
“In a Postmedieval Time and Place: The Scene of Marriage
in Le Menagier de Paris”
Sarah Salih (King’s College London)
“Boring Sex: Marriage, Masochism, and Conformity”

2:15 Break

2:30 Session 2: Unsettling Marriage
Karina Marie Ash (UCLA), Chair
Kim Phillips (University of Auckland)
“The Polygamous East in Late Medieval Travel Writing”
Virginia Burrus (Drew University)
“Fleeing the Kingdom of Uxoriousness: Friendship, Sex, and
Scripture in Augustine’s Confessions”

3:45 Break

4:00 Session 3: Pilgrims and Heretics
C. Stephen Jaeger (Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), Chair
Karma Lochrie (Indiana University)
“Queer Souvenirs”
Niklaus Largier (UC Berkeley)
“Sexuality, Heresy, and Confession”

Saturday, March 7, 2009
Royce Hall 314, UCLA

9:30 Coffee, pastries

10:00 Session 4: Looking at Bodies
Sharon Gerstel (UCLA), Chair
Thomas Kren (J. Paul Getty Museum)
“Saint Sebastian in the Prayers of Anne of Brittany”
Ann Marie Rasmussen (Duke University)
“Wanderlust: Obscenity and the Meanings of Mobility”
Diane Wolfthal (Rice University)
“The Sexuality of the Medieval Comb”

12:00 Break

1:30 Session 5: Trans Bodies
John Dagenais (UCLA), Chair
Andreas Krass (Goethe Universität, Frankfurt am Main)
“Medieval Metrosexuality: Masculinity, Fashion, and Desire”
Robert Mills (King’s College London)
“Transgender Time and the Middle Ages”

2:45 Break

3:00 Session 6: Textual Bodies and Roundtable
Peggy McCracken (University of Michigan-Ann Arbor), Chair
Joan Cadden (UC Davis)
“Medieval Audiences for Aristotelian Sex”
William Burgwinkle (King’s College, Cambridge)
“On the Verge: Sex and Embodiment”

Roundtable Discussion