

An ethos of noble violence prevailed throughout the early modern period under the rubric of chivalry, often bound up with illicit romances in aristocratic and royal castles. Some of the most celebrated cases of sexual violence, illicit loves and murder in early modern Italy and France unfolded in castles such as those of Gradara and Ferrara – Paolo and Francesca, Ugo and Parisina, Giulio d'Este and Angela Borgia. Castles were also the settings for fictional accounts of similar stories, such as those recounted in Boccaccio's *Decameron*.

This conference, organized by Professor **Diane Ghirardo** (University of Southern California) and Professor **Massimo Ciavolella** (UCLA), engages several perspectives on love and crimes in early modern castles, including family honor and female chastity, female enclosure, architecture and gendered space, power struggles enacted through competitions over women, the role of literature or the arts in these tales, and their representations in subsequent centuries. Presentations address questions such as why these crimes often went unpunished. Was this because they so frequently involved familial honor and female chastity? The connection between guarding female chastity and protecting castles from sieges has also been noted, ritualized in some of the most significant pageants of the sixteenth century. Were crimes not punished precisely because they occurred within the halls of power and often entailed power struggles within families, over female honor? Or, was it purely because the castle was a setting where power was exercised and challenged, particularly against women, hidden from the eyes of outsiders? In most respects, Renaissance castles, or citadels, were indeed, as Leon Battista Alberti described them, small cities set within a larger city, and as such, removed from daily scrutiny by outsiders. The conference also explores how these tales of love and death in Renaissance castles have entered into the popular imagination through subsequent retellings in paintings, on the stage, in literature and in film.

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Advance registration not required. No fee.
Limited seating on a first-come first-served basis.

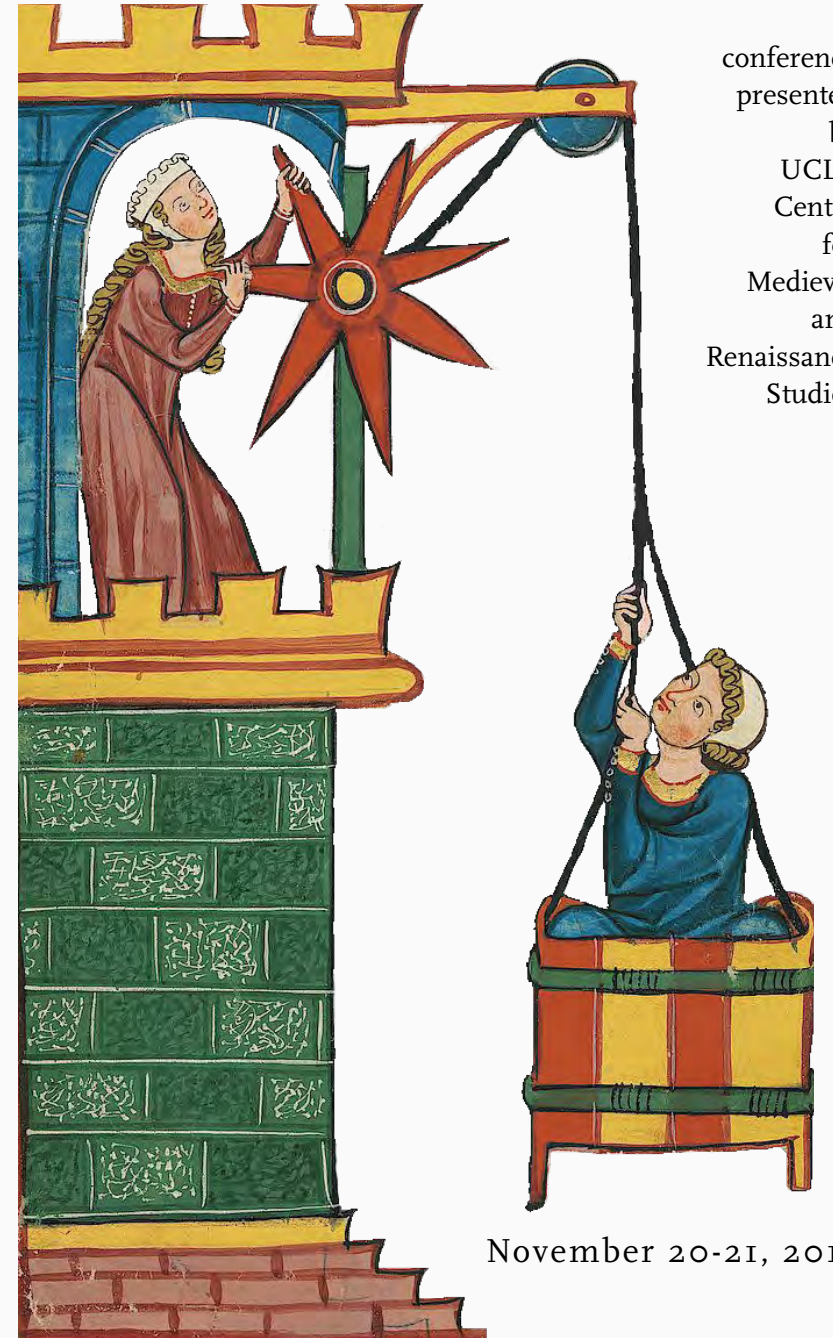
Self-pay parking in lots 2, 3, 4, and 5.
More parking information at
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Love and Death in the Renaissance Castle



A
conference
presented
by
UCLA
Center
for
Medieval
and
Renaissance
Studies

November 20-21, 2015

Love and Death in the Renaissance Castle

Friday, November 20, 2015
UCLA Royce Hall Room 314

1:30 Registration

2:00 Welcoming Remarks
Massimo Ciavolella (Italian, UCLA), CMRS Director
Diane Ghirardo (School of Architecture, University of Southern California)

SESSION I

Heather Sottong (Italian, UCLA), Chair

2:15 “Odd Couples and Incongruous Fortifications: Dynastic Marriages and their Representations in Early Modern Italian Castles”
Guendalina Ajello Mahler (CMRS Associate, UCLA)

3:00 Coffee break

3:15 “‘No one would dare.’ Plots, Deceits and Craving for Power: Henry of Guise and Henry III at the Château of Blois”
Sara Tagliagambara (École Pratiques des Hautes Études, Sorbonne)

4:00 Break

4:15 “Mysterious and Literary Murders (and Suicides) in Medieval Castles”
Antonella Tropeano (University for Foreigners, Perugia)

Images from Codex Manesse, 71v, Kristan of Hamle (medieval lovers pulled in a basket), c. 1305-15.



Saturday, November 21, 2015
UCLA Royce Hall Room 314

8:30 Coffee, fruit, pastries

SESSION II

Brittany Asaro (Italian, California Lutheran University), Chair

9:00 “Secrets in Castles”
Giuseppe Mazzotta (Italian, Yale University)

9:45 Break

10:00 “Arden of Faversham and the Locality of Love and Murder”
Allison Collins (Comparative Literature, UCLA)

10:45 Break

11:00 “Lovers and Demons”
Diane Ghirardo (School of Architecture, University of Southern California)

11:45 Break

12:00 “Gesualdo da Venosa: A Melancholic Murderer”
Remo Bodei (University of Pisa)

12:45 Lunch Break

SESSION III

Christiana Purdy Moudarres (Italian, Yale), Chair

2:00 “The Crime Scene: Who, When, Where, Why? (and How). Or: The Francesca Case”
Roberto Fedi (Italian and Comparative Cultures, University for Foreigners, Perugia)

2:45 Break

3:00 “Ten Castles for One Kiss. The Story of Francesca da Rimini: Between Poetry and Fantasy”
Ferruccio Farina (Centro Internazionale di Studi Francesca da Rimini)

3:45 Break

4:00 “Leigh Hunt’s *The Story of Rimini* (1816): Paolo and Francesca in Regency England”
Deirdre O’Grady (Languages and Literatures, University College Dublin)

4:45 Concluding Remarks

Funding for this program has been provided by members of the UCLA Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies Council and the Centro Internazionale di Studi Francesca da Rimini.

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