Lecture by Blake Gutt: "What Can Medieval Trans Studies Do?"

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2022
1:30-3 P.M. | Cathedral of Learning 501

Offered by the Department of French and Italian
Co-Sponsored by the Medieval and Renaissance Studies and the Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Programs
This lecture is open to all.

In this talk, visiting lecturer Blake Gutt will present the groundwork of his current book project, entitled The Trans Middle Ages, which analyzes medieval European representations of gender transition and transformation through the lens of modern queer and trans theory and traces the lineage between the two.

Gutt will discuss two case studies that illustrate what medieval trans studies can do with both “canonically trans” medieval texts, and texts that are not typically seen as susceptible to a trans reading.

His literary and theoretical approach enacts trans poetics to produce a resonant, atemporal moment of affective connection and trans creativity. The trans Middle Ages is inherently political because acknowledgment of the existence of trans people in the past – and of the value of trans thought in the present – challenges dominant modern narratives of transgender existence.

About the Lecturer:
Blake Gutt (he/him) specializes in medieval French literature and trans studies. His work has been published in Exemplaria, Medieval Feminist Forum, and postmedieval.

From 2018 to 2022, Gutt was a postdoctoral fellow in the Michigan Society of Fellows, affiliated with Michigan’s Romance Languages and Literatures department. He is now visiting lecturer in the Department of French and Italian at Pitt.