

VAGANTES

2026



APRIL 9TH-11TH



University
of Rochester

WELCOME TO ROCHESTER



Greetings all,

We are delighted to welcome you to the 25th Vagantes Conference on Medieval Studies, hosted at the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York. We hope you take some time to explore our home, and enjoy some of the local businesses and restaurants recommended further in the program.

Over the course of this conference, we have a wide variety of panels showcasing the graduate work in our field. Additionally, we have a choral performance, a multi-spectral imaging workshop, a visit to the medieval collections at the Memorial Art Gallery, and a digital history presentation on new approaches to studying the late medieval and early modern world. We especially look forward to hearing from our two keynote speakers: Dr. Honey Meconi, University of Rochester and Dr. Bernardo S. Hinojosa, Stanford University.

Details and scheduling are all enclosed in this program, as well as travel information to aid you in your exploration.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email vagantesboard@gmail.com or speak to one of our organizers directly.

WELCOME TO ROCHESTER

We are delighted to host you in Rochester, and hope that you have a fruitful and generative stay.

All our best,

Brogan C. Hannon, Duke University, Co-Chair of the Board of Directors

I.G.T. Howard, University of North Carolina, Co-Chair of the Board of Directors

Claire Becker, University of Rochester, Current Host Institution Representative

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CONTENTS

Welcome.....	1
In Memoriam: Danielle B. Joyner.....	4
Schedule.....	6
Transportation.....	13
Places to Visit.....	14
Map.....	15
Sponsors.....	16
Finding Your Way/Accessibility.....	18



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IN MEMORIAM: DR. DANIELLE B. JOYNER (1973-2026)

Vagantes has always been first and foremost about community. Founded at Harvard in 2002, it was purposefully designed to encourage connection and collaboration amid the isolation of graduate study. By placing ownership of the conference and its associated network in the hands of graduate student organizers and collaborators across institutions, rather than at a single location, Vagantes empowers graduate students through the joint creation of community. No single institution or individual is the face of Vagantes; its strength and its legacy lie in its commitment to mutual support and exchange.

This ethos reflects the deep commitments of Dr. Danielle Joyner (1973-2026), the founder of Vagantes. Characteristically, she never wanted to take credit for its creation, insisting that the credit go to the generations of graduate students who have nurtured and invested in Vagantes as a site of camaraderie in which early career scholars might pursue rigorous, mutually-supportive, and innovative interdisciplinary scholarship. While she would certainly protest, we commemorate her as the creator of this conference. (Right: Danielle B. Joyner as conference chair, Vagantes 2002, Harvard)



As the labor of community building is almost always invisible and unvalued, it is an honor to shine a long-overdue light on Danielle's legacy in Vagantes.

Danielle B. Joyner was an Associate Professor of Art History at Lawrence University. Prior to her time at Lawrence, she taught at Southern Methodist University and the University of Notre Dame, after receiving her Ph.D. at Harvard. She started her Ph.D. at the University of Toronto, but moved to Harvard to complete her graduate work when her advisor changed institutions.



Aden Kumler, co-organizer of the first Vagantes, describes the creation of the first conference as borne out of Danielle “missing the intense medievalist camaraderie we had known in Toronto - and that she was a major nurturer of. She put so much heart and time and energy into scrapping together the money for the first meeting, and herding all the proverbial cats, and it was really kind of amazing.”

Danielle carried this energy through her entire career, designing collaborative interdisciplinary courses that took students to Spain, France, and New York City; organizing international conferences such as the landmark “Medieval Art History after the Interdisciplinary Turn” (Notre Dame, 2014); serving on the TEAMS Board of Directors, or mentoring undergraduate and graduate students. Her scholarship reflected her deep commitment to interdisciplinarity, focusing on the intersections of the arts, sciences, and different cultures. Her first book, *Painting the Hortus Deliciarum: Medieval Women, Wisdom, and Time*, explored the calendar and the heavens within the context of Hohenburg Abbey. Her more recent scholarship brought together early and high medieval art and ecocriticism in conversations that ranged across landscapes medieval and modern. Whether in her research, teaching, friendship, mentorship, or community engagement, Danielle showed up with unmatched curiosity, generosity, intellectual rigor, and sheer joy and kindness. May we all be inspired by her memory and legacy.

SCHEDULE: THURSDAY, APRIL 9TH

See page 17 for directions...

8:00am-8:45am Registration and breakfast (Robbins)

8:45am-9:00am Opening Remarks by Claire Becker and Emmarae Stein

9:00am-10:45am Panel 1: Chaucer and The Canterbury Tales (Robbins)

Chair: Emmarae Stein

- *Christopher Yeung (Virginia Tech University)* - "And the Word Was Made Flesh, And Dwelt Among Us": The Tensions of Gender in Chaucer's The Prioress's Tale
- *Deepali Dhiman (Virginia Tech University)* - Morality, the Justice System and the Devil in Canterbury Tales
- *Julia Salkind (Marquette University)* - "The Pendulum's Swing: Violent Exchanges Between Male Objects and the Female Body in the Wife of Bath's Prologue"

10:45am-11:00am Break

11:00am-12:15pm Panel 2: Devotional Art and Visual Culture (Robbins)

Chair: Juan Espinosa

- *Rebekah Utian (Case Western Reserve University)* - "Lines of Sight: Mediated Encounters of Saint Francis' Stigmatization in Late Medieval Manuscript Illuminations"
- *Kelly Esposito (Hood College)* - Multisensory Symbolism in Hildegard of Bingen's Nutmeg Remedy
- *Francesca Magdalena Edwards Rentsch (Cornell University)* - But where's the Golden Statue? The Idol of Nebuchadnezzar in the Theodore Psalter
- *Anthony Del Aversano (The Ohio State University)* - Queering the Holy Court: Angel Attendants in Late Medieval Painting

SCHEDULE: THURSDAY, APRIL 9TH

12:15pm-1:45pm Peer Mentoring Lunch (Gamble)

1:45pm-3:00pm Medieval Manuscript Session with Dr. Anna Siebach-Larsen (Rare Books and Special Collections) and Mingle with Medievalists (Robbins Library)

3:00pm-3:15pm Break

3:15pm-4:30pm Panel 3: Christian-Islamic Encounters and Representations (Gamble)

Chair: Mauricio Garza

- *Zachary Young (University of Florida)* - 'Idolatry Ceased from the Whole World:' Pablo de Santa Maria's 15th Century Global Perspective
- *Walter Evans (University of Rochester)* - Between Knowledge and Misunderstanding: The Representation of Islam and the Naming of Saracens in the *Chronica Adefonsi Imperatoris*
- *Steven L. McCafferty (Columbia University)* - Translators and their Prologues
- *Liliana Lopez (Rice University)* - After the Tradition of Men: Anti-intellectualism and Non-Christian Knowledge at the Court of Alfonso X

4:30pm-4:45pm Transportation to Christ Church

5:00pm-6:00pm Keynote lecture, "Performing Hildegard" by Dr. Honey Meconi with Q&A (Christ Church Rochester)

6:15-7:15pm Choral Concert, "O virga ac diadema: Hildegard and the Living Light" Dr. Honey Meconi, Dr. Stephen Kennedy, and the Christ Church Schola Cantorum (Christ Church Rochester)

7:15-8:00pm Reception (Christ Church Guild Room)

SCHEDULE: FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH

8:00am-9:00am Registration and breakfast (Robbins)

9:00am-10:15am Panel 4: Mysticism, Theology, and Spiritual Experience (Gamble)

Chair: Claire Becker

- *Nico Houser (University of Tennessee)* - Deconstructing the Godhead: Margery Kempe and the Cloud of Unknowing
- *James Nowak (University of Toronto)* - “[C]ontrariis motibus” and “contrario motu” in Nicholas of Cusa’s *De Visione Dei* (1453): Hearing ‘Contrary Motion’ in the Famous ‘Visual’ Exercise
- *Diana Davis-Hartley (University of Rochester)* - “Alle shall be wele” for “alle that shall be saved”: the selective universalism of Julian of Norwich

11:00am-12:30pm Tour of medieval collections at Memorial Art Gallery with curator Dr. Nancy Norwood

12:30pm-1:30pm Open lunch hour in the Neighborhood of the Arts

2:00pm-3:15pm Panel 5: Identity and Transformation (Gamble)

Chair: Juan Espinosa

- *Abigail L. Page (University of Tennessee)* - Embodiment and the Environment: Transecology in Marie de France’s *Yonec*
- *Danielle Muller (University of Cambridge)* - Jöttnar, Troll, and Finnar: Depictions of Sámi women in Haralds saga hárfagra, Ketils saga hængs, and Hrólfs saga kraka
- *Jesse Blake (University of Notre Dame)* - Ring-Marked: Gendered Tools of Warfare

SCHEDULE: FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH

3:15pm-3:30pm Break

3:30pm-4:45pm Panel 6: Travel, Ecology, and Cross-Cultural Contact (Gamble)

Chair: Diana Davis-Hartley

- *Giuseppe Cuscunà (Harvard University)* - Medieval Pilgrimage Literature: Toward a Literary Reframing of the Corpus
- *Daniel Tetreault (Cornell University)* - Calls to Angels and Authority: Defining the Role of Christian Ritual Elements in *Liber Albedachi*
- *Gabrielle DaCosta-Yulman (Columbia University)* - "Quiescent Witness": Pearl and the Black Death

4:45pm-5:00pm Break

5:00pm-6:00pm A presentation from Dr. Mackenzie Cooley (Hamilton College): "One World or Many? Rethinking Early Modern Encounters" (Robbins)

Vagantes Board Dinner to follow.



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SCHEDULE: SATURDAY APRIL 11TH

9am: Vagantes board meeting at Staybridge Suites

10:00am-11:15am Breakfast & Panel 7: Bodies and Boundaries (Robbins)

Chair: Daniel Kephart

- *Hannah Williams (University of North Carolina)* - Subtle and Diligent, Magnificent and Humble: Smallness in the Medieval Imagination
- *Leonardo Umberto Conti Marchetti (Sapienza Universita di Roma)* - Underwater viewing: transparencies, bodies and aquatic interactions in medieval illuminated manuscripts depicting Alexander the Great
- *Caroline Barraco (Johns Hopkins University)* - Old Bones and New Saints: Medieval Materiality in Early Modern Patronage

11:15am-11:30am Break

11:30am-12:30pm Multispectral Imaging Presentation with Dr. Katie Albers-Morris

12:30pm-2:00pm Lunch (Robbins)



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SCHEDULE: SATURDAY APRIL 11TH

2:00pm-3:15pm Panel 8: Power, Authority, and Social Order
(Humanities Room D)

Chair: Kelsy Morrison

- *Connor Franzen (University of Chicago)* - Barbara Sanguine, Romana Studio: Romanitas and the Structuring of the Merovingian Social Nexus
- *James Terrasi (Stanford University)* - Jurisdiction and Ambiguity: Legal Pluralism and Notarial Authorization in Hospitaller Rhodes
- *Curtis Rager (Fordham University)* - The Limit of a Complaint: Understanding Judges and Their Decisions in Eleventh- and Twelfth-Century Western France
- *Thomas Warren (Fordham University)* - “Stemmata regum nostrorum profluxerunt”: Genealogical Typology and the Construction of a Mythical Past from the Present in the Gesta Danorum of Saxo Grammaticus

3:15pm-3:30pm Break



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SCHEDULE: SATURDAY APRIL 11TH

3:30pm-4:20pm Panel 9: Literary Interpretation and Reception (Humanities Center Room D)

Chair: Mauricio Garza

- *Jessica Wright (University of Tennessee)* - Reading the Forest: Medieval Thought and Environmental Allegory in Edmund Spenser's Faerie Queene
- *Teddy E. Scheurman (University of Rochester)* - Digital Humanities and Open Educational Resources
- *Kelsy Morrison (University of Rochester)* - Reframing Minnesang: Nationalism, Morality, and Feminism in Mathilde and Richard Kralik von Meyrswalden's Opera Unter den Linden
- *I.G.T. Howard (University of North Carolina)* - A London Grocer and the Marking of Late Medieval Public Culture in Huntington Library HM 130

4:20pm-4:45pm Break

4:45pm-6:00pm Keynote: Dr. Bernardo S. Hinojosa (Stanford University) - "Time, Change, and the Poetics of Observation in Late Medieval England" (Hawkins-Carlson Room).

7:00pm Banquet at La Luna



Vagantes explicitus est...



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TRANSPORTATION

Getting to campus

From ROC airport

The quickest route involves taking a taxi/lyft/uber to campus. The airport is only around 10 minutes from campus, and the rates are generally ~\$18-20.

For parking information on campus, please see this link:

<https://www.rochester.edu/parking/visitors-university/>

The conference will take place entirely on River Campus: Primary academic campus. The central hub will be in the Rossell-Hope Robbins Library, which is on the fourth-floor of the Rush-Rhees Library. There will be ample signs and guides to lead you to the right place.

For maps of campus, please see this link:

<https://www.rochester.edu/maps/>

Getting around Rochester

The easiest way to get from the University of Rochester's campus to Downtown Rochester is using the Orange Line shuttle, which meets outside the bus loop of the Rush-Rhees Library. You can see the schedule here:

<https://www.rochester.edu/parking/shuttles/orange-line-spring-2026/>

If you are staying at the Staybridge Suites near campus, you can reach Rush-Rhees Library on the Gold Line. The U of R Gold Line shuttle (one of the University's free campus shuttles) stops at Brooks Crossing at Genesee St. & Brooks Ave., which is right across the street from Staybridge Suites. This stop is served during weekday daytime service and also included on evening routes into the 19th Ward. You can see the schedule here:

<https://www.rochester.edu/parking/shuttles/gold-line-spring-2026/>

PLACES TO VISIT

Coffee and Tea Shops

- Bookeater
- Java's Café
- Fuego Coffee
- Melo
- Ugly Duck Coffee
- Happy Earth Tea
- Kopani Coffee

Restaurants

- Cure Bar and Restaurant
- Vern's
- Szechuan Opera
- Angelina's
- Red Fern (vegan and budget friendly)
- The Owl House (vegan & gluten-free friendly)
- Strangebird
- Dogtown (vegan options available)
 - Try a Rochester classic, the garbage plate!
- Good Luck

Local Gems:

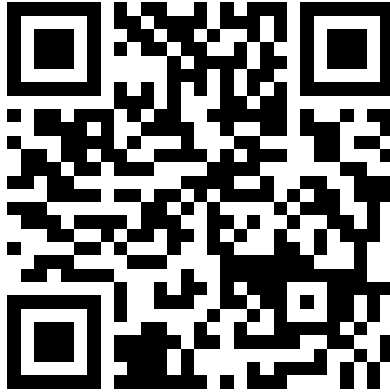
- ARTISANworks
- The Strong Museum of Play
- Lamberton Conservatory
- George Eastman Museum
- Record Archive
- Memorial Art Gallery



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MAP OF ROCHESTER

For an interactive digital map, please scan the QR code below; or visit rochester.edu/maps/explore/



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THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



- The MAA/GSC Grant for Innovation and Community Building
- The Bibliographical Society of America
- The Humanities Project at the University of Rochester
- The Rossell-Hope Robbins Library & Koller-Collins Center
- The History Department (University of Rochester)
- The English Department (University of Rochester)
- The Musicology Department (University of Rochester)
- The Modern Languages & Cultures Department (University of Rochester)
- The Visual & Cultural Studies Department (University of Rochester)
- The Office of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs (University of Rochester)
- Duke University

FINDING YOUR WAY

Rush Rhees Library - The domed building which sits at the heart of the University of Rochester. Rush Rhees is home to *The Robbins Library*, *The Gamble Room*, *Rare Books*, and *The Humanities Center*.

- *The Robbins Library*: A reference library located on the fourth floor of Rush Rhees.
- *The Gamble Room*: A conference room located on the third floor of Rush Rhees.
- *The Humanities Center*: A series of conference rooms located on the second floor of Rush Rhees.
- *Rare Books and Special Collections*: An academic department located on the second floor of Rush Rhees.
- *The Hawkins-Carlson Room*: A large room accessible via the front lobby on the first floor of Rush Rhees.

Christ Church Rochester: A historic Episcopalian church located on East Avenue in Downtown Rochester.

Memorial Art Gallery: Part of the University of Rochester, the gallery (locally known as “the MAG”) can be found on University Avenue just to the east of Downtown Rochester.

La Luna: The site for our closing banquet, located at 60 Browns Race, Rochester, NY 14614.



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FINDING YOUR WAY

Accessibility: Unfortunately, due to the age of many campus buildings, the most accessible paths can be circuitous. Please reach out to conference organizers for guidance on the most direct and accessible routes to the various conference rooms.

A map highlighting accessible paths can be found at library.rochester.edu/about/maps-and-directions

Accessibility directions for Rush Rhees Library: Enter Rush Rhees Library via the Library Road entrance (Ground Floor). When you enter the Library, take the elevators directly to your left to the first floor. You are now in Gleason Library. Turn right upon exiting the elevators and follow the hallway to the central lobby (look for the “Q&I Desk”). The main lobby elevator will provide access to the other conference spaces in Rush Rhees Library, such as the Robbins Library.

All-gender restrooms: These facilities are located on the first floor of Rush Rhees Library, in a hallway to left of the Q&I desk. Questions and Information staff and conference organizers will happily answer any questions.



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