

Big Fish Tales

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Presentation:

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Time: Friday, 24 May 2019, 18.15 – 20.00

Abstract:

Medieval saints' lives can provide access to the medieval understanding of and expectations about the natural world and to medieval ways of telling stories about nature. This process is part of the cultural work of establishing and understanding discussions about moral values, sanctity, and socio-economic behaviors, and rivers appear frequently in these conversations. In this talk, I will discuss archetypal "big fish" stories, including Arnold of Metz' discovery of a lost ring, miraculous catches, and a fabulous tale of a fish protected by nuns and a little lamb. Such fish tales, told and retold over centuries, help us connect the medieval and modern imagination.