

MORE MEDIEVAL CROSSOVER: A WIDOW'S BOOKS AND THE SHAPING OF DEVOTIONAL PRACTICE IN LATE MEDIEVAL GERMANY



**DIENSTAG 6.
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VIA ZOOM



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Prof. Sara S. Poor

Princeton University

What would we as scholars do without categories? Our discipline and our work is rife with them, whether temporal, geo-political, linguistic, generic, gender, spiritual, social, etc. However, the boundaries between these categories are rarely fixed or secure. How can we really distinguish lay from religious, for example, when we regularly encounter the designation of “lay religious” in our sources? This paper explores the crossover and resulting disintegration of categories that accompanies a deep dive into the 18 books a widowed lay woman (Kunigund Schreiberin, d. 1470) brought to the convent of St. Catherine’s in Nuremberg in 1429. The use of these books to renew and improve the sisters’ practice of table reading further substantiates previous observations about the influence of the laity on 15th-century religious reform. But more compellingly, these books in their materiality give us a tangible proximity to the intricacies of medieval women’s intellectual lives as they were being lived.



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