

## **Imagining the Patient Through the Ages: Medieval and Modern**

Mondays, 1:30-3:30

How has medical intervention been configured over the centuries? What does this medical intervention look like over the course of various life stages? With a comparative reading of medieval and modern/contemporary texts, this reading group sets out to answer these questions. We will consider what 'patient' means in each period, and how that understanding has changed in the intervening centuries. This group will take an interdisciplinary approach, incorporating ideas and methodologies from Comparative Literature studies and the History of Medicine.

Group members are welcome to include secondary sources or suggest supplemental reading(s) or other media.

Monday, October 16

### **Introductions**

#### **Childbirth**

"Parturition," Mina Loy

Lea Olson, 'Wellcome MS. 632: heavenly protection during childbirth'

Excerpts from John of Lancaster, *Le Livre de Seyntz Medicines*

Monday, October 30

### **Visionary & Occult Experiences**

Excerpts from *Hirslanden Notebooks*, H.D.

Excerpts from the Book of Margery Kempe

Monday, November 13

### **Mental Health**

Excerpts from *Artistry of the mentally ill; a contribution to the psychology and psychopathology of configuration*, Hans Prinzhorn (visual art)

"Poems for Psychoanalysis," Elizabeth Brewster

Nigel Wireker, *Speculum Stultorum*: The story of Brunellus the donkey

Monday, November 27

### **Aging**

"Old Women and Love," "The Old in One Another's Arms," Kay Smith

"The Iconotrophic Instant," Alden Nowlan

William Langland, *Piers Plowman* (Vision 8, Passus 20)

Monday, December 11

**Death & Dying**

“Remediated Conscience,” Adalgisa Nery

“Doves,” Robert Duncan

Chaucer, *Pardoner’s Tale*

*Treatise on Saint Patrick’s Purgatory*

For more information, please contact:

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