

MEDIEVAL UNDERGROUNDS

May 5–7, 2024 ↗ University of Toronto



Georg Agricola: *De Re Metallica*. Basel, 1556, p. 74. ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, Rar 3119. <https://doi.org/10.3931/e-rara-11131>.

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Germanic Languages & Literatures
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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BOCHUM

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024

9:30 am Coffee & Pastries

10:00 am **WELCOME**
Markus Stock, University of Toronto
Medieval Undergrounds: Exterranean Entanglements

10:30 am **I. SUBTERRANEAN SECRECY**
Chair: Markus Stock, University of Toronto
Anne Alwis, University of Kent
The Cave and the Tomb: Ascetic Underworlds in Late Antiquity
Maximilian Wick, Goethe University Frankfurt
“An des wazzeres uzpulza”: A Subterranean River as Medium of Telecommunication in the Early Middle High German *Merigarto*
Florian Geddes, University of Toronto
Closed Doors and Dwarven Secrets: Laurin’s Mountain Kingdom

12:15 pm Lunch

1:15 pm **II. MYTHOLOGIES OF THE UNDERGROUND**
Chair: Cordula Kropik, University of Bayreuth
Christopher Miller, University of Notre Dame
Pulling Back the Earthen Veil: Under Ground as Space of Translation
Wynn Martin, University of Toronto
“Einn jötunn kom at gera þetta hválf”: Cultural Translation of Caves, Giants, and Stone Edifices in *Tristrams saga ok Ísöndar*
Irit Kleiman, Boston University
Appetite and the Underworld

3:00 pm Coffee

3:15–
5:00 pm **PRIMARY TEXT READING WORKSHOP**
Chair: Hannah Robinson, University of Toronto
Paulus Niavis: *Iudicium Iovis* (c. 1495)

MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024

9:30 am Coffee & Pastries

10:00 am **III. MEDIEVAL UNDERGROUNDS AND SPIRITUALITY**

Chair: Ann Marie Rasmussen, University of Waterloo, Ontario

Laura Moncion, University of Toronto

Inwards and Upwards: The Spiritual Spaces of Mary Magdalene's Cave and the Recluse's Cell

Julia Rütthemann, École des hautes études en sciences sociales

"Abgrunt" (Abyss) and "Herzengrunt" (Ground of the Heart): Maternal Aspects in Courtly and Mystical Conceptions of the Self

11:10 am Coffee

11:30 am **IV. EPISTEMOLOGICAL AND ECOLOGICAL ENTANGLEMENTS IN MEDIEVAL NARRATIVES**

Chair: Ann Marie Rasmussen, University of Waterloo, Ontario

Walker Horsfall, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

The Magnetic Mountain as Epistemic Marker in Medieval German Literature

Alan Montroso, University of Maryland

"Nobot an olde caue": Ecophobia and Ecological Entanglement in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

12:40 pm Lunch

2:00-4:00 PM, KEYNOTE

Heidi V. Scott, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Tropical Nature and the Subterranean in Early Colonial Spanish America

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

V. PRE-INDUSTRIAL EXTRACTIVE ENTANGLEMENTS

9:00 am Coffee & Pastries

9:30 am **SUBSOIL, NATURE, AND COSMOS IN EARLY MODERN DISCOURSES**

Chair: Sophie Jordan, University of Toronto

Tina Asmussen, German Mining Museum Bochum

Soils and Souls: Mining and the Cosmologies of Mineral Resources in Pre-Industrial Europe

Aleksandra Prica, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Spectacle of the Unseen Depth: Athanasius Kircher Explores the Underground

10:40 am Coffee

11:00 am **MINING LAWS AND THE MATERIALITY OF MINING IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE**

Chair: Sophie Jordan, University of Toronto

Lena Asrih, German Mining Museum Bochum

Splitting the Underground: Mining Laws and the Appropriation of Geo-Resources from the 12th to the 15th Century

Bettina Bildhauer, University of St Andrews

Underground Treasures: Extracting Hidden Gemstones and Precious Metals in Medieval and Early Modern Literary Imaginations

12:10 pm Lunch

1:10 pm **VISUALLY EXPERIENCING THE UNDERGROUND IN THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD**

Chair: Hannah Robinson, University of Toronto

Christina Lechtermann, Ruhr University Bochum

Colours of the Underworld

Thomas Morel, University of Wuppertal

“You Can’t See Through Stone”: Trust, Expertise, and the Underground in the Early Modern Period

2:20–
2:30 pm Conclusion