

# WM Feminist Research Institute Presents



“On Saints,  
Sinners, and Sex  
in Medieval  
Apocalypses”

Natalie Latteri,  
Ph.D. Candidate,  
History

The topic is part of Natalie E. Latteri’s dissertation project, “Taznut (Whoredom) and Teshuvah (Repentance) in Solomon’s Apocalypse,” which analyzes the text and context of a mid-twelfth-century Hebrew narrative known as The Chronicle of Solomon bar Samson. In his text, Solomon wrote about perceived reasons for and Jewish responses to the Rhineland pogroms of 1096 that claimed the lives of thousands of Jews through homicide and suicide. Though it depicts historical events, employs contemporary historical methodology, and scholars designate it as a chronicle, Ms. Latteri argues that Solomon’s narrative does not represent a linear “history” but an apocalypse, in which the author critiqued the assimilationist tendencies among the generation of 1096 as well as his own society through the metaphor of whoredom; suggested that past moments of potential messianic redemption had not come to fruition because of Jewish assimilation into the broader Christian society; and called for reform as a means of ushering in a new and final era.



Monday April 25, 2016 @ 12:00pm SUB Cherry/Silver