

LECTURES

by **Prof. Carolyn LARRINGTON**

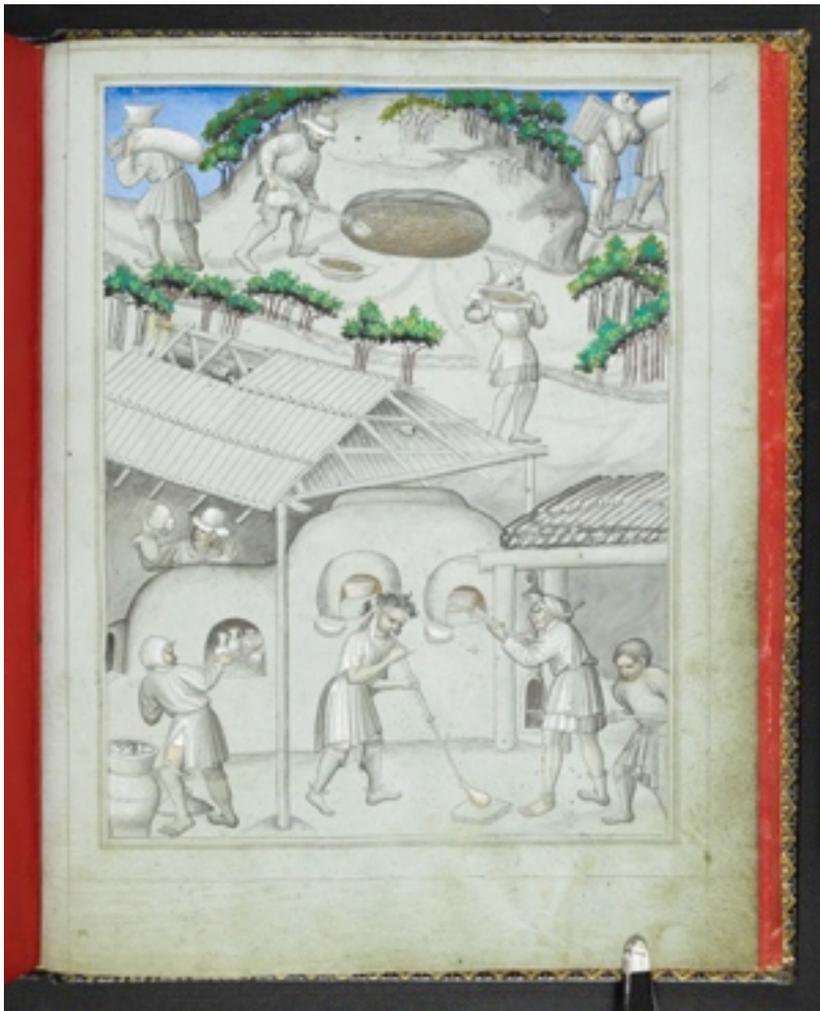
University of Oxford

and **Prof. Stephanie TRIGG**

University of Melbourne

Thursday, 30 August 2018, at 17h15

Espace Colladon, 2 rue Jean-Daniel-Colladon, 1204 Genève



Glass-making

Bohemia

Master of the
Mandeville Travels

The British Library

17h15 Professor Carolyne Larrington

BODIES AND EMOTION IN MIDDLE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Professor Larrington will discuss some of the theoretical issues involved in identifying and uncovering emotion in Middle English secular literary texts. How far can we be confident that as modern readers we know when emotion is in play when reading from gestures and other bodily manifestations? And what other indices of emotion should we consider when thinking about medieval emotion as literary scholars?

18h Professor Stephanie Trigg

VITREOUS TEMPORALITY

Medieval literature often treats glass as a source of wonder, like the fantastic temples of glass that appear in literary dreams by Chaucer and Lydgate; or the use of glass as an image to describe the beauty of women's eyes; or more dramatically, as a simile to describe the shiny scales of a dragon (*Bevis of Hamtoun*; Lydgate's *Assembly of the Gods*). But glass also appears in more homely images and contexts, while in the *Canon's Yeoman's Tale*, it is an element in the worthless powder made "outher of chalk, outher of glas,/ Or somewhat ells, was not worth a flye," used by the alchemist to deceive the gullible priest. Professor Trigg will explore the contrasting discourses of knowledge, mystery and wonder that circulate around glass and glass-making in the Middle Ages. Her lecture will draw on Jonathan Gil Harris' vocabulary to explore the "polychronicity" and "multi-temporality" of glass, as a material substance that carries with it both its own transfigurative origins, and its capacity to undergo further change when it breaks, cracks, shatters or melts.