



University
of Victoria

Lansdowne Lecture



DR. LAURA ASHE

Worcester College, University of Oxford

Twelfth-Century Transformations

Sunday, 25 September | 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Harry Hickman Building, Room 105

Presented by the [Department of English](#)
and the [Faculty of Humanities](#)

Between the mid-eleventh and the late twelfth centuries, the ways in which people perceived, understood, and explored their places in the world were drastically and irreversibly changed. These changes have long been recognized, and scholars in various fields have described their effects on society and culture. The transformations of this period include the appearance and rise of what is now known as affective piety, religious experience characterized by extreme emotional engagement; the corresponding change in theological focus from God the Father to the suffering, loving Christ; the theological and psychological turn to interiority, and a newly confessional sense of selfhood; the appearance of new secular ideologies of chivalry, of love, of individuality, and cultural and social elitism; finally, the development of literary fiction. It is my argument that these are all parts of a whole, and that their origins can be traced and explained in terms of one another.

Drawing on the research for my forthcoming book, the *Oxford English Literary History vol. 1: 1000-1350*, this lecture will unprecedentedly seek to explain the mechanisms of this vast, Europe-wide transformation.

ADDITIONAL EVENT

[Paying Court](#)

Monday, 26 September | 3:00-5:00 p.m. | David Strong Building, Room C108

Dr. Ashe will host a seminar for interested faculty and students of all levels, discussing medieval notions of courts and courtesy, chivalry, cultural capital, and real economic value. A short advance reading will be available. Please inquire at the Department of English for more details, or contact Dr. Adrienne Williams Boyarin: aboyarin@uvic.ca.

UVic's Public Lectures Series features accomplished individuals from a vast array of academic and research endeavours. As host of this lecture series, UVic continues its commitment to making a vital impact on people, places and the planet.

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