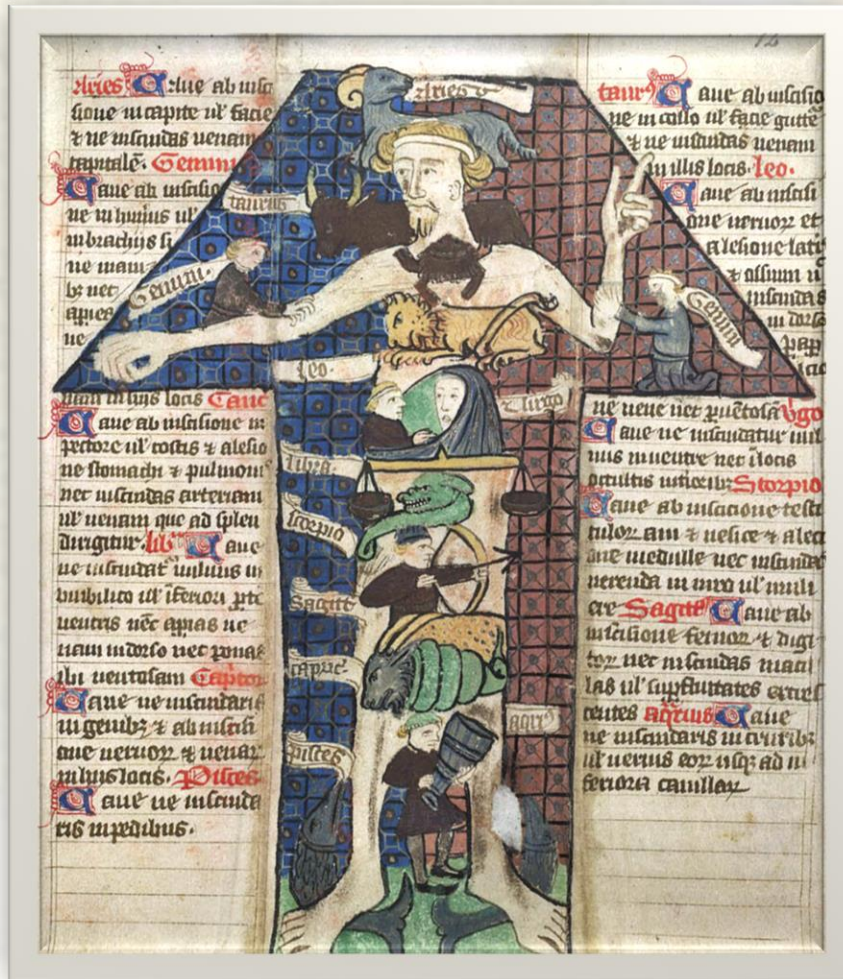


SYMPTOMATIC SUBJECTS IN LATE MEDIEVAL ENGLAND

Wednesday, May 28, HMNSS 1500, 4pm



Julie Orlemanski is an assistant professor in the Department of English Language and Literature at the University of Chicago and Mellon Fellow at the Huntington Library for the 2013-14 academic year. She is completing work on her first monograph, *Symptomatic Subjects: Bodies, Signs, and Narratives in Late Medieval England*. In this talk, she will discuss the ways in which Middle English writers used the vocabulary of physiology and disease to articulate the “distributed” nature of human agency – that is, the many causes that help to determine action, identity, and self-expression. Between the arrival of the Black Death, in 1348, and the start of English printing, in 1476, widespread efforts to compile and translate medical knowledge changed how embodiment was understood. Through the examples of several late medieval stories, including the *Knights Tale* and the *Testament of Cresseid*, Professor Orlemanski will suggest how “symptomatic subjects” took shape in the narrative interplay between symptoms and speech-acts, flesh and language.