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is pleased to invite you to its next Seminar

Frances Courtney Kneupper

Senior Core Fellow at IAS CEU

Beware of False Prophets

The Contest over Prophecy in the Late Middle Ages

Wednesday, 17 February, 2021 11:00 a.m. – online

What is a prophecy and who is a prophet? Another way to ask this is, “what does God communicate to humans” and “who is able to receive this communication”? This lecture considers these questions and the vigorous debate surrounding them in the later Middle Ages. One new phenomenon was the emergence of non-elite laywomen who asserted that, though they lacked education or clerical training, they possessed secret knowledge of future events. Yet, such claims to prophecy, made independently of traditional authorities, elicited strong objections. Some male clerics questioned the legitimacy of lay prophets, even insisting that God would not speak to women. The clash between these positions had far-reaching repercussions, prompting reconsiderations of who could possess authority on spiritual matters, and the nature of humanity’s relationship with the divine.

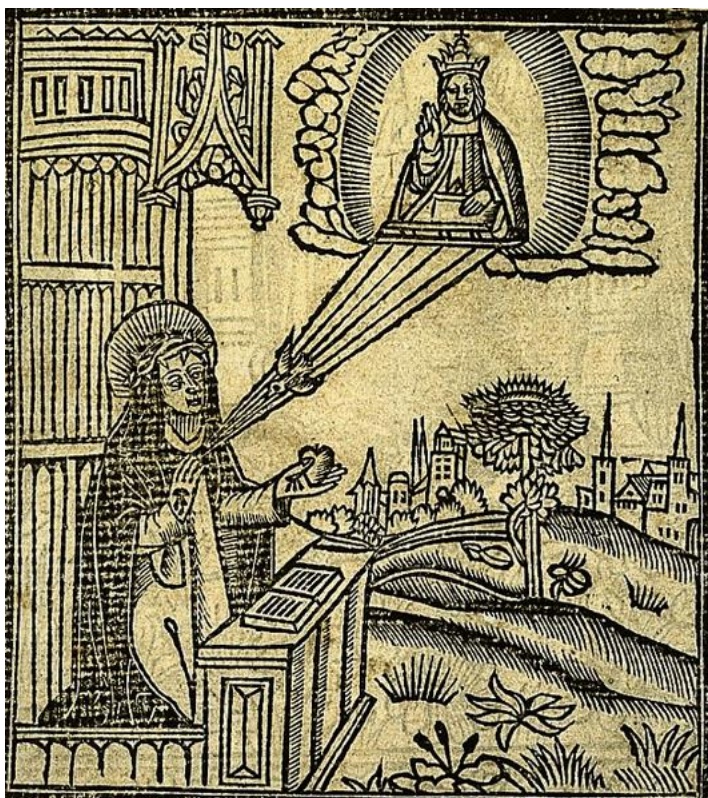


Image: Wikimedia commons: Saint Catherine of Siena

Frances Courtney Kneupper is a scholar of late medieval spirituality and Associate Professor of History at The University of Mississippi. She was a junior research fellow at the International Consortium for Research in the Humanities "Fate, Freedom and Prognostication" at the University Erlangen-Nuremberg in 2013. Her book, *The Empire at the End of Time: Identity and Reform in Late Medieval Germany*, was published by Oxford University Press in 2016. She has published several articles, including “Combating Heretical Calculations of the End Times: The 1465 *Quaestio quodlibetalis* of Johannes Dorsten,” in *New Perspectives on Late Medieval Heresy*,” and the “The Wirsberger Brothers: Contesting Spiritual Authority Through Prophecy,” in *Peoples of the Apocalypse/Völker der Endzeit*. She is currently working on a monograph on the contest over prophecy in the Late Middle Ages.

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