

## WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2025

10:00–11:00 Coffee and Registration

11:00–11:30 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
Room 1620

Associate Professor Esther De Leeuw, Vice-Head of the English Department,  
the conference organisers

11:30–12:30 Keynote 1  
Room 1620, Chair: Denis Renevey

**Nicholas Watson (Harvard University), 'Margery Kempe's Prayer: "Qwyk and gredy to hy contemplacyon in God"'**

12:30–14:00 Lunch in Géopolis canteen

14:00–15:30 Parallel session 1

**Session 1A: Varieties of Discernment in the *Cloud*-author**  
Room 1628, Chair: Ian Johnson

Amy Appleford (Boston University), 'Who are the Devil's Contemplatives in the *Cloud of Unknowing*?'

Yea Jung Park (Saint Louis University), "'Semely withinne and withoutyn": Seemliness, Interiority, and Social Discernment in the *Cloud*-corpus'

Lorenzo Zaggia (University of Padua), "'Lat þe Proue Witnes": Choosing Discretion in the *Epistle of the Discretion of Stirrings*'

**Session 1B: Apophatic Diagrams and Images of Christ**  
Room 1620, Chair: Juliette Vuille

Mary Dzon (University of Tennessee), 'The Faces of Christ in Later Medieval English Spirituality'

Fred Morgan (University of Oxford), "'Hyȝe contemplacion of þe godhed": Tracing the Flight of Souls in the Illustrations of Love's *Mirror*'

Alexis Francesca Statz (St John's College, Cambridge), "'Aliqua in me lumina": Pseudo-Dionysian Contemplation in the Writings of Guillaume de Deguileville'

15:30–16:00      Tea break in Atrium 2200

16:00–17:30      Parallel session 2

**Session 2A:      Marguerite Porete's Middle English *Mirrou* and its Glosses**  
Room 1628, Chair: Tamás Karáth

Diana Davis (University of Rochester), 'Polishing the *Mirrou*: Articulating the Distinction between Porete's Text and M.N.'s Glosses'

Juan Pablo Espinosa (University of Rochester), 'Correcting the Heretical in M.N.'s English Translation of Marguerite Porete's *Le Mirouer des simples âmes*'

Olena Danylovyh (University of Lausanne), 'The *Myrrour*'s Dark Pedagogy, Clarified by M.N.'

**Session 2B:      Pseudo-Dionysius in Commentary, Hagiography, and Liturgy**  
Room 1620, Chair: Alastair Minnis

Boyd Taylor Coolman (Boston College), 'Re-Visiting the Influence of Thomas Gallus on the *Cloud*-author'

Antje Chan (McGill University), 'Pseudo-Dionysius' *Ecclesiastical Hierarchy* and the Liturgy in Late Middle English Writings'

Steven Rozenski (University of Rochester), 'Developing Negatives: Apophaticism and the Middle English *Golden Legend*'

18:00–19:30      Welcome Apéro

## THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2025

9:00–10:00      Keynote 2  
Room 1620, Chair: Rory Critten

**Katherine Zieman (University of Poitiers), 'Unnatural Orientations: Attention and Curiosity in Apophatic Meditation'**

10:00–10:30      Coffee break in Atrium 2200

10:30-12:00      Parallel session 3

**Session 3A:      Strategies of Linguistic Apophasis in the *Cloud*-author**

Room 1620, Chair: Amy Appleford

Ian Johnson (University of St Andrews), "'I wote neuer": Instances of a Repertoire of Time-Denial in *The Cloud of Unknowing*'

Tamás Karáth (Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Budapest), 'What Can One Hear in the *Cloud*?'

Andrew Maxwell (Harvard University), 'To Speak Without Speaking: Apophasis and the Poetics of Voice in the Works of the *Cloud*-author'

**Session 3B:      Women Writers and Readers at Syon and Beyond**

Room 1628, Chair: Diana Denissen

Mireille Le Berre (University of Lausanne), "'No word in oure langage worthi", "Nether ende nere mesure nere nombyr": Cataphasis and Apophasis in *Orysons and Meditacions*'

Hannah Lucas (University of Cambridge), 'Close, But Not Deep: Attentive Reading at Syon Abbey'

Anne Mouron (University of Oxford), 'Mechtild's Revelation: Beyond Words and into "Nought"'

12:00-13:30      Lunch in Géopolis canteen

13:30-15:00      Parallel session 4

**Session 4A:      Walter Hilton in Dialogue**

Room 1620, Chair: Michael Sargent

Joshua Easterling (Murray State University), 'Liberty and Nothing: Christ in Walter Hilton'

Joseph Romano (Columbia University), 'The "Lightsome Darkness" Re-Considered: Critique of the *Cloud*-author's Apophaticism in Hilton's Incarnational Theology of Contemplation'

Katherine Turley (University of Cambridge), "'Yet this passing over is mystical and most secret'" (*Itinerarium mentis in Deum* 7:4): The Reception of Bonaventure's Apophatic Teaching in Late Medieval England'

**Session 4B:       The Dynamics of Spiritual Space**

Room 1628, Chair: Marleen Cré

Annie Sutherland (University of Oxford), 'Neither Here nor There - The Apophatic Anchorhold'

Raphaela Rohrhofer (University of St Andrews), 'The Apophatic Julian, New Directions'

Christiania Whitehead (University of Lausanne), 'Introducing *De Adhaerendo Deo*'

15:00-15:30       Tea break in Atrium 2200

15:30-16:30       Parallel Session 5

**Session 5A:       Julian's Apophatic Theology**

Room 1620, Chair: Nicholas Watson

Alastair Minnis (Yale University), 'How to make all things well: Julian of Norwich's question put within the big picture'

Louise Nelstrop (PthU/MBIT/St John's College, Oxford), 'Imagination as an Apophatic Communal Technique of Soteriological Interpretation in Julian's *Revelations of Divine Love*'

**Session 5B:       John of Ruusbroec in England**

Room 1628, Chair: Steven Rozenski

Rob Faesen (KU Leuven/Tilburg University), "'The Rich Wandering in Supra-Essential Love": Ruusbroec's Apophatic Theology in his Treatise *The Sparkling Stone* (*Vanden Blinkende Steen*)'

John Arblaster (Ruusbroec Institute, University of Antwerp), 'Gained in Translation? Apophatic Additions to John of Ruusbroec's *Sparkling Stone* in the Middle English Translation'

17:00-18:00      Keynote 3  
Room 1620, Chair: Christiania Whitehead

**Ryan Perry (University of Kent), "[W]ritynges of þese hiȝe goostli felynges": The Circulation of Contemplative Writings in Fifteenth-Century London'**

**19:30      Conference Dinner at the Restaurant du Théâtre**  
*Avenue du Théâtre 12*  
*1005 Lausanne*

## **FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2025**

9:30-10:30      Keynote 4  
Room 1612, Chair: Olena Danylovych

**Marleen Cré (Université Catholique de Louvain, Saint-Louis Bruxelles), 'Writing in Exile and the Way of Abnegation: Apophatic Dimensions in *Confessiones Amantis: The Spiritual Exercises of the most Virtuous and Religious Dame Gertrude More and Related Texts*'**

10:30-11:00      Coffee break in Atrium 2200

11:00-12:30      Parallel session 6

**Session 6A:      Mysticism and Location**  
Room 2208, Chair: Ryan Perry

Timothy Glover (University of Cambridge), 'Richard Rolle's Apophatic Discourse'

Sarah Lancaster (University of Nottingham), 'A "merkeness of unknowynge": Apophatic Selfhood in Yorkshire Confessional Literature'

Michael Sargent (City University of New York), 'The Literature of English Spirituality in the Century after the Great Plague: A Game of Two Halves?'

**Session 6B: Translating Apophatic Images**

Room 2224, Chair: Nicolette Zeeman

Rachael Hodgson (University of Cambridge), 'The *Cloud*-author as a Literary and Contemplative Theorist: Metaphor as an Instrument of Apophaticism in *The Cloud of Unknowing*'

Kirsten Stirling (University of Lausanne), 'Apophatic Donne: Jonne Donne's Use of the Sculptor Image'

Klára Petříková (Charles University, Prague), 'A Journey of Translating *The Cloud of Unknowing* and Julian of Norwich's *Revelations of Divine Love* into Czech'

12:30-14:00 Lunch in Géopolis canteen

14:00-15:30 Parallel session 7

**Session 7A: Inebriation, Forgetfulness, and Sensuality**

Room 2208, Chair: John Arblaster

Corinne Clark (University of Oxford), 'Oblative Oblivions: Finding Divinity Through Intoxication in the Middle English *Mirror*'

Lucie Kaempfer (University of Lausanne), 'The Language of Forgetting in the Apophatic Tradition'

Kasey Kimball (Boston College), 'The Spiritual Senses in the *Cloud* and Rudolph of Biberach's *De septem itineribus aeternitatis*'

**Session 7B: The Post-Medieval Reception of the *Cloud*-author**

Room 2224, Chair: Katherine Zieman

Rebecca Field (University of Cambridge), 'Cross-Temporal Affinities: Apophatic Communities of Practice in the *Cloud*'s Reception History'

Lieven De Maeyer (Radboud University, Nijmegen), 'A Simple (Non-) Seeing in God. Assessing the Influence of Benet of Canfield on the Mysticism of Madame Guyon'

Chen Cui (University of Lausanne), 'Apophatic Theology in Muriel Spark's *The Mandelbaum Gate* (1965)'

15:30-15:45      **Closing Remarks**  
Room 2224

*All delegates are warmly invited to attend the following event:*

**16:30-18:00      Leçon d'honneur de Denis Renevey**  
Anthropole ANT1129

Chair: Professor Danielle Van Mal-Maeder, Dean of the Faculty of Letters

Opening Remarks: Dr Juliette Vuille, 'An Academic Life with Denis Renevey'

**Denis Renevey, 'An Academic Life Spent with the Medieval English  
Mystics: A Few Personal Observations'**

**18:00-20:00      Apéro to celebrate Professor Denis Renevey's retirement**

## **SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2025** **Optional Excursion**

*The optional excursion required signing up during registration.*

11:30              Meeting at Ouchy-Olympique metro station

11:55-13:35      Boat ride to Chillon

13:45-15:45      Visit of Chillon Castle

Coach to Grandvaux

17:15-18:45      Wine tasting  
*Domaine Croix-Duplex*  
*Route de Chenaux 2*  
*1091 Grandvaux*

Coach back to central Lausanne

19:30              Dinner at the Pinte Besson  
*Rue de l'Ale 4*  
*1003 Lausanne*

