



**CFP Kalamazoo 2018: The Other's Chivalry: Alternative Chivalric Codes and Practices**  
Sponsor: Société Rencesvals, American-Canadian Branch  
Organizers: Ana Grinberg (Auburn University) and Stefanie Goyette (Durham Academy)  
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The Arabic chivalric novels known as “al-Siyar” feature heroes characterized by their bravery and valor, reflecting values similar to those of the romance epic, as Lutfi Abdel Badi argues in his almost forgotten *La Épica árabe y su influencia en la épica castellana* (31). And yet modern scholarly notions of “chivalry” in the epic often seem to follow Ramon Llull’s thirteenth-century *Book of the Order of Chivalry*, which claims that chivalry requires loving and fearing the Christian god, foreclosing the possibility that there could be a common code for both Christian and Muslim knights. Llull further explains that nobility and chivalry “belong together” (III.8) and thus women, due to their lesser nobility, are unable to be knights. Likewise, “a deformed man or one who is obese or has another physical defect” cannot be a knight (Llull III.16).

Given the persistent association of chivalry with Christianity, masculinity, able-bodiedness, nobility, and a narrowly defined idea of beauty and humanity, how can we understand alterity in chivalric texts where the supposed Other is often a worthy opponent? And furthermore, what happens to chivalry when we find these Others often as heroes, and not enemies, at the center instead of at the borders of the romance epic? This session invites papers that examine how texts, writers, and audience negotiated the complexity of chivalry and knighthood in medieval texts dealing with heroic deeds of those who are not “normative.” We also welcome papers that question or resituate the very definition of chivalry in the romance epic.

Please send abstracts of no more than 250 words together with a completed Participant Information Form (<https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u434/2017/medieval-pif-2018.pdf>) to session organizers Stefanie Goyette ([stefaniegoyette@gmail.com](mailto:stefaniegoyette@gmail.com)) or Ana Grinberg ([ana.grinberg.phd@gmail.com](mailto:ana.grinberg.phd@gmail.com)) by September 15. Please include your name, title, and affiliation on the abstract itself. All abstracts not accepted for the session will be forwarded to Congress administrators for consideration in general sessions, as per Congress regulations.