

Medieval Studies at UCSB

"War, Plague & Confession: Stories of Survival from Fourteenth-Century Provence"

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Thursday, May 6

4:00 PM (ZOOM)

Registration for the Zoom meeting is required. Please use the link below to register, after which you will receive a passcode and meeting link.

https://ucsb.zoom.us/join/tZ0pdeqvqj8sEtypMCu6YN_7u6L47hjkYgfC

This talk draws on a rich evidentiary base of 68 narrative testimonials from the canonization inquest for Countess Delphine de Puimichel, which was held in the market town of Apt in 1363. Each witness in the inquest had lived through outbreaks of plague in 1348 and 1361, as well as violence inflicted by mercenaries unemployed during truces in the Hundred Years' War. Faced with an unprecedented cascade of crises, the inhabitants of Provence relied on saints and healers, their worldview connecting earthly disease and disaster to the struggle for their eternal souls. Their testimonies unexpectedly reveal the importance of faith and the role of affect in the healing of both body and soul.

