Stanford



Fiona Griffiths

Bella Mabury and Eloise Mabury Knapp Professor of Humanities and Professor, by courtesy, of Religious Studies and of German Studies

History

Bio

BIO

Fiona Griffiths is a historian of medieval Western Europe, focusing on intellectual and religious life from the ninth to the thirteenth century. Her work explores the possibilities for social experimentation and cultural production inherent in medieval religious reform movements, addressing questions of gender, spirituality, and authority, particularly as they pertain to the experiences and interactions of religious men (priests or monks) with women (nuns and clerical wives). Griffiths is the author of Nuns' Priests' Tales: Men and Salvation in Medieval Women's Monastic Life,The Middle Ages Series (The University of Pennsylvania Press: 2018) and The Garden of Delights: Reform and Renaissance for Women in the Twelfth Century, The Middle Ages Series (The University of Pennsylvania Press: 2007); she is co-editor (with Kathryn Starkey) of Sensory Reflections: Traces of Experience in Medieval Artifacts (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2019) and (with Julie Hotchin) of Partners in Spirit: Men, Women, and Religious Life in Germany, 1100-1500 (Turnhout: Brepols, 2014). Her essays have appeared in Speculum, Early Medieval Europe, Church History, the Journal of Medieval History, postmedieval, and Viator. She has held fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities; the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation; the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study; the Stanford Humanities Center; and the Institute of Historical Research (University of London). Griffiths is a Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, History
- Professor (By courtesy), Religious Studies
- Professor (By courtesy), German Studies

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Chair, Religious Studies, (2022-2023)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Fellow, Medieval Academy of America (2022)
- Violet Andrews Whittier Faculty Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center (2019-2020)
- Jane Dempsey Douglass Prize, American Society of Church History (2009)
- Margaret Wade Labarge Prize, Canadian Society of Medievalists (2008)
- Humboldt Fellowship, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (2007-2008)
- National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, NEH (2007-2008)
- Frank S. and Elizabeth D. Brewer Prize, American Society of Church History (2006)
- Walter Jackson Bate Fellow, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study (2003-2004)

- Scouloudi Research Fellow, Institute of Historical Research (London) (1997-1998)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Advisory Board, FOVOG, Forschungsstelle für Vergleichende Ordensgeschichte (Technische Universität, Dresden, Germany) (2023 - present)
- Series Editor (with Beatrice Kitzinger and Kathryn Starkey), Sense, Matter, and Medium: New Approaches to Medieval Material and Literary Culture (De Gruyter) (2019 - present)
- Councillor, Council of the Medieval Academy of America (2019 - 2022)
- Executive Committee, CARA (Committee on Centers and Regional Associations), Medieval Academy of America (2019 - 2022)
- Herbert Baxter Adams Prize Committee, American Historical Association (2016 - 2019)
- Advisory Board, Monastic Matrix (2015 - present)
- Editorial Board, The Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures (2015 - present)
- Advisory Board, The Medieval Review (2014 - present)

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- PhD, Cambridge University

Teaching

COURSES

2026-27

- Europe in the Middle Ages, 300-1500: HISTORY 115D, HISTORY 15D, RELIGST 115X (Aut)
- The Holy Dead: Saints and Spiritual Power in Medieval Europe: HISTORY 218, HISTORY 318, RELIGST 218X, RELIGST 318X (Win)

2025-26

- Europe in the Middle Ages, 300-1500: HISTORY 115D, HISTORY 15D (Aut)
- Slavery in Premodern Europe: HISTORY 219, HISTORY 319 (Spr)

2024-25

- Europe in the Middle Ages, 300-1500: HISTORY 115D, HISTORY 15D (Aut)
- Graduate Pedagogy Workshop: HISTORY 305 (Win)
- Introduction to the Sources of Medieval History: HISTORY 317 (Spr)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Rebecca Adams, Nathan Lilje

Orals Evaluator

Joe Amato, Nathan Lilje, Eric Lindheim-Marx, Lauren Urbont

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Lauren Urbont

Master's Program Advisor

Marguerite Vasy

Doctoral (Program)

Eric Lindheim-Marx, Lauren Urbont

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Materializing history: Objects and women's lives in medieval Germany** *GERMAN QUARTERLY*
  Griffiths, F., Starkey, K.
  2023
- **The Corrupter of Boys: Sodomy, Scandal, and the Medieval Clergy. (The Middle Ages) (Book Review)** *SPECULUM-A JOURNAL OF MEDIEVAL STUDIES*
  Book Review Authored by: Griffiths, F.
  2023; 98 (2): 590-592
- **Wives, concubines, or slaves? Peter Damian and clerics' women** *EARLY MEDIEVAL EUROPE*
  Griffiths, F.
  2022
- **Introduction: Amputation and warfare in the eleventh century: absence, sensation, and embodiment** *POSTMEDIEVAL-A JOURNAL OF MEDIEVAL CULTURAL STUDIES*
  Griffiths, F., Starkey, K.
  2021
- **Froibirg Gives a Gift: The Priest's Wife in Eleventh-Century Bavaria** *Speculum*
  Griffiths, F. J.
  2021; 96 (4): 1009-1038
- **Prayer for the Dead: Women, Death, and Salvation** *Lives, Identities and Histories in the Central Middle Ages*
  Griffiths, F.
  Cambridge University Press.2021: 25-41
- **Noble Fathers and Low-Status Daughters in the Eleventh Century: Rilint, libera, and Hiltigund, presbyterissa** *Haskins Society Journal*
  Griffiths, F.
  2021; 32: 23-46
- **The Mass in Monastic Practice: Nuns and Ordained Monks** *The Cambridge History of Medieval Monasticism in the Latin West*
  Griffiths, F. J.
  Cambridge University Press.2020: 729–746
- **The Mass in Monastic Practice: Nuns and Ordained Monks, c. 400-1200** *CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL MONASTICISM IN THE LATIN WEST, VOL II: THE HIGH AND LATE MIDDLE AGES*
  Griffiths, F. J.
  edited by Beach, A. I., Cochelin
  2020: 729-746
- **Sensory Reflections: Traces of Experience in Medieval Artifacts** *Sense, Matter, and Medium*
  Griffiths, F. J., Starkey, K.
  De Gruyter.2019; 1
- **Sensing Through Objects** *SENSORY REFLECTIONS: TRACES OF EXPERIENCE IN MEDIEVAL ARTIFACTS*
  Griffiths, F., Starkey, K.
  edited by Griffiths, F., Starkey, K.
  2018; 1: 1–21
- **Sensory Reflections: Traces of Experience in Medieval Artifacts** *SENSORY REFLECTIONS: TRACES OF EXPERIENCE IN MEDIEVAL ARTIFACTS*
  edited by Griffiths, F., Starkey, K.

2018; 1

- **Nuns' Priests' Tales: Men and Salvation in Medieval Women's Monastic Life** *NUNS' PRIESTS' TALES: MEN AND SALVATION IN MEDIEVAL WOMEN'S MONASTIC LIFE*
  Griffiths, F. J.
  2018: 1–349
- **SUSAN GROAG BELL'S "MEDIEVAL WOMEN BOOK OWNERS" AFTER 35 YEARS** *JOURNAL OF WOMENS HISTORY*
  Griffiths, F. J.
  2017; 29 (3): 208-213
- **Partners in Spirit: Men, Women, and Religious Life in Germany, 1100-1500** *Medieval Women: Texts and Contexts*
  Griffiths, F. J., Hotchin, J.
  Brepols.2014; 24
- **Monks and Nuns at Rupertsberg: Guibert of Gembloux and Hildegard of Bingen** *Partners in Spirit: Men, Women, and Religious Life in Germany, 1100-1500*
  Griffiths, F.
  Brepols.2014: 145-169
- **Women and Men in the Medieval Religious Landscape** *Partners in Spirit: Men, Women, and Religious Life in Germany, 1100-1500*
  Griffiths, F. J., Hotchin, J.
  Brepols.2014: 1–45
- **Women and Reform in the Central Middle Ages** *Oxford Handbook of Women and Gender in Medieval Europe*
  Griffiths, F. J.
  Oxford University Press.2013: 447–463
- **Like the Sister of Aaron': Medieval Religious Women and Liturgical Textiles** *Female vita religiosa between Late Antiquity and High Middle Ages: Structures, Norms and Developments*
  Griffiths, F. J.
  Brepols.2011: 343–374
- **The cross and the cura monialium: Robert of Arbrissel, John the Evangelist, and the pastoral care of women in the age of reform** *SPECULUM-A JOURNAL OF MEDIEVAL STUDIES*
  Griffiths, F. J.
  2008; 83 (2): 303–30
- **Siblings and the sexes within the medieval religious life** *CHURCH HISTORY*
  Griffiths, F. J.
  2008; 77 (1): 26–53
- **Reforming Women in the Garden of Delights** *GARDEN OF DELIGHTS: REFORM AND RENAISSANCE FOR WOMEN IN THE TWELFTH CENTURY*
  Griffiths, F. J., Griffiths, F.
  2007: 194-+
- **'Men's duty to provide for women's needs': Abelard, Heloise, and their negotiation of the cura monialium** *JOURNAL OF MEDIEVAL HISTORY*
  Griffiths, F. J.
  2004; 30 (1): 1–24
- **Brides and Dominae: Abelard's Cura monialium at the Augustinian Monastery of Marbach** *Viator*
  Griffiths, F. J.
  2003; 34: 57-88.