



Inaugural lecture

**Right Honourable
John G. Diefenbaker
Memorial Chair in
German Literary Studies**
Professor Ann Marie Rasmussen



Medieval Misogyny? Aristotle and Phyllis in Medieval German Culture

**Wednesday, April 15, 2015
at 2:30 p.m.**

University of Waterloo
Hagey Hall, Room 1102

For more information
519-888-4567, x.31722
or amrasmus@uwaterloo.ca

PUBLIC LECTURE

Refreshments to follow

Aristotle, esteemed as a great philosopher in the medieval world, also eked out a second existence there as a figure of fun and mockery. Beginning in the thirteenth century, Aristotle appears everywhere in texts and in visual representations as a slave of love, a reincarnation of the ancient folkloric motif of the wise man tricked and humiliated by a beautiful woman. Focusing on the medieval German versions of this story, this talk argues that the popularity of the mounted Aristotle material is not adequately explained by the putative orthodoxy of its misogynist claims alone. Rather, its popularity derives from its ability to capture and refract in multiple ways the fundamental tensions of high and late medieval masculine identity formations.

