



Book of Hours, Italy, possibly the Veneto, ca. 1425-1450, MS M.1089 fol. 15r

THE BLOODLESS STIGMATA: Signs of Holiness in the Divine Comedy

a lecture by **PAOLA NASTI**, University of Reading

Saints' lives are shaped by dominant ideals of perfection and ethics. What happens when a poet's voice attempts to alter current narratives on holiness? This talk examines Dante Alighieri's original portrayal of Francis of Assisi in the 'Divine Comedy' and assesses how and why the poet offered an alternative approach to that found in the contemporary franciscan hagiographic tradition.

Monday, **March 5**, 2018

Kresge 2351

5:00pm

DR PAOLA NASTI is Associate Professor at The University of Reading. Her main interests lie in the interaction between religion, philosophy, theology and literature in late medieval Italy. She works on Dante's scriptural culture, and on his theology of the Church. Her main monograph 'Favole d'amore e saver profondo: la tradizione salomonica in Dante', was published by Longo (Ravenna), in 2007. She has also published on Dante commentary tradition and co-edited a volume on Dante's critical reception: *Interpreting Dante. Essays on the Traditions of Dante Commentary*, Notre Dame Notre: Dame University Press, 2013. She is currently working on the influence of mendicant culture on Dante intellectual and spiritual formation.

THE DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH & ITALIAN, Northwestern University