

Medieval & Renaissance Workshop

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WHO DIED DURING MEDIEVAL PLAGUE?

An Invitation to a New Dialogue between Historians and Immunologists

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Friday, March 6th • 2:00 pm • Ekstrom Library W104



Lancing a Bubo (Chapel of Saint-Sébastien, Lanslevillard, France c.1446 and 1518. Photo: Paul Smit)

Efforts to understand the differential mortality caused by plague must account for many factors, including human immune responses. In this lecture we will be particularly interested in those people who were exposed to the *Yersinia pestis* pathogen during the Black Death, but who had differing fates—survival or death—that could depend on which individuals (once infected) were able to mount an appropriate immune response as a result of biological, environmental, and social factors. The proposed model suggests that historians of the medieval world as well as other disciplines such as anthropology, bioarchaeology, and paleoepidemiology, could make a significant contribution to the study of human health, and especially the role of human immunology in past environments and societies.

This event is free and open to the public. For additional information, please contact Jennifer Westerfeld (jennifer.westerfeld@louisville.edu).

