

THE MAHINDRA HUMANITIES CENTER MEDIEVAL STUDIES SEMINAR
PRESENTS



**ARTES AND LIBERAL ARTS:
FROM MEDIEVAL LEARNING TO THE MODERN UNIVERSITY**

A PANEL DISCUSSION FEATURING JAN ZIOLKOWSKI, EILEEN SWEENEY,
AHMED RAGAB, AND NICHOLAS WATSON

Like many other American universities and colleges, Harvard presents its undergraduate teaching mission as one rooted in the “Liberal Arts.” Understood as a diverse and ecumenical community of disciplines and approaches, the Liberal Arts thus is the organizing structure informing not only Harvard’s General Education program but also its major fields of undergraduate study (the concentrations). Through the integration of broad-based exploration and more focused study, a Harvard liberal arts education is meant to provide students with more than training for a future career; it aims, rather, to prepare them for adult lives as flourishing, innovative, and responsible individuals and citizens. In this panel, we will explore the deep history of our contemporary “Liberal Arts” model, a model with roots reaching back nearly two millennia. Why are these disciplines defined as “arts”? Why were they “liberal”? How did the *artes liberales* define education in the medieval world—and how does that medieval legacy still shape the project of the Liberal Arts today?

MONDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2015

6:00 - 7:30 PM

BARKER CENTER 110 (THE THOMPSON ROOM), 12 QUINCY STREET

PRECEDED BY THE FALL WELCOMING RECEPTION OF THE COMMITTEE
ON MEDIEVAL STUDIES. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US AT
[HTTP://MEDIEVAL.FAS.HARVARD.EDU](http://medieval.fas.harvard.edu)

IMAGE: THE PHILOSOPHER MACDARGE TEACHES HIS DISCIPLES; GUILLAUME DE TIGNONVILLE, *LES DIZ
MORAUUX DES PHILOSOPHES* (HARVARD UNIVERSITY, HOUGHTON LIBRARY. MS TYP 207, F. 25V)