The Department of Germanic Studies presents:

The Hedwig Leser Lecture

Dr. Annegret Oehme

Assistant Professor in Germanic Studies at the University of Washington

Will give a lecture entitled:

**Damsels in Yiddishland.**
Female Agency in a Yiddish Arthurian Romance

**Abstract:** Arthurian romances have been continuously translated and adapted throughout the centuries in order to integrate contemporaneous concepts and present the stories of king Arthur to different audiences that cross many language barriers, from Hebrew to English, from German to Japanese. One Arthurian Romance that proved to be very successful was Wirnt of Gravenberg’s *Wigalois* (1215). The continuing appeal of *Wigalois* is highlighted by a Yiddish version of the text, *Vid(u)vilt* (14th or 15th ct.). Scholars have regarded *Viduvilt* as “outdated” and “deficient” compared to its model, the aforementioned *Wigalois*. However, as I will show in this presentation, the text displays a radical new approach to the Arthurian material with respect to the depiction of female figures. I argue that *Viduvilt* makes a case for female agency and offers nothing less than a romance about women.

**Friday, February 2, 2018**

at

5:30 PM

at the

CAHI House (1211 E. Atwater Avenue)

An open reception will follow the lecture.

The Leser Lecture was founded by Professor Emeritus Henry Remak and others in honor of Hedwig Leser.