



***The Medieval and Early
Modern Studies Research
Program***

*In partnership with the School of
Historical & Philosophical Studies
(University of Melbourne) and Medieval
and Renaissance Studies (Monash
University)*

Black/Beautiful: Song of Songs 1:5, and the Historical Question of Blackness

In Song of Songs verse 1:5: the bride proclaims: 'I am black and beautiful, daughters of Jerusalem'. Jewish, Greek and Latin scholars sought to draw allegorical meanings from the verse and their efforts became more pointed, often polemical, after Jerome translated the verse in the Vulgate as 'black but beautiful'. Since the Song of Songs attracted so many commentators ever since, this verse also offers an opportunity to probe ideas about blackness as these were discussed and developed over the centuries.

This Lecture will present the ideas about blackness inspired by this verse, as a contribution to discussion of race and racialisation in the premodern past.

DATE & TIME

Wednesday, 1 November 2023

Reception 5pm

Public Lecture 6pm

VENUE

Australian Catholic University Melbourne
Mercy Lecture Theatre,
Bldg 404 Graham Street, Fitzroy

RSVP ESSENTIAL

RSVP to julie.carpenter@acu.edu.au and include any dietary requirements for catering purposes.

PRESENTER



Miri Rubin

Professor of Medieval
and Early Modern
History, President of
the Jewish Historical
Society of England

Queen Mary,
University of London