



# Amy Hollywood

JE and Lillian Byrne Tipton Distinguished Visiting Professor

## Apophysis and Ecstasy, At the Limits of Gender

Wednesday, January 22 / 4:00 p.m. / Free and Followed by Reception  
McCune Conference Room  
6020 Humanities and Social Sciences Building

There is a longstanding convention that men's religious writings are more intellectual and speculative than those of women, which are commonly said to be rooted in the emotional experiences of their female authors. Although almost any serious scholar of Christianity will insist that this convention is wrong, it constantly reappears in scholarly as well as popular works. I want to continue the project of debunking the claim, but also to show why it has been around for so long and remained so persistent. Most importantly, what is at stake for historians of Christianity, theologians, and practitioners in maintaining this gender divide? And what might be gained by undoing it?

Amy Hollywood, the J.E. and Lillian Byrne Tipton Distinguished Visiting Professor in Religious Studies at UC Santa Barbara for winter 2014, is the Elizabeth H. Monrad Professor of Christian Studies at the Harvard Divinity School. She is the author of *The Soul as Virgin Wife: Mechthild of Magdeburg, Marguerite Porete, and Meister Eckhart*, which received the Otto Grundler Prize for the best book in medieval studies from the International Congress of Medieval Studies; *Sensible Ecstasy: Mysticism, Sexual Difference, and the Demands of History*; and, forthcoming from Columbia University Press, *Acute Melancholia and Other Essays*. She is also the co-editor, with Patricia Beckman, of *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Mysticism* (2012). Professor Hollywood is currently exploring the place of the mystical, often redescribed as enthusiasm, within modern philosophy, theology, and poetry.

Presented by the Department of Religious Studies at UCSB.

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