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Vás srdečně zve na přednášku

JENNI KUULIALA

***Disability, Sainthood, and the Miraculous
in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe***

která proběhne
na Fakultě humanitních studií UK
Pátkova 2137/5
182 00 Praha 8 – Libeň
učebna 2.41.

15. října 2026 od 16:00 do 17:20 hodin

One of the most visible and widely recognized roles of saints in medieval and early modern Europe was their ability to perform miracles, the vast majority of which involved the healing of acute and chronic illnesses and disabilities. At the same time, saints themselves were frequently portrayed as showing great patience, even gratitude, in times of their own bodily suffering, thus following the example of Christ and the early Christian martyrs. Sainthood and disability were therefore deeply intertwined, and the central role of saints and their miracles in the lived religion of the period often placed the disabled body at the centre of religious life.

Drawing on late medieval and early modern canonization processes and miracle collections, this lecture will demonstrate the kinds of evidence that hagiographic texts provide regarding premodern understandings of bodily and mental difference and normativity. These rich source materials reveal not only a desire for cures but also the lived realities and inclusion of disabled people. They show that medieval and early modern attitudes towards impaired body-minds were fluid and multifaceted.

DR. JENNI KUULIALA, author of *Saints, Infirmary, and Community in the Late Middle Ages*, is currently working as a senior lecturer at the University of Turku. Her research focuses on late medieval and early modern disability, cultural history of medicine, sainthood, and inquisitions. She also runs a Research Council of Finland funded project on the representation of disability in heritage organizations.



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Zdroj ilustrace: Gentile da Fabriano, Polyptych Quaratesiů (ca 1425), Nemocni a poutníci u hrobu sv. Mikuláše z Bari (National Gallery of Art, Washington DC)

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