“Arthurian Ethics”

Session sponsor by the International Arthurian Society, North American Branch

From its medieval origins to the present day, the sprawling Arthurian legend has proven useful for many literary and cultural purposes, not least of which is how readily it lends itself to the examination, promotion, and/or critique of a wide variety of socio-cultural, political, and religious concerns, chief among these what is and is not correct, or ethical, behavior in a given situation. In 2003, Evelyn Meyer and Melissa Ridley Elmes published an edited collection *Ethics in the Arthurian Legend* (Boydell & Brewer see https://boydellandbrewer.com/book/ethics-in-the-arthurian-legend-9781843846871/?v=0b3b97fa6688) and while much ground was covered in the contributions published therein representing multi-disciplinary, vernacular, and transhistorical perspectives, much remains to be explored on the question of Arthurian ethics and we invite proposals that tackle this question. Are there / what are the ethics involved in the appropriation of Arthurian materials for various social, political, or religious purposes? What vices and virtues surround or challenge Arthurian ethics? Is there an ethics of Arthurian adaptation in literature, art, film, museum and/or games, or in translation? How can, or do, Arthurian ethics influence other literary or cultural figures or institutions? Finally, on a fundamental level: *does Arthur have ethics*?

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Instructions: Proposal abstracts (250 words) and title are due December 1, 2026. If you have questions, please contact evelyn.meyer@slu.edu & MElmes@lindenwood.edu.