In early medieval narratives, women may be enclosed by the will of and for the use of men, leaving them with limited resources to escape their circumstances, physically or psychologically. In both these narratives, the main character is a woman whose subjectivity is marked by her enclosure by the text, plot, and supporting characters. I will integrate scholarship on space, enclosure in late medieval monastic settings, and gender studies to examine the enclosure of Derdriu in *Longes mac nUislenn* and the unnamed wife in *The Wife’s Lament*. In both cases, the women’s liminality is created not by “neitherness,” but instead by “bothness”: they inhabit spaces that are partially settled and partially natural, and thus they are separated from both society and an eremitic existence in the “desert” of nature.

**November 13, 2015**

**12:00-1:00pm**

**339 O’Shag**

Open to Faculty, Students and Staff

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Marjorie Housley is a PhD student in the Department of English, completing graduate minors in Irish Studies and Gender Studies. Her main area of interest is early medieval vernacular literature of the North Seas region—primary Old English, Old Irish, and Old Norse literatures. Her scholarship focuses on gender, queer theory, affect theory, and history of the emotions, and her planned dissertation project examines the ways constructions of emotion and gender interact in early medieval vernaculars.