

The Deep Impact of the Middle Ages on the Post-Modern World



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This talk will examine the huge influence of medieval literature, history, and the arts on the modern world and argue for a much more open perspective toward cultural history. Even though we are now in the twenty-first century, this does not mean at all that the past has lost in relevance. In fact, both popular culture and academic research have demonstrated that the Middle Ages in its endless manifestations continue to exert a huge influence on us. On the one hand, there is the popular interest in castles, tournaments, armors, weapons, etc., which has had a huge influence on modern movies, graphic novels, video games, etc. On the other, research has demonstrated that many of the ideas or concepts developed in the Middle Ages continue to have a deep impact on us and might well be pilot lights for us in an ever darker world today without directions, ethical and moral ideals, or spiritual orientation. Notions such as happiness, friendship, love, God, nature, or honor were fundamentally developed in the Middle Ages, and we can easily recognize their unchanging value for us today.

Biography:

Dr. Albrecht Classen is University Distinguished Professor of German Studies at the University of Arizona, Tucson. He has published currently 127 scholarly books on German and European medieval and early modern literature, most recently *The Secret in Medieval Literature* (2022), *Globalism in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Ages* (2023), and *A Translation of Johannes Pauli's Didactic Tales* (2024). He has won numerous awards for his teaching (Carnegie Professor of the Year, 2012), service (Honorary member of the American Association of Teachers of German, 2022), and research (Henry Koffler Prize for Research, 2009). The German government bestowed the Bundesverdienstkreuz am Band upon him in 2004, and he was knighted in 2017 (The Most Noble Order of the Three Lions). In Fall of 2022, he received a Fulbright grant for Egypt. He is the editor of three journals, *Mediaevistik*, *Humanities*, and *Current Research Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, and he has published almost 780 scholarly articles and more than 2900 book reviews.