The Committee on Speakers and Symposium Presents

A Book Launch and Book Discussion With

Kathleen Tonry

Agency and Intention in English Print, 1476–1526

Oct. 26, 2:00-3:15 PM
Stern Room, Austin Hall 217
Refreshments will be served

Kathleen Tonry offers a new intellectual framework for early print that bridges divisions between the study of print and the study of literature, between manuscripts and printed books, and between pre- and post-1500 textual cultures. Through an extensive focus on medieval texts and ideas, her book demonstrates that in the half-century before the Reformation, English print was part of a highly energetic tradition of late medieval textual production. Central to this tradition was the expression of ethical agency, or moral “entente,” through the creation of texts and books. This insight reveals how the first English printed books expressed the deliberate moral and cultural commitments of individual printers. The questions raised here, however, are about more than old books and early printers: ultimately, this study argues that the history of the material book is an intellectual history of agency and textual production.

Questions: Contact Martha Cutter (Martha.Cutter@uconn.edu)