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**Title:** Lovesickness and Masculinity: Literary Representations of a Medical Discourse from South to North

**Abstract:**

As Mary Wack, Donald Beecher, and other scholars have asserted, Western Europe evidenced a renewed interest in the disease of lovesickness beginning in the eleventh century AD due to translations of Arabic medical treatises. This project examines the literary representations of the disease of lovesickness across time and space in medieval Europe, from South to North. It briefly analyzes several portrayals of this disease in literary texts in order to consider how this specific Arabic medical discourse was received and translated in Western European literature in differing cultural contexts. The literary clusters to be considered are Galician-Portuguese *cantigas de amor* (12th-14th centuries), Chrétien de Troyes’s romances, especially the *Knight of the Lion* and *Lancelot* (12th century), the German verse narrative *Mauritius von Craûn* (13th century), Chaucer’s *Knight’s Tale* (14th-century), and two sagas of Icelanders: *Kormáks saga* and *Laxdæla saga*. The project will discuss issues of gender and violence in the literary representations produced by translations of this discourse. It will be argued that, within literary representations, lovesickness threatens masculinity because it feminizes the sufferer. The literary texts often seek to reestablish a man’s masculinity and power, frequently through violence, often directed against women. Because of the amount of material involved in this comparison, the majority of the texts and their contexts will be briefly summarized, with analysis focused on issues of medicine, gender and violence in the later medieval texts (Chaucer, the Icelandic sagas).