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Title: **“Staging Anti-Semitism: Host Desecrations and Blood Libels in Art and Drama”**

Panel: Medieval History

In many written and artistic Christian sources, we find an anti-Jewish portrayal of an alleged Jewish costume of desecrating the Host or blood libels. Such stories are found in the *Cántigas de Santa Maria* Castilian commissioned by the Castilian king Alfonso X and completed in the year 1284. Following Miri Rubin's methodology, where she ties together blood libels and accusations of host desecration in texts, images and drama, in the proposed paper I wish to further discuss the issue of imagined rituals of the Jewish communities in medieval Europe. I shall focus on the texts written in the vernacular language and images of the *Cántigas de Santa Maria* and the liturgical drama, focusing on the fifteenth century English play: *The Croxton Play of the Sacrament*. After discussing these medieval works of art I will briefly analyze a contemporary demonstration of the play displayed in 2004. The staging of the *Cántigas* and the *Croxton Play* shall be examined in the context of Anti-Semitism, contemporary writings, what the audience expected to view.