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UNH Welcomes Scholar To Discuss Role Of Christian Women In Ancient Rome

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March 13, 2007

DURHAM, N.H. -- The University of New Hampshire Religious Studies Program welcomes Nicola Denzey, visiting assistant professor of early Christian history at the Harvard Divinity School, to discuss the role of Christian women in ancient Rome.

"Death and the Maidens: Finding Early Christian Women in Ancient Catacombs," will be held Monday, March 19, 2007, at 5 p.m. in Memorial Union Building Room 338/40. Her discussion is also sponsored by the UNH Classics Department. The discussion is free and open to the public.

Denzey's discussion will focus on her sociohistorical research involving cataloging, "reading," and investigating the iconographic images of women in the catacombs of Rome. It will explore the interplay between representation and power, authority and image, and uncovering the lives and social roles of women in the domestic and ecclesiological spheres of early Christian Rome.

A scholar of the religions of late antiquity, and the religious and social history of the Roman and late Roman Empire, Denzey is the author of several articles on aspects of gnosticism and early heterodox forms of Christianity. She has done extensive research in Rome where she worked on Roman religions in their cultural context and researched the culture of death in early Christianity.

She holds a Ph.D. from Princeton and serves in official positions in the American Academy of Religion and the Canadian Corporation for the Study of Religion; she is also one of the recognized savants for teaching technology in religious studies.

Denzey is the author of the forthcoming book "The Bone Gatherers: Case Studies in the Christianization of Empire;" the chapter "Women and the Bible" in "The Bible as Literature;" the chapter "A New Star on the Horizon: Astral Christologies and Stellar Debates in Early Christian Discourse" in "Prayer, Magic and the Stars;" and the chapter "His Blood Be Upon Us: Teaching Anti-Semitism" in "Teaching Religion and Violence."

For more information about this event, contact David Frankfurter, UNH professor of religious studies and history, at 603-862-3015 and davidtf@hopper.unh.edu.