This paper explores the boundary between magic and religion in medieval Europe and the role of archaeology in revealing the ritual practices that were performed by medieval people in their efforts to influence the world around them – to improve their health or conceive a child, to ensure the fertility of fields and livestock and to protect their homes and families against evil. Key issues in the definition and archaeological study of magic are explored – agency, gender, materiality and ritual performance. Two case studies are examined to consider the role of magic in craft and technology and the possible meanings behind ‘ritual deposition’ – the placing of ‘odd deposits’ in medieval homes and settlements that appear to defy any rational explanation.

**Roberta Gilchrist** is Professor of Archaeology and Research Dean at the University of Reading, UK. She has published widely on gender archaeology and medieval religion, including books on the medieval life course, burial practices and gender and material culture. She has carried out major studies of Norwich Cathedral and Glastonbury Abbey. She is an elected Fellow of the British Academy and was voted Current Archaeology’s ‘Archaeologist of the Year 2016’.

**Wednesday, May 4, 2016**
**12:00pm - Seminar Room**

**Location:**
Building 500
488 Escondido Mall
Room 106

If you have any questions regarding our events, please contact:

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