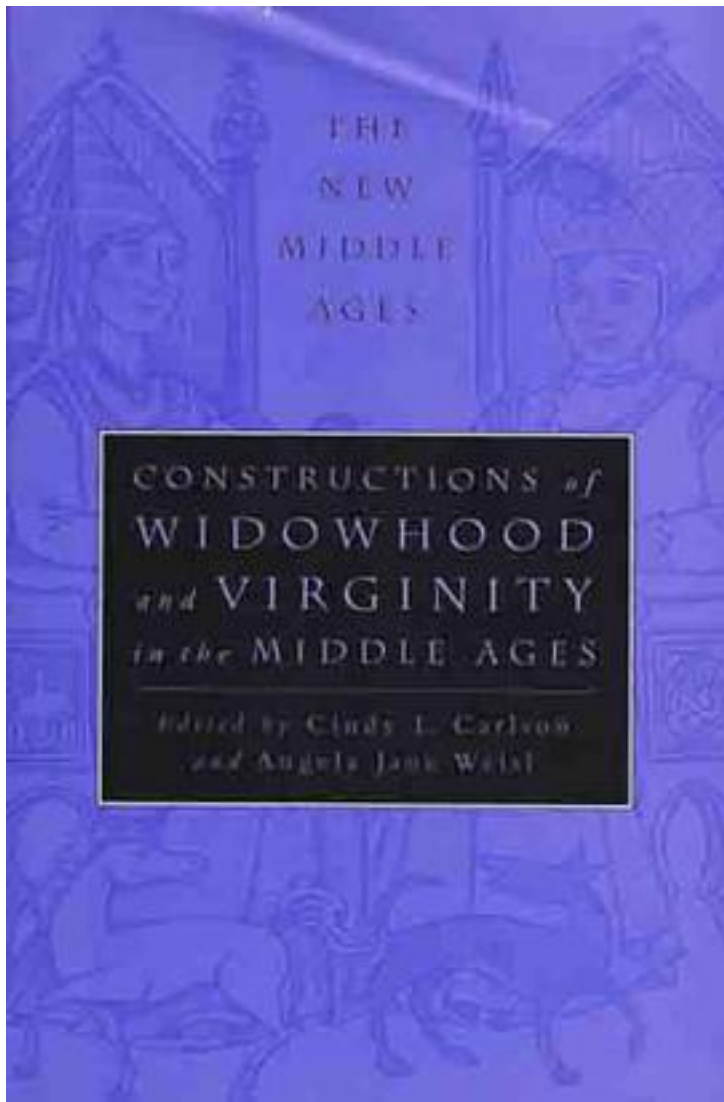


Constructions of Widowhood and Virginity in the Middle Ages



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著者:Weisl; Weisl, Angela Jane; Carlson, Cindy

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To be a virgin or a widow never promised a stable, uniform status to a woman during the Middle Ages. Rather, these positions were areas of contestation, constructions that did and still do create and interrogate notions of gender roles, areas of power, areas of disability. For example, chastity is an apparent given for both positions, but the chastity involved may have a number of possible cultural meanings or uses. The articles in "Constructions of Widowhood and Virginitv in the Middle Ages" address many facets of these two female positions in medieval literature: gender constructions; the body and what it means to make it visible, whether in admiration, torture, or martyrdom; issues of physicality and abjection; creations of literary voice for women who write or create situations for them to be written about. A top-notch group of female scholars examines the meanings behind widowhood and virginitv both individually and in relation to each other. The focus on both positions in the same volume makes "Constructions of Widowhood and Virginitv in the Middle Ages" an unprecedented work.

作者介绍:

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