This talk will use the dramatic tale of one of the only women alchemists about whom we have significant extant sources, Anna Zieglerin, as a point of entry into the intersection of science, gender, and religious culture in Reformation Germany. In the 1570s Zieglerin practiced alchemy in her own laboratory, recorded her recipes for a powerful golden oil called the lion’s blood, and attracted the support of a German duke for her alchemical work. At the same time, she articulated an eschatological program in which she, as a “new Virgin Mary,” would use the lion’s blood to repopulate the world in preparation for the Last Days. In positioning her body and her alchemy at the center of a spectacular cosmic drama, Zieglerin offers an opportunity to explore the porous boundary between science and religion in the era of the Reformation.

Professor Tara Nummedal is the author of *Alchemy and Authority in the Holy Roman Empire*, published by the University of Chicago Press. She recently was awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship and an American Council of Learned Societies Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship for Recently Tenured Scholars for her work on Anna Zieglerin.

3:30 p.m.
Monday, November 2, 2015
Bizzell Library, LL 118

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