

HIST 349: Reading Guide – *The Hanged Man*

1. How does Robert Bartlett structure *The Hanged Man*? How does the structure of the book help him to present his research? Is the book's layout effective?
2. How does Bartlett expand his book (it could have just been a story about a hanging and a canonization)? Is this expansion warranted and successful in your estimation? Why?
3. What role does memory play in the reconstruction of historical events? How does a historian deal with mnemonic recall and its pitfalls?
4. What are some of the barriers that a historian such as Bartlett encounters when dealing with the past? How does he deal with these barriers? Are there areas in which he could have done a better job? How?
5. What impact do you imagine that the inquisitional process had on canonization?
6. What kind of an impact could a canonization process have on the broader society? Think more specifically and less speculatively here.
7. How do politics and popular beliefs intersect in the canonization of Thomas de Cantilupe? What does this suggest?
8. How much does this canonization process reveal about medieval popular beliefs? This is a unique case? Can we make broad extrapolations from it? If so, what can we deduce?