

*The Matter of Holiness: Protector Saints and the Treasury Chapel*  
Helen Hills (University of York)

This paper considers the Treasury Chapel in Naples cathedral as a machine both for the production of protector saints and of the miraculous liquefaction of San Gennaro's blood. It seeks to engage with the materiality of blood, bronze, silver, and volcanic eruption through analogy of material transformation through heat.

While scholarship on holiness has energetically considered the processes of sanctification, devotional practices, and specific local cults, the relationships between the production of place and of holiness remains under-explored; and a tendency to treat city or place (chapel, street, shrine) as simply passive locations of religious practices (often further reduced to liturgy) persists.

Through its concern with materiality, this paper seeks to avoid treating architecture either as instantiation of pre-existing idea or as passive location for holy event incidental to it.