



August 2018 Newsletter

IMC KEY DATES:

31 August 2018: Paper proposal deadline
30 September 2018: Session proposal deadline
15 October 2018: Bursary application deadline

1-4 July 2019: IMC 2019

We want to say a huge thank you to all 2,900 medievalists who came to the 25th annual International Medieval Congress (IMC). From 2-5 July, delegates from more than 60 countries came together at the University of Leeds, exchanging ideas at the largest medieval studies conference in the world.

The special thematic strand of 'Memory', chosen for this milestone year, contributed to our biggest ever academic programme, with 750 sessions containing some 2,200 individual papers. At the same time, an exciting programme of events, excursions, concerts, and fairs culminated with a very special celebration to mark 25 years of sharing medieval research at Leeds.

Sharing memory

Just over 50% of all sessions related to the thematic strand of 'Memory', which attracted papers on topics as varied as remembering first encounters, mnemonics in education, archives, commemorating the dead, and the ways in which later societies have remembered, or misremembered, the Middle Ages.

Five keynote lectures drew together a range of approaches. Opening the IMC was a double lecture, in which Mary Carruthers (New York University) presented 'But What Are YOU Remembering For?' and Richard

Dance (University of Cambridge) spoke on 'Do Words Remember?: The Etymologist vs. the Vikings'.

Throughout the week, three lunchtime keynote lectures took different approaches to memory: Farkas Gabor Kiss (Eötvös Loránd University) gave a lecture 'The Metaphors They Lived by: Verbal Imagery of Memory in the Middle Ages'; Alixe Bovey (Courtauld Institute of Art) spoke on 'Historical Present: Fake History, Material Culture, and Collective Misremembering'; while Jeff Rider's (Wesleyan University) thought-provoking final keynote lecture was 'I Can't Remember the Middle Ages'. All of these lectures proved popular with delegates, who left with plenty to discuss.

The programme also gave medievalists opportunities to look back on the changing face of medieval studies over the past 25 years, and to consider how it will evolve in future. Several sessions examined the evolution of fields such as Anglo-Saxon studies and medievalism, or discussed the challenges and opportunities associated with teaching and talking about the Middle Ages in contemporary society.

Academic growth

A record-breaking special thematic strand contributed to our most diverse academic programme ever. All 39

programming strands were well-represented and we were delighted that our four newest strands, Mediterranean Studies, Global Middle Ages, Health and Medicine, and Manuscript Studies all received impressive numbers of proposals.

New informal sessions were added to the IMC even after the printed programme was completed, allowing medievalists to discuss important topical issues on a more ad hoc basis. One of these was an informal discussion about sexual harassment in the academy, organised by Gabrielle Storey, while the other, organised by the Medievalists with Disabilities network, created a space for medievalists with disabilities and their allies to get to know and support each other.

#disIMC

The Medievalists with Disabilities network also organised a round table discussion on challenges to accessibility in the academy. For the first time in the IMC's history, this session was live-streamed via our Facebook page and has now been viewed over 2,100 times. Watch the video at <https://www.facebook.com/LeedsIMC/videos/220114705172859/>.

We were excited to test the potential for live-streaming of individual sessions this year. We are still looking into whether this service could be offered again in future, and we will keep you updated. In the meantime, if you would be interested in streaming your session at IMC 2019, please contact us to discuss your idea.



Browsing the Bookfair

Special lectures

Rounding out the academic programme, Paul Fouracre (University of Manchester) gave this year's *Early Medieval Europe* lecture on 'Lights, Power, and the Moral Economy of Early Medieval Europe' to a packed Rupert Beckett Theatre, while Anne

D. Hedeman (University of Kansas) presented the Medieval Academy of America lecture on 'History and Visual Memory in the Library of King Charles V of France'. Both lectures gave audiences much to discuss over the drinks receptions which followed.

One innovation for 2018 was the New Voices lecture, which aims to showcase new and exciting perspectives in medieval studies. Roland Betancourt (University of California, Irvine) presented the inaugural New Voices lecture with an in-depth look at 'Transgender Lives in Byzantium'. We are delighted that this new addition to the programme was a success and look forward to seeing what next year's lecture may bring.



Roland Betancourt gives the inaugural New Voices lecture

Concerts and events

Our events programme was led by two stunning musical performances. On Monday, the Clothworkers' Consort of Leeds sang a programme of carols, masses, and secular and religious songs from the Ritson Manuscript (London, British Library, Add. 5665). Silvan Wagner adopted a different style for Tuesday's concert, sponsored by the Oswald von Wolkenstein Gesellschaft, bringing to life the poetry of travelling knight Oswald von Wolkenstein.

Meanwhile, Marly Terwisscha Van Scheltinga, Lieke Smits, and Godelinde Gertrude Perk performed a fascinating theatrical reading of the sister-books of Deventer and Diepenveen, drawing attention to women's literary activity and medieval reading practices. Theatergruppe Des Instituts Für Germanistik, Justus-liebig-universität, Giessen, took to Beech Grove Plaza for a free outdoor performance of Johannes Kolross's *Play of Five Tableaux about Repentance*, which attracted crowds with eye-catching costumes and live musical accompaniment.

In more intimate settings, small groups of delegates took part in workshops focusing on medieval craft techniques. Jewish calligraphy, English goldwork

embroidery, Coptic book-binding, and combat were all among the workshops on offer. Most of the events sold out, and attendees proudly took their handiwork home with them. Throughout the week, delegates also met curators and got up close with medieval manuscripts in a series of special drop-in sessions run by Leeds University Library Special Collections staff.



The Clothworkers' Consort of Leeds perform Music from the Ritson Manuscript

Fairs

Meeting publishers and distributors at the IMC Bookfair is a highlight for many delegates – as are the special discounts offered by some exhibitors. Medievalists were tempted by over 30 stalls; some even shared pictures online of the piles of books they were squeezing into their suitcases.

Smaller booksellers had the chance to meet medievalists at the Second-Hand and Antiquarian Bookfair early in the week, while craftspeople from as far away as Italy and the USA brought their handiwork to the Medieval Craft Fair on Wednesday. Stained glass, musical instruments, board games, textiles, and jewellery were among the beautiful handmade items on offer.

During Making Leeds Medieval on Thursday, the popular Historical and Archaeological Societies Fair allowed medievalists to get to know the organisations working to preserve the heritage of Yorkshire and the UK more broadly.

Excursions

To celebrate the 25th IMC, we ran two extended tours in addition to our lively programme of excursions. This year's Pre-Congress Tour spent three days travelling to historic sites around Hadrian's Wall and Northumberland, while delegates on the Post-Congress tour spent four days in the English Midlands exploring sites associated with the Wars of the Roses.



Headstrung Puppet Theatre brought smoke-breathing dragons to wow the crowd at Making Leeds Medieval on Thursday 5 July

During the IMC itself, groups travelled to discover fascinating historic sites across the north of England, from Leeds' own Kirkstall Abbey to Southwell Minster in Nottinghamshire, and the iconic, ever-popular York Minster. One group also visited the John Rylands Library at the University of Manchester for a special handling session with some of their medieval collections.

Making Leeds Medieval

Smoke-breathing dragons swooped and soared over the crowds at our largest public event, thanks to Headstrung Puppet Theatre. Making occasional laps of University Square, the spectacular puppets brought campus to a standstill as visitors stopped to join in the excitement.

Late Roman and medieval combat displays, birds of prey, the farmers' market and a host of craft demonstrations completed the day's festivities. One of our newest demonstrators, Eran ud Turan, also gave a short talk introducing delegates to the Sogdians, whose cultural and trading networks extended across the Silk Road.



Eran ud Turan introduced visitors at Making Leeds Medieval to the culture and society of the Sogdians, whose networks spanned the Silk Road



KDF International led a combat workshop on Sunday 1 July

#IMC2018

Social media was particularly lively during this year's Congress, with the hashtag #IMC2018 trending at #3 in the UK on Sunday night before a single session had taken place. As well as adding to the conversation by sharing and responding to the content of papers online, users also organised social events and compared their Bookfair purchases.

While delegates are increasingly using social media to live-tweet sessions, we ask that you adhere to our social media policy and respect the wishes of individual speakers when tweeting or posting pictures of their presentations. This should also apply to any recordings made of IMC sessions.

Ahead of IMC 2019, medievalists seeking speakers for their own sessions can share calls for papers with us. Tweets are being added to the '#IMC2019 Calls for Papers' Twitter Moment and Facebook posts are being added to the 'IMC 2019 Calls for Papers' note on our Facebook page. Tag us in your posts or use the #IMC2019 hashtag to have your call for papers included.



Theatergruppe Des Instituts Für Germanistik, Justus-liebig-universität, Giessen

Feedback

We would like to say thank you to everyone who passed on feedback using our surveys, email, or social media.

Unusually hot weather was a key issue this year, but delegates appreciated the efforts of IMC staff to provide fans in session rooms wherever possible. Over 78% of session moderators said they were placed in a room that was the right size for their session, while 8% felt the room was too small and 13% said it was too large.

Delegates told us that the size and variety of the IMC make it particularly special, providing opportunities to meet medievalists from different backgrounds, disciplines and geographical regions. We are proud to provide a truly international and welcoming forum for medievalists, with over 70% of IMC 2018 delegates travelling from outside the UK.

The IMC is always under development, and we will keep you informed as we work to make the Congress as enjoyable and comfortable as possible for everyone.



3Swords brought late Roman and late medieval armour for two combat displays

IMC Bursary Fund

Nearly £15,000 was distributed to 97 recipients of the IMC Bursary Fund, including students, unwaged and low-waged delegates, and medievalists from regions with less access to research funding. Donors contributed around £1,300 to the fund.

If you would like to donate to the IMC Bursary Fund to support scholars in future years, visit the Online Store at <http://store.leeds.ac.uk/product-catalogue/conference-and-events-office/international-medieval-congress-supplementaryitems/imc-items-all-year-round/imc-bursary-andendowment-fund-donation>.

We are also keen to hear from individuals and organisations who would like support scholars. If you are interested in contributing in this way, please get in touch using the contact details below.

Memories of the IMC

In 2017 and 2018, we asked delegates to share their favourite memories of the IMC, either online or by writing them down on postcards. Here are some of our favourites.

"Dancing in the disco to 'YMCA' with our PhD supervisor!"

"The one when it rained for four days. Not drizzle, rain. For four days."

"Talking with newly-made medievalist friends about the existence of King Arthur. Answer: no."

"The welcoming, encouraging atmosphere for inexperienced scholars when I gave my first paper."

"I could feel part of a community without boundaries. A real cosmopolitan event."

"Bringing my newborn daughter to the IMC in 1996. She's now 21 and resolutely not a medievalist."

"Meeting new friends and finding supportive and interested colleagues."

"Being able to just spark up a conversation with anyone, resulting in colleagues for life."

"My BA, MA/PhD, study abroad supervisors from 3 different countries all being present to hear my paper - something I could never have imagined!"

"Seeing the Middle Ages growing with every programme - Byzantium, Ethiopia, Nubia, India, China, Caucasasia - and feeling like this is a community to belong to."

"In 2015 I came on my own as a mature undergraduate. I met the world of medieval and a lovely Australian couple who kept me laughing."

"The Congress Assistants one year made a giraffe out of the cardboard boxes that held the delegate packs. It hid under the registration desk before moving to live in the staff room as a mascot."

"Glimpsing an anxious young graduate student practicing his paper in front of an empty classroom. Been there, kid!"

"Having Timmy (a little falcon) on my arm. Playing chess with a woman from Toronto until 2am. And of course all the interesting papers..."

"You made me take up medieval studies. I do not know how to thank you."

Memories of Leeds

The last academic year has also seen the 50th anniversaries of the Institute for Medieval Studies and Leeds' other great institution, *International Medieval Bibliography*.

As part of our anniversary year, a virtual exhibition exploring the history of medieval studies at Leeds was launched: <https://ims.leeds.ac.uk/>

The Institute for Medieval Studies is running a blog for Leeds medievalists past and present: <https://ims.leeds.ac.uk/blog/>. We would love to hear from Leeds alumni, former staff, IMC delegates and others with a connection to Leeds who would like to share their experiences.

If you would like to contribute to a guest blog post on any topic, please contact imsanniversary@leeds.ac.uk.

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IMC 25 - Celebrating a Milestone



Crowds gathered to celebrate the 25th IMC



Stilt-walkers were among the entertainments

We celebrated 25 years of the International Medieval Congress with a very special birthday party on Wednesday 4 July. Crowds gathered to take part in the festivities, with live music from Daughters of Elvin and entertainments including local living history societies and even stilt-walkers.

Director Axel Müller spoke about the growth and expansion of the IMC since the first one took place in 1994, before thanking IMC and University of Leeds staff throughout the past 25 years for their hard work to make the programme a reality.

He also presented special gifts to some of the delegates who have attended all 25 Congresses - handmade jugs bearing a bespoke IMC anniversary design, handmade by regular Medieval Craft Fair trader John Hudson Claypotter.

We want to recognise the people who have made the trip to Leeds every year since 1994 to take part in the IMC:

- Kelly DeVries
- Simon Forde
- Sieglinde Hartmann
- Gerhard Jaritz
- Mayke de Jong
- Chris Lewis
- Axel Müller
- Caroline Palmer
- Walter Pohl
- Richard Rastall
- Ian Wood

Over 20,000 people from around the world have now attended at least one IMC. We are grateful to everyone who has helped to make the IMC what it is today.



IMC Director Axel Müller and Lord Mayor of Leeds Cllr Graham Latty presented gifts to some of the delegates who have attended every IMC

Call for Papers - IMC 2019

Special thematic strand: 'Materialities'

The IMC provides an interdisciplinary forum for the discussion of all aspects of Medieval Studies. Proposals on any topic related to the Middle Ages are welcome, while every year the IMC also chooses a special thematic focus. In 2019 this is 'Materialities.'

Recent attention to objects, artefacts, matter, and material culture has reshaped scholarship in many fields. This strand seeks to address the impact of this new interest in things, theories, and methods as they relate to an expansive understanding of 'materiality'. The study of materiality brings together a host of scholarly and theoretical concerns and puts them into dialogue to understand how conceptions of matter, and matter itself, shaped the creation of the material world, regimes of labour and supply, connectivity, entanglements, trade networks, movements of things and people, concepts of agency and network theory, and constructed notions of the sublime, of replication, and of 'reality', as an abstract concept and category during the Middle Ages.

This strand seeks to bring into conversation recent research on materialities by art historians, archaeologists, paleographers, historians, economists, musicologists, liturgists, philosophers, philologists, scholars of literature, critical theory, and religious studies, among other fields. Material objects and practices served as markers of cultural difference, but could also - simultaneously - become part of a shared culture of consumption; proximity suggesting gender and class affinities. Material dynamics were embedded in the making of objects, the trade in raw materials, and the roles of men and women in the fabrication of things spanning the luxurious to the mundane. Materialities shaped cultures of consumption, created regimes of circulation, and informed networks that defined both subjects and objects. Materialities encompass interactions between peoples both near and far and offer an analytical framework that suggests the unity

of the medieval world across religious, ethnic, and spatial distances and differences.

Themes to be addressed may include, but are not limited to:

- Material culture and consumption
- Materiality and the archaeological record
- Agency of people and things
- Medieval 'thing' theory
- Material connections: regimes of circulation
- Materialism and the Middle Ages
- Labour and production of things
- The social life of things
- Fabrication: production of specific objects
- Replication and reproduction
- Materiality of coins, money, and circulation
- Manuscripts: material and making
- Material textual and writing cultures
- Soundscape: material and musical culture
- Light and form
- Representing the material
- Space and materialities
- Body and spirit: spirituality and the material
- Materials: mundane (eg. wood, water, dust) and luxurious (eg. gold, silver, gems)
- Intimacies of things
- Abundance and/or scarcity
- Imagined materials
- Material landscapes: urban, suburban, rural
- Loans, debts, credit
- Materialities of power/empire
- Race and subjectivity
- Transformations: recycling, reuse, destruction
- Material religions: beliefs and practices
- Materials and memory
- Materialities and/of conflict
- Gendered materialities
- Digital/virtual/material archives
- Conservation and preservation
- Text and/as object

The IMC online proposal form is now available.

Proposals should be submitted online at:

www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2019_call.html

Paper proposals must be submitted by **31 August 2018**

Session proposals must be submitted by **30 September 2018**.

The IMC welcomes session and paper proposals submitted in all major European languages.

About the Institute for Medieval Studies

Medieval Research and Teaching at Leeds: A Unique Environment

Leeds combines exceptional interdisciplinary teaching and research with access to some of the best aspects of the British Isles in the medieval period.

The Institute for Medieval Studies (IMS) is the home of the International Medieval Congress as well as the International Medieval Bibliography, the world's foremost interdisciplinary bibliography of the Middle Ages. Together, they provide opportunities for students to combine paid work experience with academic practice.

Formed in 1967, the IMS today is one of the largest communities of medievalists in the UK, with over 50 members of staff and associated specialists.

The University's world-class library has the best medieval resources in the north of England and, with the archive of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, houses important collections of medieval manuscripts and rare books. Many of the medieval manuscripts of the Library can now be viewed online:

<https://library.leeds.ac.uk/special-collections>

The libraries of the Royal Armouries and the British Library Lending Division are close at hand. Cooperation with the Royal Armouries and Leeds City Museum enriches teaching, research, and career development opportunities.

MA in Medieval Studies

Full-time (12 months) and part-time (24 months)

The MA in Medieval Studies programme is made up of a core of language and skills modules, which give the student an excellent grounding for postgraduate study, plus a range of interdisciplinary, team-taught and single-discipline option modules, and an extended piece of supervised independent research.

Our teaching and supervision expertise spans 1300 years and enables the student to study either a closely interrelated set of subjects or to spread their interests across an outstanding range of disciplinary and interdisciplinary fields.

There are also specialised modules offering language teaching for beginners in Old and Middle English, Old French, Old Norse, and Middle High German.

The MA Medieval Studies programme provides an excellent basis for further work at doctoral level, either full-time or part-time, including key skills for research on medieval topics. An MA in Medieval History is also available at Leeds.

PhD Research in Medieval Studies

The IMS supervises doctoral research on interdisciplinary medieval topics, across a wide range of subjects. Research degrees in the IMS are structured so that, as well as embarking on their doctoral project, in the first year of study students take the following taught modules in foundational skills for research:

- Research Methods and Bibliography
- Medieval Latin
- A modern foreign language for reading scholarship on the research topic

Usually, IMS research students have two co-supervisors, from different relevant disciplines. They work with the students to shape the project and give bibliographical and methodological guidance, and will continue to read and advise throughout their research. Each student presents an annual paper on their work in progress at a research seminar in the IMS. Research students are also encouraged to give papers at national and international conferences.

International Medieval Bibliography Call for Contributors

The editorial team is looking for individuals or organisations to become contributors to join its existing range of partners throughout the world. Contributors take responsibility for identifying and cataloguing publications relating to specific subjects or geographical areas, and are rewarded with free subscriptions to IMB (online or print), other free publications and additional benefits.

Contributors are sought for national, regional, and local history in France, Germany, Italy, Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Portugal, Serbia, Israel, Lithuania, Greece, Cyprus, Latvia, Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Korea, and the Arab world. Thematic contributors (who may be based anywhere) are particularly sought for art history, humanism, Italian literature, French literature, German literature, Jewish Studies, linguistics, numismatics, and music.



Axel Müller, IMC Director, and Emilia Jamrozak, Director of the IMS, speak at the IMC anniversary reception, 4 July 2018