

# International *Medieval* Congress

## JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

## IMC 2014: 7-10 JULY



### IMC 2014 Online Registration is Now Open!

Congress delegates will be able to access the Online Registration option via the University of Leeds Online Store which provides a fast and secure method of payment. The Online Store registration is for payment by credit/debit card only. A Non-Online Registration option will be available but will incur a non-online fee of £25.00 to cover the additional costs of processing the registration.

For more information go to [www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/IMC2014/registration.html](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/IMC2014/registration.html)

### ABOUT THE IMC

Entering its 21<sup>st</sup> year, the International Medieval Congress is firmly established as the interdisciplinary forum for intellectual debate in all areas of medieval studies. The IMC is held at the University of Leeds every July, and this year will attract more than 2000 medievalists from around the world, some 1800 of which are actively involved in the programme. The IMC is unique in that it welcomes papers in any major European language, and the international nature of the Congress is central to its culture.



The IMC comprises a four-day programme of sessions, round tables, and special lectures and is also complemented by an exciting range of excursions, workshops, concerts, and performances, as well as receptions, bookfairs, craft and historical society fairs, and the annual Congress dance.

Papers and sessions for the IMC are selected by an international Programming Committee of 35 leading medievalists, and proposals for papers in all areas of medieval study are welcomed.

The IMC offers many opportunities to medievalists worldwide. Come and experience this for yourself at the IMC 2014!

### THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMME AND SPECIAL THEMATIC STRAND: 'EMPIRE'

Another year of superlatives awaits us as the IMC continues to grow in size and diversity. The academic programme features a record-breaking total of 545 sessions and round table discussions. In total 1799 medievalists from 57 countries are actively involved, of which two thirds are from outside the UK.

In July 2014, on the Saturday before the Congress the Tour de France will start in Leeds. This means that there will be very limited hotel accommodation available for the night of Saturday 5 July, and it is likely that any of this accommodation will go very quickly. Please do bear this in mind when making your arrangements to attend the IMC.

This year's special focus on 'Empire' has been particularly fruitful, with a huge response from medievalists from across the world and a depth and breadth which we could not have foreseen in relation to all aspects of Empire, virtual and real, new or re-formed. In total, the IMC 2014 Programme features 204 sessions and round table discussions on this special thematic strand, including a range of comparative sessions beyond the conventional medieval European horizon.

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We are delighted to welcome four main keynote speakers. The Congress will open with a joint lecture by **Mark Chinca** and **Christopher Young** (both Department of German & Dutch, University of Cambridge) on 'The Kaiserchronik as Literature and History'. On Monday lunchtime, **Hugh Kennedy** (Department of the Languages & Cultures of the Near & Middle East, School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London) will continue with 'The End of Islamic Late Antiquity: Change and Decay in the 10th-Century Middle East', focussing on Empires beyond the Christian world. On Tuesday lunchtime, **Naomi Standen** (School of History & Cultures, University of Birmingham) will take on the exploration of empires further east by introducing 'A Forgotten Eurasian Empire: The Liao Dynasty, 907-1125'. Unprecedented this year are also the numbers of round table discussions on the special focus, again often looking beyond the traditional chronological, geographical, and conceptual boundaries of the European Medieval Ages.



In addition to the special focus on Empire we are pleased to announce a number of special lectures and events. We are delighted to welcome back - for the second year - the *Early Medieval Europe* lecture, with this year's speaker, **Maria Cristina La Rocca** (Dipartimento di Storia, Università di Padova) exploring the subject 'Foreign Dangers - Activities, Responsibilities, and the Problem of Women Abroad, c. 500-1000'.

We also warmly welcome back the Medieval Academy of America for their annual lecture series which will be given by **Rita Copeland** (Department of Classical Studies / Department of Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania) on 'Emotional Knowledge: Figurative Language in Medieval Rhetoric'.

There will also be two special sessions in the University Library's Special Collections, both sampling some of the riches of the collections' holdings, one focussing on their contemporary literary archives and the other one on re-creating medieval feasts.

## IMC 2014 ON THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS MAIN CAMPUS

The IMC 2014 will be the second year at IMC's new site, on the University's main campus and near the centre of the City of Leeds. The overall feedback from 2013 was very positive and encouraging, but there is still scope for further improvement. We have listened to your suggestions and have aimed to further improve the IMC's provisions. In particular, we have broadened the range of session rooms to include larger rooms on campus.



As before, we rely on you to feed back your impressions - good and bad - and any comments will be taken very seriously. The main parameters will be very similar to 2013 and will be as follows:

**Session Rooms:** All day-time sessions will take place in six main University buildings (Parkinson Building, Emmanuel Centre, Baines Wing, Michael Sadler Building, Leeds University Union, and University House), all evening round table discussions will take place at Leeds University Union, University House, and the Michael Sadler Building.



**Accommodation and Meals:** There are plenty of accommodation options available for all budgets and requirements. However, with an estimated increase in delegate numbers, we recommend to book early to assure your preferred accommodation option.

We also have a range of pre-booked meal options available - ranging from packed lunches to sit-down meals in award-winning on-campus venues.



**Bookfair:** The bookfair will take place in the Parkinson Court - all in one place and in the heart of the Congress. The Second-Hand and Antiquarian Bookfair, the Craft Fair and the Historical and Archaeological Societies' Fair will take place in the Leeds University Union Building and University Square.



**Tea & Coffee:** Complementary tea & coffee will be served all throughout the Congress in the Marquee on University Square and at key break times in the Parkinson Court, the Michael Sadler Building, and University House.



**Social Space:** The two venues exclusive to IMC Delegates during the daytime are the Marquee and the Centenary Gallery in the Parkinson Building. During the evening (and all day on Sunday) we recommend the Marquee, which will be of exclusive use to IMC delegates.



Many of the IMC 2013 delegates discovered the Leeds University Union Old Bar which will be open for IMC Delegates throughout the Congress with late licenses from Sunday to Wednesday evening. The Old Bar will also have the traditional Congress Ale on tap!

**Events:** Events will take place in various venues across campus. We now have the opportunity to utilize key performance areas most suitable for the specific types of events.

As we have shown in 2013, one big advantage of the new setup is that we have the opportunity and space to have a large number of varying activities. We have started to colour the Campus medieval, with activities taking place before, during, and after the Congress, and we hope to demonstrate the excitement, diversity, and fun of Medieval Studies. This is something we would like to strengthen and increase in 2014.



As we move closer to July, please check the IMC website [www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2014.html](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2014.html) where any additions, changes, or updates to this programme will be displayed.



## NEW EVENTS FOR IMC 2014

**Simon Armitage**, poet and translator of medieval verse as well as Professor for Poetry at the University of Sheffield, will give a poetry reading and lead a discussion on how to approach medieval subjects for contemporary reinterpretation. In this special session, Armitage will read sections from his translations of *Gawain* and *Arthur*, describing the processes, excitements, and pressures of undertaking this kind of work as a practising poet rather than an academic or scholar. In the case of *Gawain*, he will discuss his notions of 'bringing Gawain home', the development of the text towards its inclusion in the *Norton Anthology of Literature*, and what led him to work on the *Alliterative Morte Arthure* – an 'Empire' poem if ever there was one. He will also discuss some of the reactions and responses to the published poems, his brushes with the film world, and the relationships and dialogues that take place between Middle English and the vocabulary of his contemporary work. Finally, he will also read passages from his translation of *Pearl*, still a work in progress, due to appear in 2016.



**Michael Wood**, film maker, broadcaster, medievalist, and Visiting Professor for Public History at the University of Manchester, has joined up with the IMC and the Yorkshire Archaeological Society to present a special lecture on the 'Great War' of 937 and the Battle of Brunanburh. He will reflect on one of the great events of the period, in which a Viking and North British coalition was defeated by King Æthelstan at Brunanburh. The site of the battle has long been controversial, but the consensus now is that it should be located in the Wirral in the North West of England. This lecture questions this view. Reviewing the evidence from annals, numismatics, onomastics, and topography, Wood argues that the context of the war is Northumbrian history of the Viking Age and that the battle probably took place south of York in the main war zone of the second quarter of the 10th century. A new location is proposed near the River Went (in Yorkshire), whose name it is suggested is contained in an alternative Northumbrian name for the battle.

The IMC is working together with the **Digital Humanities** conference in Lausanne to host a joint discussion simultaneously at Leeds and Lausanne. Both conferences are widely-recognised platforms for discussing and showcasing new research approaches in their respective fields. Recognizing the ever-increasing impact of contributions from Digital Humanities (DH), this session aims to foster more active engagement between DH and medievalists. Thus, the idea of a virtual session between the IMC and the DH conference was conceived, providing a forum for interdisciplinary discussion in both locations via live-streaming.

## PROFESSIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

There will be two Professional Development Workshops on Friday, 11 July, the first of which is on 'Hildegard of Bingen' – co-ordinated by William T. Flynn (Institute for Medieval Studies, University of Leeds). Hildegard of Bingen's writings and music have moved from the periphery into the centre of many medieval surveys in religious history, as well as in the many areas to which Hildegard contributed (theology in homiletic and visionary literature, music, drama, hagiography, letters, natural science, and medicine). This workshop, following on from Thursday's sessions 'Hildegard of Bingen: Theology in Poetry and Music', is designed to bring together people who have teaching or research interests in Hildegard's works or who are simply interested in finding out more about the interdisciplinary study of the newest Doctor of the Church. All participants will be encouraged to contribute insights from their own research and teaching to the discussions.

Issues to be discussed include identifying Hildegard's creative fusions of sources and influences, her works' manuscript transmission and chronology, and the historical, religious, and pedagogical circumstances in which they were produced. Bibliographies will be provided and tools for further study and teaching will be demonstrated.

This workshop will run from 09.30 to 16.00 with time for lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided during break times. Presenters and workshop leaders include: Margot Fassler, William T. Flynn, and Tova Leigh Choate (co-authors of the two chapters dealing with Hildegard's musical works for *A Companion to Hildegard of Bingen*, ed. by B. Kienzle, D. Stoudt, and G. Ferzoco (Leiden: Brill, 2014)); as well as Graham A. Loud, Julia Steuart Barrow, and Stephen Marc D'Evelyn.

The second professional career development workshop is entitled 'Understanding Interlace' and is co-ordinated by Michael Brennan (Trinity Irish Art

Research Centre (TRIARC), Trinity College Dublin). Interlace, the intertwining of ribbons that are animate or inanimate, is an ubiquitous though mystifying ornamental device handed down to us from classical, Germanic, and Hiberno-Saxon sources. This workshop will run from 09.00 to 13.00 with a break during which tea and coffee will be provided.

This is a workshop that accompanies the 'Imperium Mundi' series of sessions investigating the various 'Empires' structuring the medieval world, both earthly and unearthly, all of which are visually present in the material objects and artefacts produced in medieval milieu. Lacing them together and thus linking them through the visual record is the motif of interlace, which forms a dominant aspect of the grammar of Anglo-Saxon ornament. This four-hour workshop aims to provide in-depth understanding of this motif through practice - hands-on experience being accompanied by a short discussion of the theory and practicalities of constructing interlace patterns.

## EVENTS AND EXCURSIONS FOR IMC 2014

This year's programme of events offers a wide range of choice including concerts by the Dufay Collective on medieval English love lyrics and the Clothworkers' Consort on musical responses to Christ's Passion as well as a multimedia performance by Silvan Wagner on Wolfram von Eschenbach's *Willehalm*. In addition there will be workshops on embroidery, Burgundian Chanson (in co-operation with NEEMF), and calligraphy, as well as a reading of Chaucer's *Reeve's Tale*, and the return of the very popular medieval feast, this time inspired by the cuisine of the crown of Aragon. For information, please visit:

[www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/IMC2014/events.html](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/IMC2014/events.html)



Our programme for excursions includes visits to the Ricardian castles of Richmond and Middleham, the parish churches of Ledsham and Methley, the Leeds Discovery Centre, the Royal Armouries Museum, Bolton, Rievaulx, and Byland Abbeys, and to York Minster. More locally there will be historical and art walking tours across the University Campus. For more information about IMC excursions please visit:

[www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/IMC2014/events.html](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/IMC2014/events.html)

The Leeds University Union Medieval Society (founded in 2013) is offering a series of fun and informal medieval (inspired) activities, from games sessions and film showings to PechaKucha - a concise and fast-paced multiple-speaker experience.

For more information about their programme of events, please download their programme from:

[www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/IMC2014/LUU\\_Medieval\\_Society\\_Events\\_Programme.pdf](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/IMC2014/LUU_Medieval_Society_Events_Programme.pdf)

For more information about Leeds University Union Medieval Society visit:

[www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk/groups/18129/](http://www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk/groups/18129/)

More familiar to visitors of last year's IMC will be the second coming of 'Making Leeds Medieval': we will bring a number of medieval-inspired activities to the main campus, with displays of crafts and local produce as well as live entertainment including music, combat displays, and falconry.



The celebration will conclude in a performance of 'The Dance of Deadly Sins' by NONSUCH. Inspired by the medieval miracle plays of virtue and vice, the NONSUCH dancers bring a newly-created dance theatre experience to the IMC.



Using historical dance music and the original text from the Spanish dance play *The Dance of the Deadly Sins* by Diego Sanchez de Badajoz, this performance will be presented in both English and Spanish.

Finally, to bring the IMC 2014 to a festive close, all delegates are invited to a performance by the Assumption Ceilidh Band. No prior experience is required as all dances will be taught beforehand, so please come to kick up your heels!



## PRINTED PROGRAMME

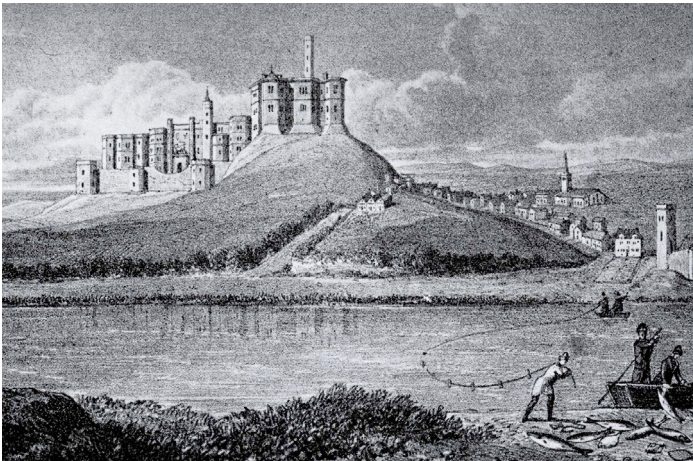
The printed programme will be ready in February and a copy will be sent to everybody actively involved in the IMC 2014. A publicly-available and fully-searchable online programme is accessible at

[www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2014.html](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2014.html)

The online programme includes abstracts of all sessions.

## POST CONGRESS TOUR: MEDIEVAL CASTLES OF NORTHUMBERLAND 'THE CASTLE COUNTY OF ENGLAND'

There will also be a four-day post-Congress excursion, jointly organised with the Royal Armouries, guided by Kelly DeVries (Department of History, Loyola College, Maryland) and Robert C. Woosnam-Savage (Royal Armouries, Leeds). This tour explores the fortifications of this heavily-contested region, described by the architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner as 'the castle county of England'.



With over 300 castles within its borders, the fortifications of Northumberland reflect its long history as a frontier region, not just between England and Scotland but between sea and land. It allegedly has more castles than any other county, and the people who lived in and fought over this border land - from the Romans and the Normans to the Scots and the English - all left their mark. The antiquity of these conflicts is reflected by a visit to Housesteads Fort on Hadrian's Wall. Begun in AD 122, it is the most complete Roman fort in Britain.

The sites visited range from small ruins and fortified houses, such as Aydon, to extensive properties that are still lived in today, such as Bamburgh - a huge and complex fortification that has its ancient roots as the capital of the Kingdom of Northumbria. The coastal castle of Dunstanburgh is the largest in the county, covering 4.45 hectares (11 acres), and stands on imposing 30 m (100 ft) sea cliffs. Three towns in Northumberland were walled and the traces of the 15th century walls and gates, raised against the Scots, still stand at Alnwick.

Some lie on the routes and roads taken by warring bands which fought to gain control over this land or pass through it on the way to further conquest. Other castles lie on the coast facing enemies that might use the sea lanes of the North Sea to invade their lands. Some of them, however, stand testament to the feuding of warring local families and magnates. Warkworth was one of the homes of the famed Sir Henry Percy, known to history as 'Harry Hotspur', who died at the battle of Shrewsbury in 1403.

Unlike many castles in Britain that never saw any military action, a number of these castles were besieged and defended. Norham castle was besieged on at least 13 occasions. During the 15th century many of these castles, such as Bamburgh and Dunstanburgh, were besieged by early artillery, with various degrees of success, illustrating the rapid spread of the latest technologies of siege warfare even in this supposedly remote part of northern England.

The large number of castles in this region that were attacked from the 12th century through to the 17th century indicate just how debated these lands were. Even Northumberland itself was ceded to the Scots at one point, during the 1130s, only to be returned to English control in 1157.

In more recent, and peaceful, times the castles and their rugged landscapes have formed the dramatic backdrop for many movies, ranging from Polanski's *Macbeth* (Bamburgh Castle) to the Harry Potter series (Alnwick Castle). These castles include superb examples of medieval military engineering and architecture set in wide-ranging land and seascapes, and this tour provides an opportunity to explore and compare these evocative castles.

### CONTACT DETAILS

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## IMC DIARY DATES

IMC 2014 Registration Deadline: 14 May 2014

IMC 2014: Special Thematic Strand, 'Empire': 7-10 July 2014

IMC 2015: Paper Proposals Deadline: 31 August 2014

IMC 2015: Session Proposals Deadline: 30 September 2014

IMC 2015: Special Thematic Strand, 'Reform and Renewal': 6-9 July 2015

## IMC 2015, 6-9 JULY: CALL FOR PAPERS

### SPECIAL FOCUS: REFORM AND RENEWAL

The IMC seeks to provide an interdisciplinary forum for the discussion of all aspects of Medieval Studies. Paper and session proposals on any topic related to the European Middle Ages are welcome. However, every year, the IMC chooses a specific special thematic strand which - for 2015 - is 'Reform and Renewal'. The theme has been chosen for the crucial importance of both phenomena in social and intellectual discourse, both medieval and modern, as well as their impact on many aspects of the human experience.

The changes brought about by deliberate individual and collective interventions demonstrate the impact of reform and renewal on the development of spirituality, ideologies, institutional and socio-economic realities, literary and artistic expression, and a sense of shared identity amongst communities. Change could be justified by referring rhetorically to a 'restoration' or 'renewal' of a perceived former reality. Monastic and ecclesiastical groups regarded spiritual and institutional reform as closely interconnected. Secular rulers invoked divine will and natural order to validate interventions in political and socio-economic structures. Innovators in literary and artistic spheres referred to a desire to return to a more 'authentic' or 'original' intellectual, spiritual, or aesthetic experience. In reality, reform and renewal could be profoundly radical but could also be more ambiguous, remaining virtually unnoticed by contemporaries. Medieval commentators' tendency to append positive and negative connotations to accounts of reform and renewal continues to impact upon modern discussions of both phenomena and their rhetorical uses.

Proposals should be submitted online at:

[www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2015\\_call.html](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2015_call.html)

The IMC online proposal form will be available from **1 May 2014**. Paper proposals must be submitted by **31 August 2014**. Session proposals must be submitted by **30 September 2014**.

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



### Areas of discussion could include:

- Justifications for reform by ruling or dissident groups (e.g. oligarchies, heretics, parliaments)
- Memories of reform: historiographical justifications
- Changing evaluations of reform and renewal: medieval commentaries and modern scholarship
- Relevance of reform and renewal as terms to describe change across different periods, regions, social layers, and landscapes
- Renewal without reform: intentional change that was not presented as a reform
- The individual as agent of reform / renewal: charismatic leaders, innovators, and bureaucratic reformers
- Collectivities as agents of reform and renewal
- Significance and / or impact of individual, social, political, and institutional reform / renewal as well as impact on individuals and societies
- Religious and / or ideological renewal
- Reform and renewal in literary and artistic production: genre and style reforms, reformist literature
- Reform and renewal in manuscript production, translation, and dissemination
- Medieval rhetorics of reform and renewal
- Physical remains of reform or renewal: architecture, texts, iconography
- Reform as renovation or continuity: maintaining continuation of structures, continuation of knowledge, or 'Back to basics'
- Reform in education / moral renewal



# ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR MEDIEVAL STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## 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 adjacent 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: [www.leeds.ac.uk/library/spcoll/](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/library/spcoll/)

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

It is the usual practice in the IMS for research students to 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 his or her 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.

## IMC 2014 Reception and Meeting

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a contributor to IMB, there will be a reception and information session at 19.00-20.00 on Monday 07 July in the Cloberry Room, University House.

