

# International *Medieval* Congress

**JANUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER**

**IMC 2015: 6-9 JULY**



## **IMC 2015 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/IMC2015/registration.html](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/IMC2015/registration.html)



## **IMC 2015**

Entering its 22nd 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 2000 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 more than 30 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 2015!

## **THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMME AND SPECIAL THEMATIC STRAND 'REFORM & RENEWAL'**

2015 is a year of plenty with many anniversaries for medievalists with national and international significance, including the anniversary of the Fourth Lateran Council and the Magna Carta in 1215. This year's special focus on 'Reform & Renewal' includes several of these anniversaries and has gone much further, investigating many aspects of reform and renewal in and of the Middle Ages. In total, we have 220 sessions and round table discussions on the special thematic strand, including secular and religious, spatial and ritual reform, dissidence, cross-cultural perspectives, the views of medieval historiographers as well as post-medieval perspectives on reform, artistic and literary expressions of reform, and the reforming of knowledge. This special focus, of course, is only a third of the riches the IMC offers in 2015, with a further 433 sessions dealing with many other aspects of Medieval Studies.

We are delighted to welcome three main keynote speakers on 'Reform & Renewal'. The Congress will open with a double lecture by Maureen C. Miller (Department of History, University of California, Berkeley) and Keith Lilley (School of Geography,

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Archaeology & Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast), with the first part focusing on 'Beyond National Narratives: Culture, States, and Reframing 'Gregorian' Reform' and the second on 'Spaces of Reform?: Urban Renewal and the Shaping of Cities in Medieval Europe'. At lunchtime on Monday, Frank Griffel (Council on Middle East Studies, Yale University) will continue with 'Reforming Islam at the Turn to the 6th/12th Century: Al-Ghazali's Project of Reviving Religion through Aristotelianism and Mysticism', focusing on reform beyond the Christian world. On Wednesday evening a major round table discussion will focus on 'Ways to Address 'Reform & Renewal' across Medievalist Disciplines'.



In addition to the special focus on Reform & Renewal we are pleased to announce a number of special lectures and events. We are delighted to welcome back the Early Medieval Europe lecture, with this year's speaker, Mayke de Jong (Departement Geschiedenis en Kunstgeschiedenis, Universiteit Utrecht) exploring 'Carolingian Cultures of Dialogue and Debate'.

The Medieval Academy of America also returns for their annual lecture series given by Sara Lipton (Department of History, State University of New York, Stony Brook) on 'The Vulgate of Experience - Preaching, Art, and the Material World'.

New appearances this year include an exhibition held throughout the Congress on the Parkinson Balcony and an associated lecture on the 'Ballar el moro - Dancing the Moor: Festive Dances of Moors and Christians in the Western Mediterranean'.

There will also be a display of research posters from the University of Leeds, University of York, and University of Sheffield available throughout the Congress week, with poster presentations on Tuesday between 18.00 and 20.00. During this time, IMC delegates are invited to view the posters and will be given the opportunity to network with the presenters.

## **SPECIAL SESSIONS 2015**

On Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtime, two special sessions will give delegates the chance to see first-hand the extensive holdings of Special Collections

at the University Library. The first of these, 'J. R. R. Tolkien at Leeds and in the Brotherton Library Special Collections', will be delivered by Alaric Hall (School of English, University of Leeds). While more famously associated with Oxford University, J. R. R. Tolkien's first lectureship was at Leeds. This talk will draw on literary work published during Tolkien's time at Leeds and held in Special Collections, along with recently acquired correspondence between Tolkien and Ida Gordon - medievalist, ex-student, and wife of Tolkien's friend and collaborator E. V. Gordon. It will explore how shaping a medieval syllabus at Leeds helped Tolkien develop his own literary endeavours.



A second session held amidst the Special Collections is, 'The Secrets of Early Printed Books - The Leeds Incunabula Revealed', led by Rhiannon Lawrence-Francis (Special Collections, University of Leeds Library).

Leeds University Library has over 300 incunabula, that is, books printed in Europe before 1501. The majority were acquired by Lord Brotherton of Wakefield, the library's greatest benefactor, and another 40 items are on deposit from Ripon Cathedral Library. The project has given a greater insight into Lord Brotherton's collecting strategy, which aimed to build a representative collection of high-quality items that would illustrate both the geographical range of early European printing and the variety of subject matter with which early printers and publishers were concerned.

Following each session there will be an opportunity to observe the collection in more detail. The Reading Room of Special Collections is open from 09.00-18.00 during the Congress week, and IMC delegates are welcome to pursue their research and explore the collection.

Graham Coatman (School of Music, Humanities & Media, University of Huddersfield) will also give a special talk about 'Contemporary Composers and the Renewal of Medieval Practice?: Medieval Models in the Work of Judith Weir' on Thursday lunchtime. The session will consider: Is the use of medieval models by 20th-century British composers, a means to establish identity and authenticity, or simply a reaction against the overwhelming harmonic and formal legacy of the 19th century? What do contemporary composers, and indeed, what do we, understand by medievalism today? How important to us, as the audience, is it to understand or know the medieval sources so used? How is the use of pre-

existent material integrated into the contemporary creative process?



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

There will be three Professional Development Workshops held on Friday 10 July, one of which is 'An Introduction to Medieval Records at The National Archives'. The National Archives of the United Kingdom (TNA) holds one of the world's largest and most important collections of medieval records. For all medievalists the ability to locate, read, and understand archival sources is fundamental to their research. However, finding, using, and interpreting the rich diversity of material is not always entirely straightforward, and its potential for a wide range of research uses is often unclear. This workshop will offer an introduction to TNA, demonstrating how to begin exploring its collections and to access research support. A course-pack with facsimiles of original documents will be used to illustrate the range of disciplines and topics TNA records can inform and illuminate. The workshop will be led by TNA specialists Nick Barratt, Sean Cunningham, Jessica Nelson, Laura Tompkins, and Paul Dryburgh.

The second Professional Development Workshop is co-ordinated by academic publishers Brill, who will offer postgraduate students and early career scholars a valuable insight into the world of academic publishing. The workshop will comprise of three sessions: the book proposal, writing the journal article, and producing an edited volume of conference proceedings. Workshop leaders Kate Hammond, Catherine Cubitt, Julian Deahl, Simon Forde, Alaric Hall, and Jonathan Jarrett will be on hand for advice and guidance and there will also be the opportunity for a question and answer session.



The third workshop, a 'Medieval Arms and Armour Study Session', will be hosted by the Royal Armouries: the British National Collection of arms and armour and one of Britain's oldest museums. This day seminar is a unique opportunity for a limited number of IMC delegates to take part in an immersive practical session, handling original medieval arms and armour. Key pieces will be made available for close examination in this intimate session and there will be the opportunity for informal discussion with our specialist curatorial staff. The workshop will be led by Karen Watts, Senior Curator Armour and Art, Robert C. Woosnam-Savage, Curator European Edged Weapons, Henry Yallop, Assistant Curator European Edged Weapons, and Keith Downen, Assistant Curator European Armour.

## EVENTS AND EXCURSIONS FOR IMC 2015

This year's programme of events offers a wide range of choice including a performance of late medieval wind music by Blondel, Joglearesa's anti-establishment celebration of 'Robbers, Rebels & Royals', and a programme of music from the time of the Magna Carta by Trouvère.



In addition there will be workshops on appliqué, music by Hildegard of Bingen (in co-operation with NEEMF), spinning, and calligraphy, a dramatic reading of Chaucer's *Manciple's Prologue and Tale* and the *Cook's Prologue and Tale*.



Our programme of excursions includes visits to Lincoln Cathedral and Bishops' Palace, and a trip to the historical hub of York to visit Micklegate and Monk Bar, located in the city walls.

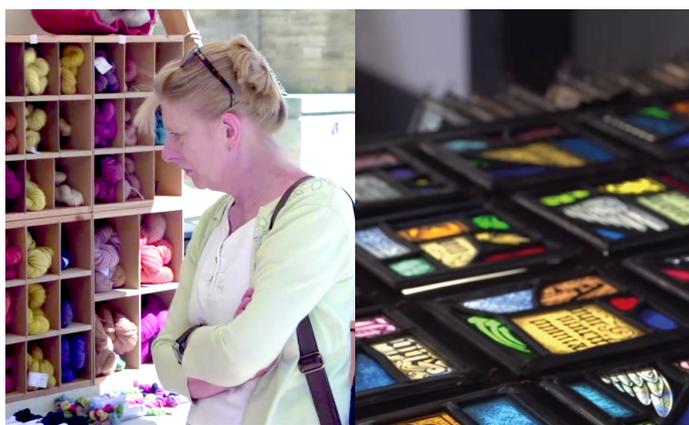
Other excursions include trips to sites across Yorkshire, such as Mount Grace Priory and Jervaulx Abbey, Conisbrough Castle, Kirkstall Abbey, and the renowned Royal Armouries Museum. Additionally, there will be a walking tour of Leeds, tracing the history of the city from medieval settlement to one of the most important business centres in the United Kingdom. For more information about IMC events and excursions please visit: [www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/IMC2015/events.html](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/IMC2015/events.html)



The Leeds University Union Medieval Society has enlivened the Congress with an assortment of medieval games and activities this year. Whether you seek an intense round of Gluckhaus in the Old Bar, to immerse yourself in our first International Medieval Film Festival, or to unwind and listen to a variety of readings in the Medieval Poetry Corner, the society offers a wide range of fun and informal medieval (inspired) activities to participate in.

For more information about their programme of events, please view their programme at: [www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/IMC2015/LUU\\_Medieval\\_Society\\_Events\\_Programme.pdf](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/IMC2015/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/)



## MAKING LEEDS MEDIEVAL

As the IMC 2015 draws to a close, 'Making Leeds Medieval' will once again transform the University Square into a bustling scene inspired by the past. The end of Congress celebration will include a colourful array of performances, demonstrations, food, and fairs for all to revel in and unwind as the sessions conclude.

The Medieval Craft Fair will once again take place during the 'Making Leeds Medieval' celebrations, offering a broad range of items from hand-made books to historically-inspired jewellery. Learn, whilst you peruse, about the techniques involved in making these exquisite items from the artisan responsible for their production.



The Historical and Archaeological Societies Fair will also return, alongside the craft stalls and purveyors of fine local produce. The fair will feature organisations involved in preserving local and national history in the UK, giving delegates the chance to discover and discuss the safeguarding of tangible historical culture.

Equally enticing, the Farmers Market will provide a range of quality, local produce from the Yorkshire Region and feature the not so medieval, but undeniably delicious, hog roast!

## Demonstrations and Displays

Following their IMC début in 2014, the performers of the European Historical Combat Guild will return to the University Square arena. Spurred by last year's successes, the Guild will once again employ replica weapons and armours in a programme of demonstrations, handling sessions, and enthralling live combat displays inspired by conflicts of the past.

Back by popular demand, the falcons and hawks will also return to the University Precinct. Birds of prey featured in previous years have included falcons, kestrels, merlins, hawks, and owls. In response to the positive reception our avian guests have received in previous years, the display will be



extended in both scale and variety, giving delegates and members of the public a greater opportunity to view and hold these majestic creatures.

Delegates will also be treated to rolling demonstrations of medieval culinary practice and etiquette, incorporating historic cooking techniques and the opportunity to taste dishes prepared according to medieval recipes. Described as a purveyor of 'fine historic foods': Dr Nick Trustring Eve from The Copper Pot will present a number of dishes to evoke the past through the sense of taste.

Further demonstrations will include paper-marbling by Bade Kadafar, and skep-making by Malcolm Fisher of Sweetness and Light, along with displays by Mulberry Dyers and Tanya Bentham. Live music will feature once again, as the Leeds Waits return to amplify the festivities with their display of musical versatility.

New to the IMC, the King Edward's Living History Group will join us with hands-on activities, demonstrations, and displays.



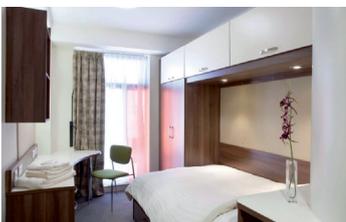
### 'Rys up and lat us daunce!'

Bringing the IMC to a joyful close, a rousing evening of medieval music and dance will be led by the Arbeau Dancers, featuring live music from Peter Bull. Instruction and demonstrations will be provided, ranging from stately Basse Dances of the Burgundian court to the more lively dances of the Italian Renaissance to name but a few.

No prior experience is required and audience participation is encouraged, so please come to kick up your heels, revel in the festivities, or simply cheer on the dancers.

More information about 'Making Leeds Medieval' is available on the IMC website at:

[www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/IMC2015/events.html](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/IMC2015/events.html)



## IMC 2015 AND UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS CAMPUS

Following the success of previous years, the IMC 2015 will once again be held on the main campus of the University of Leeds, one of the UK's largest universities. The University campus is situated just 1km (2/3 mile) north of the city centre and features modern lecture facilities, award-winning accommodation, and pleasant outdoor spaces with impressive architectural surroundings.

- **Session Rooms:** All sessions will be held in rooms located across the northern part of the campus and are situated within easy walking distance of each other. This is the oldest part of the University and is characterised by late 19th- and early 20th-century architecture.
- **Accommodation and Meals:** A variety of accommodation to suit all budgets and requirements can be booked when registering for the IMC 2015. Accommodation is available both on and off campus; however, with an estimated increase in delegate numbers, we recommend booking early to ensure your preferred option.



- **Breakfast** is included in all accommodation booked through the IMC and a range of meal options are available for lunch and dinner in the Refectory and café bars around campus. Meal tickets can be booked online via IMC registration or bought on-site from the Refectory Foyer.
- **Bookfair:** The beloved IMC bookfair will take place in the Parkinson Court, on the ground floor of the Parkinson building, at the very centre of the congress. All are invited to come and enjoy a glass of wine to celebrate its launch on Monday 6 July from 18.00 to 19.00.



## PRINTED PROGRAMME

The printed programme will be ready in February and a copy will be sent to everybody actively involved in the IMC 2015. A publicly-available and fully-searchable online programme is accessible at [www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2015.html](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2015.html)

The online programme includes abstracts of all sessions.

- The Second-Hand and Antiquarian Bookfair will take place on both Sunday 5 and Monday 6 July in the Leeds University Union Foyer and Terrace Bar.
- 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: There is an abundance of networking areas and social space available on campus, where delegates will be able to meet friends and network with colleagues. Some of these venues include The Marquee, Old Bar, and Parkinson Court, which we hope will be made the most of throughout the Congress.

As we move closer to July, please check the IMC website: [www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/IMC2015/imc2015.html](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/IMC2015/imc2015.html) where any additions, changes, or updates to this programme will be displayed.



### NEW CRITERIA FOR IMC SESSION AND PAPER PROPOSALS

The number of proposals received by the IMC has been steadily increasing year on year. In response to this growth we have amended our timetable as well as increased the numbers of parallel sessions during the IMC. Yet this level of growth is not sustainable indefinitely.

In order to control the size of the IMC, as well as to best preserve the interdisciplinary scope and balance of the academic programme, we have introduced a more rigorous procedure for the acceptance of paper and session proposals. For IMC 2016, proposals will

be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Originality of content
- Clarity of content and expression
- Provision of complete and accurate information on the proposal form
- Contribution towards overall coherence and diversity of the programme

Further criteria will apply to proposals for sessions:

- Overall coherence and demonstration of a clear academic rationale
- Overall number of sessions submitted by the organiser/sponsor
- Diversity of session participants, e.g. in terms of institution and nationality

We hope that publishing official criteria for acceptance will make the process of programming more fair and transparent to everyone as well as ensuring the overall quality of the academic programme.



### CONTACT DETAILS

International Medieval Congress  
Institute for Medieval Studies  
University of Leeds  
LEEDS, LS2 9JT, UK  
Tel. +44 (113) 343-3614  
[imc@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:imc@leeds.ac.uk)  
[www.leeds.ac.uk/imc](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/imc)



# IMC DIARY DATES

IMC 2015 Registration Deadline: 14 May 2015

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

IMC 2015: Paper Proposals Deadline: 31 August 2015

IMC 2015: Session Proposals Deadline: 30 September 2015

IMC 2016: Special Thematic Strand, 'Food, Feast & Famine': 4-7 July 2016

## IMC 2016, 4-7 JULY - CALL FOR PAPERS SPECIAL FOCUS: FOOD, FEAST & FAMINE

**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 2016 - is 'Food, Feast & Famine'. 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.**

Food is both a necessity and a marker of economic and social privilege. Who cooks food, who consumes it in the Middle Ages? How and what did people from different social levels or religious commitments eat? How did eating change? How were these issues contested and represented? What does food reveal about differing aspects of medieval society and culture?

The aim is to cover the entire spectrum of famine to feast through multi-disciplinary approaches. Study of the medieval economy raises issues about standards of living and nutritional health. Both archaeological as well as textual evidence have been used to explore crop yields, agricultural methods, transport problems, dearth, and famine. Geographical and social variations in diet are important for understanding medieval taste and the era's definitions of sufficiency and luxury. Food is an expression of international relations and trade, as shown in the intercultural influences between Christian Europe and Islamic Spain, North Africa, the Eastern Mediterranean, and India.

Across medieval Europe the acquisition, preservation, and storage of food was a struggle for much of the population, but food consumption was also a means for a clerical and noble elite to display taste and ostentation. In popular culture, feasting is perceived as one of the major activities of the medieval elite. The religious significance of food and fasting in the Middle Ages was part of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish practice. Fasting and food had wide-ranging interconnections with piety and charity, and could involve renunciation of an exceptional intensity. Spiritual and physical nourishment and its absence can be explored in many disciplines from the theological, legal, and literary to the art historical and linguistic.

### Areas of discussion could include:

- Agricultural systems
- Almsgiving – food as charity
- Changing tastes
- Cookbooks and cooking practice
- Dearth and famine
- Drink – wine, ale, and water
- Environmental contexts
- Feasting
- Food and social class
- Food in monastic and other religious communities
- Food production
- Food supply and population
- Food supply and transport
- Fresh and saltwater fish
- Hunting
- Medical ideas of food, digestion, and humoral pathology
- Medieval haute cuisine
- Religious and spiritual feasting and fasting
- Spices and other edible luxury trade items
- Standards of living
- Symbolic/Figurative food
- Trading food

Proposals should be submitted online at:

[www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2016\\_call.html](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2016_call.html)

The IMC online proposal form will be available from **15 May 2015**. Paper proposals must be submitted by **31 August 2015**. Session proposals must be submitted by **30 September 2015**.

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

# 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 2015 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 17.00-18.00 on Thursday 09 July in the Parkinson Building: Room B.06.