



LEEDS INTERNATIONAL MEDIEVAL CONGRESS

January 2020 Newsletter



Registration Opens on Monday 10 Feb for IMC 2020

We are delighted to welcome delegates to register for IMC 2020 where the special thematic strand will be 'Borders'. Registrations will open from 10.00 GMT (UK time) on Monday 10 February.

IMC 2020 will be another record-breaking year as we have received an 11% increase in paper and session proposals. This year's packed programme contains over 830 sessions, including 2,450 papers, round table discussions, and other medieval excitement.

You can find out more about the academic programme, as well as the wide variety of concerts, performances, workshops, exhibitions, and fairs.

Special Thematic Strand: 'Borders'

This year's special thematic strand will be the largest yet, bringing together 569 sessions on

topics from across medieval studies. Speakers from around the world will engage with the special theme of borders in a variety of new, innovative and interdisciplinary ways. The special thematic strand has been co-ordinated by Nora Berend (Faculty of History / St Catharine's College, University of Cambridge).

Late Call for Papers

As vacancies arise, we will continue to update the IMC website with the details of all sessions that are accepting late paper proposals. If you have a paper that you would like to propose for any of these, email the IMC with your title and abstract.

Find the late call for papers at www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/imc2020/latecall/.

2020 Keynotes Announced

We are delighted to welcome the following keynote speakers: the Congress will open with a double lecture by Michal Biran (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) and Ryan Szpiech (University of Michigan), with the first speaker focusing on 'Borders in a Borderless Empire? - Political, Ecological, and Cultural Borders in Mongol Eurasia' and the second on 'Right Time, Wrong Place? - Navigating the "Territorial Trap" in the Study of Medieval Religion'. On Monday lunchtime, Saebjorg Walaker Nordeide (Universitetet i Bergen) will continue the series with "Setting Sail, Crossing Mountains: Borders in Scandinavia around AD 1000". On Tuesday lunchtime, Ana Echevarría Arsuaga (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Madrid) will present a lecture on "Cohabitation in Iberian Medieval Towns: Between *Convivencia* and the Frontier", followed on Wednesday with a lecture by Ingrid Baumgärtner (Universität Kassel) on "*Grenzräume*: Medieval Maps and the Perception of Border Zones and Boundaries". Finally, on Thursday lunchtime Hyunhee Park (John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York) will present a lecture on "Open Space and Flexible Borders: Theorising Maritime Space through Pre-Modern Sino-Islamic Connections".

We are also delighted to welcome back the Early Medieval Europe lecture, with this year's speaker, Jinty Nelson (King's College London) exploring '*Fines imperii*: Borders and Boundaries in the Age of Charles, King



Delegates will have the opportunity to get up close and personal with falcons and other birds of prey at the IMC, as SJM Falconry return with their birds.



A packed lecture theatre as delegates enjoy an engaging lecture at IMC 2019.

and Emperor of the Franks (and Only Much Later Called Charlemagne)', as well as the Medieval Academy of America for their annual lecture series which will be given by Carol Symes (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) on 'Beyond Textual Bounds: Rediscovering the Mediation of Medieval Sources'. Furthermore, we are pleased to continue with the tradition of our New Voices Lecture. On Wednesday evening, Usha Vishnuvajjala (Temple University, Pennsylvania) will give a lecture on 'Feminist Medievalisms', aiming to redefine the boundaries of medievalism.

Events and Workshops

For those looking to learn new skills at IMC 2020, there are a number of hands-on workshops. From jewellery making to book-binding and calligraphy - there's plenty for you to try. Why not learn to map the stars in an astrolabe workshop or master the sword at our ever popular combat workshop?

Alongside our workshops, IMC delegates can choose from a range of concerts and performances to enjoy and, best of all, the majority are free! Get enthralled with a storytelling performance, such as *The Knight in the Panther Skin*, performed by James Baillie, *Roman de Silence*, performed by Rachel Rose Reid, or watch as the Lords of Misrule perform the manuscripts of Robert Thornton.

You can also attend a variety of performances of medieval music. We are particularly

thrilled to announce 'The Enchantress of Seville', a concert by Jogleasa. Praised by the Times for their 'thrilling and haunting' performances, the group will perform an exploration of Iberian song that is sure to delight audiences. Sponsored by Oswald von Wolkenstein-Gesellschaft, Silvan Wagner's performance of secular and spiritual song from late medieval Salzburg is another one to watch out for.

Building on their success at previous IMCs, the Special Collections team at the University of Leeds will be running a series of drop-in sessions at the Treasures Gallery, where delegates will have the opportunity to get up close with the university's extensive medieval manuscript collection. For film fans, there will be screenings, including one of the appropriately named film *Gräns* (2018), whose title translates into English as 'Borders'. Introduced by Rose Sawyer, it will be interesting to see how the film works alongside this year's thematic strand.

Finally, the IMC wouldn't be complete without the IMC Dance and Making Leeds Medieval which are on track to be bigger and better than ever. So come along and enjoy the merriment!

You can browse the full events and workshop programme here: www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/imc2020/fordelegates/

Excursions

There are religious sites aplenty in our excursion schedule, with trips to the ruins of Rievaulx Abbey and Bolton Abbey, and a long overdue return to the stunning Durham Cathedral. Bridge Chapel enthusiasts can explore the beautiful chantry chapels of Wakefield and Rotherham, while others may choose to learn more about the Battleground at Fulford or to visit the abandoned medieval settlement of Wharram Percy.

The customary Castles tour will visit Conisborough Castle and Tickhill Castle, the latter a site usually only open to the



Above, from top: Silvan Wagner, who will be performing a variety of secular and spiritual songs from late medieval Salzburg; Dean Davidson and Stuart Ivinson from Kunst des Fechtens (KDF) International, who will be returning in 2020 to lead a longsword workshop; the Leeds University Library team with treasures from Special Collections; jewellery by Tanya Bentham, who will be running a workshop on Saxon-style wire rings.



The Secondhand and Antiquarian Bookfair will run from Sunday afternoon till Tuesday, providing an opportunity to hunt out rare and exciting books.



There will be plenty to peruse at this year's Craft Fair on Wednesday and Thursday.

public once a year. For fans of medieval weaponry, there will be a handling session at the Royal Armouries Leeds and a tour of the latest exhibition on the Field of Cloth of Gold led by the curators themselves. There's also a walking tour of Leeds City Centre available for those not wishing to travel too far afield, where attendees will learn more about the history of Leeds by spotting the many owl motifs around the city!

For all our excursions and tours, sensible footwear is recommended. Owing to the

unpredictable weather, it is also advisable to bring both raincoats and sunblock!

Check out the full Excursions programme here: www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/imc2020/fordelegates/excursions/

Post-Congress Tour: Scotland the Brave!

By popular request, this year's Post-Congress Tour will be 'Scotland the Brave! Castles & Battlefields of Central Scotland'. The tour will travel north to Scotland, led by



Rievaulx Abbey is one of the local historical sites which IMC delegates will have the opportunity to visit in 2020.



Joglaresa will perform songs kept alive through centuries of tradition - a colourful and timeless kaleidoscope that connects the Occident to the Orient and the 11th to the 21st century.

Bob Woosnam-Savage and Kelly DeVries.

Delegates will enjoy a five-day tour of the Castles and battlefields of Central Scotland, visiting sites such as Edinburgh Castle and Cathedral, Doune Castle, Stirling Castle, and the famous Rosslyn Chapel. Many of the sites visited are associated with some of the most fascinating characters in Scottish history, including William Wallace and Robert the Bruce.

We recommend that you reserve your place on this excursion by registering online as early as possible. The price of the tour includes entry to sites, individual site guidebooks, coach transport, four nights' accommodation (ensuite), with breakfast, dinner, and packed lunch. The programme may be subject to change.

Find out more about the Post-Congress Tour here: www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/imc2020/fordelegates/excursions/

Record IMC Bursaries Awarded in 2020

In 2020, bursaries totalling £20,000 were awarded to 98 recipients ranging from £100 to £400. For this year's Congress, bursaries were awarded to participants from Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Libya, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Romania, Russia, Spain, Turkey, UK, Ukraine, and the USA.

If you would like to support the IMC Bursary Fund, please use the relevant section when making your booking for the IMC. Even small contributions make a great impact.

Templar Heritage Trust Bursaries

We would like to thank the Templar Heritage Trust (THT) for offering three bursaries of £200 each to IMC delegates.

THT operates as part of the Charities Aid Foundation and makes a number of grants each year in support of academic research and conservation of historic buildings. It takes a particular interest in the literary, architectural, and cultural legacy of the medieval Knights Templar and their period in history.

Sieglinde Hartmann Prize for German Language and Literature

Thanks to the generosity of Sieglinde Hartmann, a long-standing supporter of the IMC, a new prize was instituted for the 2018 Congress which continues to be awarded annually.

The prize of €250 is awarded each year for



Doune Castle, Scotland will be one of the stops on the IMC 2020 'Scotland the Brave' Post-Congress tour.



The IMC Craft Fair will run on Wednesday and Thursday and will feature hand-crafted items inspired by medieval production techniques and aesthetics, from handmade books to wood and leatherwork.



We are delighted to welcome more publishers than ever to exhibit their latest titles and works from across medieval studies during the IMC.

the best abstract for any paper proposal in the field of medieval German language and/or medieval German literature.

Leeds Medieval Studies Endowment Fund

The Institute for Medieval Studies received a substantial bequest from a fellow medievalist which enabled us to establish the Leeds Medieval Studies Endowment Fund in 2008.

Part of this fund directly contributes to the IMC Bursary Fund, further assisting medievalists in need of financial support to attend the Congress. In addition, it provides scholarships for MA and PhD students in the Institute for Medieval Studies, internship opportunities, and support for other activities in the medieval studies community.

New Accommodation Options for 2020!

We will once again be providing a variety of accommodation options for delegates including single-occupancy rooms in University halls of residence, Unite Student accommodation, and single, double, twin and family rooms in several hotels around Leeds city centre. For more information and an interactive map of the options available, go to www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/imc2020/accommodation.

We are delighted to introduce some new accommodation choices for 2020 which will join our usual on-campus accommodations and the hotels across the city.

This includes the newly built Hampton by Hilton hotel located on Gower Street, which offers a fresh and modern experience for a mid-range price.

This year we have also partnered with Roomzzz Aparthotels at their Leeds City West location on Burley Road. They provide serviced studio apartments which contain a kitchenette, perfectly equipped if you would would like to self-cater.

Along with on-campus university halls of residence at Ellerslie Global, Lyddon, and Charles Morris: Storm Jameson Hall, we have also partnered with Unite Students, a private student accommodation provider. Delegates will also be able to book a minimum of 3 nights stay at The Tannery, a Unite Students property on Cavendish Street on a room-only (no breakfast provided) basis. Offering en-suite rooms with kitchens shared between 5-6 rooms, this a perfect place to meet new people, or stay in groups with friends.

All our new and existing accommodation options are within a 20-minute walk from the university, making them very convenient for those staying off campus.

We expect demand for accommodation to be high again for 2020. Early booking is recommended, especially if you would like to book a room on campus.

Review of Strands and Index Terms

The IMC is currently undertaking a review of a variety of its operating systems and processes, including reviewing the current 40 strands and 88 paper index terms. It is important for these IMC programming and scheduling tools to be as representative as possible of the current, ever-evolving state of medieval studies. During the next few months, we will be considering a variety of ways of modifying, improving, and potentially expanding the current paper index terms.

Disciplinary Process Update

At Leeds we strive to create a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for everybody. Regardless of whether it is your first time at the IMC or you are a veteran delegate with a large network of contacts, we wish to ensure everybody feels that they can make the most of networking and social spaces as well as taking advantage of the wide-ranging academic programme through which to share research.

Although we try as hard as we can to ensure that every participant has a thoroughly positive experience, we also know that, on rare occasions, unpleasant behaviour might be experienced. The IMC takes any contravention of its policies very seriously and wants all delegates to feel able to report any incidents of inappropriate, threatening, or harassing behaviour. In consultation with the University of Leeds' legal team, the IMC has established a new Disciplinary Policy to handle the very rare situations in which delegates experience



Above, from top: delegates socialising during IMC 2019; Rachel Rose Reid who will be performing Roman de Silence; Erad ud Turan demonstrating at IMC 2019.

IMC 2021 - Key Dates

Proposals Open in late May 2020

Paper Proposal Deadline: Saturday 31 August 2020

Session Proposal Deadline: Monday 30 September 2020

Submit your Proposal: www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/imc2020/

Read our Proposal Guidelines: www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/proposals/proposal-guidelines/

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



Re-enactors at Making Leeds Medieval in 2019. We are currently making plans for a packed day of demonstrations, craft stalls, and food providers to bring IMC 2020 to a spectacular close.

bullying, harassment, or any other unwelcome behaviour during the Congress.

We have also revised our Dignity and Mutual Respect Policy and our Social Media Policy. These, along with our new Disciplinary Policy can now be viewed online. The Dignity and Mutual Respect and the Social Media policies detail our expectations regarding conduct and convey how we seek to foster a safe and productive environment.

You can read all our policies here: www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/policies/.

IMC 2021 Call for Papers: Climates

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 2021 this is 'Climates'.

Climates are engendered by powerful interactions of heavens, oceans, and

earth, and are themselves potent forces in complicated relationships with water, landscapes, patterns of weather, and human and non-human life. They affect, and are affected by, other climates - including of thought, opinion, feeling, belief, politics, society, and economics. Medievalists study populations across the globe that understood this interconnectedness in multiple ways, invested causal and explanatory power in observable phenomena, and lived in communities that were both vulnerable and responsive to shifting environmental conditions. Climates - in the many senses of the word - are now among the most pressing issues of our times. Expertise on the medieval period is becoming increasingly important to scientific and public conversations, while intensifying global instability threatens both the future study of a period long synonymous with irrelevancy, and the preservation of its material remains.

'Climates' can be explored on many levels, from the planetary to the intimately local, offering alternative routes to explore ideas of centres and peripheries, agency and determinism, connectivities, interdependencies and comparisons, as well as what constitutes the 'global' in this period. It was within dynamic environments and ecosystems that humans lived, moved, organised themselves, developed cosmologies, philosophies, and theologies, created material objects, literatures, and other records, extracted and exchanged the resources of different regions, competed for land and power, and faced disaster, displacement, and violence.

You can read the full call for papers on the back page of this newsletter, and also online at www.imc.leeds.ac.uk.



International Medieval Congress - University of Leeds



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@IMC_Leeds

Contact the IMC Team

International Medieval Congress
Institute for Medieval Studies
University of Leeds, LEEDS, LS2 9JT, UK

Tel. +44 (113) 343-3614
imc@leeds.ac.uk
www.imc.leeds.ac.uk

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 & Historical 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 at Boston Spa 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 students an excellent grounding for postgraduate study, plus a range of interdisciplinary, team-taught, and single-discipline optional 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. For more information contact the Editorial Director, Alan Murray: a.v.murray@leeds.ac.uk.

Contact the IMS

IMS / History Postgraduate Teaching & Research
Michael Sadler Building, University of Leeds
LEEDS, LS2 9JT, UK
Tel. +44 (113) 343-8747
ims@leeds.ac.uk
www.ahc.leeds.ac.uk/medieval

SPECIAL THEMATIC STRAND: CLIMATES



Climates are engendered by powerful interactions of heavens, oceans, and earth, and are themselves potent forces in complicated relationships with water, landscapes, patterns of weather, human and non-human life. They affect, and are affected by, other climates - including of thought, opinion, feeling, belief, politics, society, and economics. Medievalists study populations across the globe that understood this interconnectedness in multiple ways, invested causal and explanatory power in observable phenomena, and lived in communities that were both vulnerable and responsive to shifting environmental conditions. Climates - in the many senses of the word - are now among the most pressing issues of our times. Expertise on the medieval period is becoming increasingly important to scientific and public conversations, while intensifying global instability threatens both the future study of a period long synonymous with irrelevancy, and the preservation of its material remains.

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

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- Medieval concepts of 'climes' and 'climate'
 - Cosmologies, world views, natural or supernatural causation
 - Medieval enquiry into weather, seasons, monsoon patterns
 - Astronomical and astrological observations and predictions
 - Agriculture, pastoralism, modification of landscapes, exploitation of resources, inequality, colonialism
 - Environmental determinism, medieval histories of modern inequalities
 - Societal organisation, hierarchy, law-making, governance
 - Applying paradigms of adaption, resilience, and collapse
 - Ecosystems, entanglements, human and non-human agency
 - 'Climates' of opinion, thought, feeling
 - Disease, pathogens, and microbes
 - Relationships between climate change and human history
 - Ecocriticismcritical race theory, indigenous knowledge, ecofeminism, queer ecology
 - Weather and weathering
 - Interdisciplinarity and integration of historical climate and environmental data
 - 'Provincialising Europe': Writing history on the 'planetary' or biospheric scale
 - 'Climates' and interregional connectivities, interdependencies and disconnections
 - Fluctuations in migration, mobility, trade, exchange, and transmission
 - Seas, oceans, rivers, monsoon, floods as dynamic spaces
 - Medievalists, politics, climate justice, pedagogy, and activism
 - Preservation of material remains amid growing climate and societal instability

Proposals should be submitted online at www.imc.leeds.ac.uk (from 31 May 2020). Paper proposal deadline: **31 August 2020**; Session proposal deadline: **30 September 2020**. The IMC welcomes session and paper proposals submitted in all major languages. The IMC especially welcomes papers that bring perspectives from under-represented disciplines, regions, and theoretical and conceptual perspectives.



International Medieval Congress, Institute for Medieval Studies
University of Leeds, Parkinson Building 1.03, LEEDS LS2 9JT UK

Tel: +44 (113) 343-3614
Email: imc@leeds.ac.uk
www.imc.leeds.ac.uk



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