



LEEDS INTERNATIONAL MEDIEVAL CONGRESS

January 2021 Newsletter



Registration Opens on Monday 1 March for IMC 2021

We are delighted to welcome delegates to register for IMC 2021. This year's special thematic strand will be 'Climates'. Registrations will open from 10.00 GMT (UK time) on Monday 1 March 2021.

Owing to the coronavirus pandemic, the event will be hosted entirely online and will feature over 500 academic sessions, as well as fringe events, performances, and workshops. All sessions and other Congress activities will be accessible via the new IMC virtual event platform.

'We were delighted by the level of interest in last year's trial event,' said Congress Director Axel Müller. 'In spite of the pandemic, the IMC goes on, and our team have worked to source and develop an online platform which showcases what the IMC does best - facilitating scholarly conversations in a friendly, welcoming environment.'

Special Thematic Strand: 'Climates'

This year's conference will bring together over 1,650 speakers in 500+ sessions on topics from across medieval studies, including sessions on our special thematic strand of 2021, 'Climates'. Speakers from around the world will engage with the special theme of climates in a variety of innovative and interdisciplinary ways, from climate change, to weather, and political and cultural climates. The special thematic strand has been co-ordinated by Amanda Power (Faculty of History / St Catherine's College, University of Oxford).

2021 Keynotes Announced

Our keynote lectures will be delivered virtually and, like all IMC sessions, will be recorded and available to re-watch later at your own convenience. The IMC will open with a double lecture by Jean-Pierre Devroey

(Département d'enseignement d'Histoire, Arts et Archéologie, Université Libre de Bruxelles) and Innocent Pikirayi (Faculty of Humanities, University of Pretoria). Jean-Pierre will speak on 'How to Write and Think about Political, Social, and Economic History in Dialogue with Climatic and Environmental Data: A Case Study in the Age of Charlemagne, 740-820' while Innocent's lecture is entitled 'Towards New Climate and Environment Change Understanding in Africa: Re-Engaging the Medieval Climate Optimum/Anomaly and the Little Ice Age'.

On Tuesday lunchtime, Ling Zhang (Department of History, Boston College, Massachusetts / College of History & Culture, Shanxi University) will continue the series with 'Geoengineering an Empire: The Consumptive Mode of Analysis and China's Medieval Economic Revolution'. Our Wednesday lunchtime lecture will be given by Johannes Preiser-Kapeller (Institut für Mittelalterforschung, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien), who will speak on 'Crusaders of Climate Change?: The Debate on Global Warming between the Medieval and the Present Age'. On Wednesday evening, Heide Estes' (Department of English, Monmouth University, New Jersey) lecture is entitled 'Climate Then, Crisis Now: Medieval Ecocriticisms and Environmental Activism'.

We are also delighted that the *Early Medieval Europe* Lecture will this year be delivered by Mischa Meier (Institut für Alte Geschichte, Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen) and Claudia Rapp (Institut für Byzantinistik & Neogräzistik, Universität Wien / Institut für Mittelalterforschung, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien). Their lecture will focus on 'Studying Medieval Mobilities: Problems and Perspectives'.

Late Call for Papers

Our Late Call for Papers is now live and lists all those sessions requiring an additional paper. Submissions are welcome for any of these. The list is regularly updated and can be found here: www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/2021-climates/latecall/.



Above, from top: a speaker presenting during in-person IMC 2019; a speaker and their presentation at another IMC 2019 session; delegates congregating outside the Great Hall after a keynote lecture at an in-person IMC; the storytelling performance at IMC 2019 which will run again for 2021, albeit virtually.

Payment Methods Update

Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, our team remain working from home. This means that we are unable to receive enquiries or proof of status documents via post or fax.

More significantly, it also means that, for IMC 2021, we will be unable to take registration payments via credit/debit card over the telephone. This is due to ongoing restrictions regarding access to our on-campus offices where our card payment processing machine is located, and UK regulations which prohibit the removal of the machine. We therefore encourage all delegates to pay for their registration online. As in previous years, the system accepts Visa and MasterCard and is the most secure way to make payment for your IMC registration.

In exceptional circumstances payment by bank transfer may be possible, subject to an additional administrative fee. This covers the considerable administrative labour required both in our team and from University of Leeds' Central Finance team to raise an invoice, then receive, assign, and process the inbound payment. Please contact us at your earliest convenience if you wish to pay by bank transfer.

Please note that, as in previous years, we cannot accept payment by cash, cheque, Traveller's cheque, or Postal Order.

For more information on what the Programming and Registration fee covers, visit www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/2021-climates/imc-2021-frequently-asked-questions/



A delegate and Bookfair staff during the 2019 IMC Bookfair. This year's Bookfair will be virtual, with delegates able to access similar deals as in previous years.



An IMC orchid waits to welcome the first keynote speaker at the beginning of in-person IMC 2019. In 2021, delegates will enjoy a double keynote with two lectures to be given virtually. Please bring your own flowering plants!

An Integrated Online Experience

We are delighted to be working with Pathable, a virtual event platform provider, to host IMC 2021 entirely online. We hope to make the experience of attending IMC online as seamless as possible.

The entire virtual programme - including all academic sessions, bookfairs, exhibitions, events, excursions, fringe events, performances, workshops, and more - will all be accessible for registered delegates within the virtual platform. Academic sessions will be hosted on Zoom and accessed directly from the Pathable platform meaning you will be able to join sessions directly from the platform.

Attendees can join sessions directly from Pathable either in your web browser or via the Zoom app. However, speakers and moderators must have Zoom installed on their device in order to deliver their paper or moderate their session(s).

Each delegate will have a personal profile on Pathable to tell others about their research. During registration, which can be accessed in the usual way from our website (www.imc.leeds.ac.uk), you will have the opportunity to provide details for your Pathable profile which will be automatically populated into your personal profile. You can review and update this information when the platform is made live in late June.

Pathable also has the facility to allow delegates to network together in private, and we hope many of you will take advantage of this facility to recreate some of the chance meetings and catch-ups with



The Second-Hand and Antiquarian Bookfair will run for the whole five days of IMC 2021, providing an opportunity to hunt out rare and exciting books.



There will be plenty to peruse at this year's Craft Fair, which runs all week with our exhibitors.

old (and new) friends which are hallmarks of the in-person experience.

You can find out more about how IMC 2021 will work in the introductory pages of the IMC programme, available here: www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/2021-climates/programme/.

IMC Bursary Award Update

For IMC 2021, 258 applications were received and a total of £8,120 was awarded to 116 recipients from Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, Turkey, the UK, Ukraine, and the USA.

Bursaries in 2021 will cover the full cost of the Programming and Registration Fee. Details of how to claim



bursary awards will be sent to successful recipients shortly.

Additionally, for 2021, all unsuccessful bursary applicants will be eligible to register at the concessionary rate. Details of how to claim this 40% reduction in the Registration and Programming Fee for any delegate who applied for a bursary in 2021 will be sent to relevant delegates shortly.

We are aware that the pandemic has precipitated global financial crises which impact the most marginal in our communities the hardest. The IMC is run on a not for profit basis, with any surplus from each Congress being reinvested in the Bursary Fund. The Bursary Fund is available to delegates from outside Western Europe, students, independent scholars, retired, and unwaged scholars.

We know that many medievalists have been adversely affected by the pandemic. However, if you feel able to, please make a donation to the IMC Bursary Fund to support marginalised scholars. You can do this [via our website](#), or by using the 'Donations' section at registration. Even small contributions make a great impact.

Templar Heritage Trust Bursaries

We would like to thank the Templar Heritage Trust (THT) for offering four bursaries covering IMC Registration and Programming Fees. 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



Dragons fly at IMC 2018 on campus. This year delegates will be able to enjoy a variety of online events from the comfort of their own homes.

interest in the literary, architectural, and cultural legacy of the medieval Knights Templar and their period in history.

Bursaries from the Miriam Czock Fund

Thanks to the Memorial Fund set up to honour Miriam Czock (1976–2020), a brilliant medievalist, dedicated university teacher, and long-standing attendant of the IMC, a new bursary has been instituted for the International Medieval Congress in 2021. This year, the bursary is awarded to two PhD students or postdocs in the fields of early and high medieval history who have applied to the IMC Bursary Fund.

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. For further information about leaving a legacy or other ways of making a donation to Medieval Studies at Leeds, please email ims@leeds.ac.uk.

IMC Director Award Success

We are delighted to report that the Congress Director, Axel Müller, has been chosen for the Robert L. Kindrick – CARA Award for Outstanding Service to Medieval Studies by the Medieval Academy of America (MAA).

The prestigious award from the largest organisation working to promote medieval studies worldwide honours those 'who have provided leadership in developing, organizing, promoting, and sponsoring medieval studies through the extensive administrative work that is so crucial to the health of medieval studies but that often goes unrecognized by the profession at large'. This is the first time a scholar from outside of North America has been recognised for the award.

Congress Director, Axel Müller said 'I am very pleased to have been awarded this honour, but realise that this is an honour I accept on behalf of everybody who makes the IMC what it is. A sign of our strength is that we continue to make the IMC possible – whatever the restrictions worldwide. I am delighted to receive this sign of appreciation by the wider scholarly community which shows that we are doing



Above, and opposite: Unfortunately our Leeds campus will remain empty of Congress delegates this July, following the move online for IMC 2021.



There will be plenty to peruse at this year's online Craft Fair, which runs all week with many of our regular exhibitors.



We are delighted to host the IMC Bookfair online with a dedicated page for delegates and publishers to meet, contact, and interact with one another. This dedicated social space will also allow networking opportunities between attendees and exhibitors.

an incredible job in difficult circumstances. "Going to Leeds" will soon become a reality again!

Axel has been the Director of the IMC for 25 years, and received the award 'in recognition of long commitment to medieval studies and to medievalists across the globe' through his long-term commitment to the IMC.

Virtual Bookfair

The prospect of gathering 50+ booksellers (and up to 3,000 delegates) together in the Parkinson Court during a pandemic was a rather daunting one, so this year we will be bringing the IMC Bookfair to your home!

Our virtual Bookfair will provide the opportunity for delegates to browse titles from across medieval studies, as well as engage with publishers large and small via their virtual exhibition booths on the Pathable platform. As always, we expect there will be a wide range of exclusive IMC delegate discounts on offer!

Craft Fair & Second-Hand Bookfair Move Online

We are delighted that our popular Craft Fair, Second-Hand & Antiquarian Bookfair, and Historical & Archaeological Societies Fair - which usually take place in the Leeds University Union Foyer - will all be held online this year.

Unlike in previous years, as physical space is not a constraint, all three fairs will be able to run for the full duration of IMC

2021. This means that we will be plenty more time to find out more about their work, projects, and browse their wares!

As with the virtual Bookfair, online stalls will provide the opportunity to engage with the various traders and exhibitors, with the ability to pop over to their online stores to make your purchases in a thoroughly Covid-secure way!

Fringe Events & Networking

Following the success of our delegate-led fringe events programme at virtual IMC 2020, we're delighted to offer all delegates the opportunity to propose a fringe event, should they wish to, when they register for the IMC.

Fringe events are an opportunity to bring together colleagues around a shared topic or interest to socialise and network together via video chat. Previous fringe events included: book launches, publisher showcases, Happy Hours, and a variety of skill-based workshops led by our extremely talented delegates.

Events, Excursions & Workshops

IMC 2021 will again feature a wide variety of virtual events. Long-standing delegate favourites like the LUU Medieval Society Pub Quiz and the IMC Disco will return for 2021 and were particularly popular with delegates last year. Alongside these, the Storytelling Circle, an event which debuted at the virtual IMC last year with participants swapping stories, songs, and

riddles will return, as well as a range of 'hands on' workshops, such as bookbinding, embroidery, and Cyrillic calligraphy. The National Archives and Medievalist.net will also return to host professional development workshops alongside a new workshop that will introduce participants to editing Wikidata. The workshops and events can be booked when you register for the conference, however many will have a limited number of places, so book early to avoid disappointment!

Other events include a storytelling performance by Daisy Black, a radio play of *The Canterbury Tales* performed by the Lords of Misrule, and a film screening of Old English Elegies followed by a question and answer session with the director.

Delegates will also have the chance to take part in a virtual excursion to Rievaulx and Kirkstall Abbeys, but, for the first time, this excursion will also be able to consider a number of associated Cistercian houses that are further afield. Details of the full events programme will be available on our website shortly before registrations open.

IMC 2022 - Key Dates

Proposals Open in late May 2021

Paper Proposal Deadline:

Saturday 31 August 2021

Session Proposal Deadline:

Monday 30 September 2021

Submit your Proposal:

www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/imc2022/

Read our Proposal Guidelines:

www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/proposals/proposal-guidelines/

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

Proposals submitted for the cancelled IMC 2020 are welcome to be resubmitted, unless already presented at IMC 2021.



Above, from top: A delegate studies a choice book at the IMC 2019 Bookfair; Erad ud Turan demonstrating at IMC 2019; delegates socialising during IMC 2019; re-enactors in costume during Making Leeds Medieval at IMC 2019.



IMC 2022 Call for Papers: Borders

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 2022 this is 'Borders'.

Medieval borders have preoccupied scholars for several decades in various guises. The term 'border' designates a wide variety of phenomena: physical geographical limits, that can be signalled by border markers or natural features, points where toll has to be paid, political boundaries, that vary from points in space to linear and fortified military fronts, ways of controlling space, frontier zones, borderlands, porous zones of encounters and contact, ways of limiting community and identity, ideological and metaphorical delimitation including discourse and representation, bordering practices, the process of creating and performing borders, and borderscapes to capture fluidity and change over time.

This strand seeks to bring together medievalists of all fields interested in both the theory and practice of borders in all their variety, from physical boundaries and material borders to dynamic social and

spatial relationships. Borders can be linked to power and the formation of states, to definitions of self and other, to violence and military engagement, to belonging and becoming, to material and symbolic construction, to relational and perspectival production of space, to mapping and discourse, to experience and theory, to negotiation and performance. Borders can also be found in frescoes, textiles, clothing, ceramics, or coins, with practical, symbolic or aesthetic functions. Borders are also subject to evolution and significant change over time not just between the medieval and modern, but within the medieval period.

Papers originally submitted for the cancelled IMC 2020 but not presented at IMC 2021 are welcome.

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

The IMC especially welcomes papers that bring perspectives from under-represented disciplines, regions, and theoretical and conceptual perspectives.

Format

It is our intention to host IMC 2022 in-person here in Leeds. That said, July 2022 is many months away and we will communicate any format changes to affected participants as necessary.

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



@IMC_Leeds



@IMC_Leeds

Contact the IMC Team

imc@leeds.ac.uk
www.imc.leeds.ac.uk

Our team remain working remotely and so we are unable to receive enquiries via telephone, post, or fax

About the Institute for Medieval Studies

Medieval Research and Teaching at Leeds: A Unique Environment PhD Research in Medieval Studies

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: 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.

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

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LEEDS INTERNATIONAL MEDIEVAL CONGRESS

4-7 July 2022 - CALL FOR PAPERS

Special Thematic Strand: Borders

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

- Political and military borders
- Living in border zones
- Medieval and modern perceptions, descriptions, and conceptualizations of borders
- Delimiting borders, border markers
- Border maintenance
- Encountering and experiencing borders
- Bordering practices
- Borderscapes in the longue durée
- Symbolic borders
- Belonging and exclusion
- Mapping borders and border zones
- Border institutions
- Materiality of borders
- Border and power
- Migration
- Medieval imagery of borders
- Transnationalism
- Political, social, cultural, religious performance of borders
- Village and parish boundaries
- Boundaries between town and countryside and within towns
- Practices of delimitation
- Blurring boundaries such as human/animal, animate/inanimate, gender, age, status, religion
- Self and other, boundaries of the self
- Fluidity and fixity of borders
- Borders in manuscripts
- Material and visual borders
- Processual and performative turns and medieval borders
- Disciplinary boundaries
- Paratexts as borders
- Borders of the body
- Transcending and reaffirming boundaries between life and death
- Borders, boundaries, frontiers

Proposals should be submitted online at www.imc.leeds.ac.uk (from 31 May 2021). **Paper proposal deadline: 31 August 2021; Session proposal deadline: 30 September 2021.** The IMC welcomes session and paper proposals in all major European languages. Resubmissions from the original IMC 2020 programme are welcome, unless already presented in 2021.



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