



LEEDS INTERNATIONAL MEDIEVAL CONGRESS

January 2022 Newsletter



Registration Opens on Tuesday 01 March for IMC 2022

Returning to our beautiful city centre campus, this year's event will see over 2,100 participants in 44 parallel sessions taking place in 17 timeslots over 4 days. The IMC programme will feature over 1,800 papers in 611 sessions, including 575 traditional academic sessions and 36 round table discussions. It is our present hope that the majority of sessions will be live-streamed and will be available to watch online as recordings through till 31 August 2022, unless a speaker opts out.

At present, we expect there to be around 50 sessions which will be wholly virtual, and over 100 will feature one or more participants taking part remotely. The remaining 450 sessions will take place wholly in-person, though these numbers may be subject to change as a consequence of the pandemic.

Alongside the packed academic programme, IMC 2022 will see the return of the IMC Bookfair

to Parkinson Court and will offer a wide variety of medieval titles from publishers around the world, as well as exclusive discounts.

'It is a thrill to welcome you all back to our beautiful Leeds campus for IMC 2022' said Congress Director Axel Müller. 'And for those who are unable to travel, we're delighted to be continuing our virtual offering, ensuring that scholarly conversations can continue in spite of the continuing pandemic uncertainty.'

Special Thematic Strand: 'Borders'

This year's special thematic strand will be 'Borders'. Registrations will open from 10.00 GMT (UK time) on Tuesday 1 March 2022.

This year's conference will bring together 2,107 speakers discussing topics from across medieval studies, including sessions on our special thematic strand of 2022, 'Borders'.



Speakers from around the world will engage with the topic of 'Borders' in a variety of innovative and interdisciplinary ways, showing the political, religious, social, economic, and cultural consequences of borders which can both unite and divide. The special thematic strand has been co-ordinated by Nora Berend (Faculty of History / St Catherine's College, University of Cambridge).

Welcome to 2022 Keynote Speakers

Our keynote lectures will take place in person and will be recorded and available to re-watch later at your own convenience. The IMC will open with a double lecture by Michal Biran (Department of Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem) and Ryan Szpiech (Department of Romance Languages & Literatures / Jean & Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan).

Michal will speak on 'Borders in a Borderless Empire?: Political, Ecological, and Cultural Borders in Mongol Eurasia' while Ryan's lecture is entitled 'Right Time, Wrong Place?: Navigating the 'Territorial Trap' in the Study of Medieval Religion'. Michal's paper explores political and cultural aspects of open and closed borders in the Mongol Empire, while Ryan examines uses of spatial language in the study of medieval religious contact.

The series continues on Monday lunchtime with Stefan Brink (Institute of Northern Studies, University of Highlands & Islands / Institutionen för arkeologi och antik historia, Uppsala universitet) speaking on 'Territorial and Social Borders in Medieval Scandinavia'.

On Tuesday lunchtime, Ana Echevarría Arsuaga (Departament de Història Medieval y Ciencias y Técnicas Historiogràfiques, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Madrid) will continue the series with 'Frontier Monasticism', and will explore how frontier monasteries acted as interlocutors among the different religious groups present in medieval empires.

Our Wednesday lunchtime lecture will be given by Ingrid Baumgärtner

Monday's keynote lecture during IMC 2018. We're working hard at present to ensure core aspects of IMC, including keynote lectures, can happen in line with COVID-19 rules and regulations.³

(Mittelalterliche Geschichte, Universität Kassel) who will speak on 'Grenzräume: Medieval Maps and the Perception of Border Zones and Boundaries'.

On Thursday lunchtime, Hyunhee Park's (Department of History, John Jay College / Graduate Center, City University of New York) lecture is entitled 'Open Space and Flexible Borders: Knowledge Transfers through Premodern Afro-Eurasian Maritime Connections'.

The annual New Voices lecture will be given in 2022 by Usha Vishnuvajjala (School of English, Communication & Philosophy, Cardiff University). Usha's lecture will explore 'Towards a Theory of Feminist Medievalisms'.

We are also delighted that the *Early Medieval Europe* Lecture will this year be delivered by Danuta Shanzer (Institut für Klassische Philologie, Mittel- und Neulatein, Universität Wien) and will be entitled 'Seeing Others in Hell in the Early Middle Ages'.

Finally, we are pleased to welcome back the annual *Medieval Academy of America* lecture, which in 2022 will be given by Carol Symes (Department of History, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) and will be entitled '*Médiévistes Sans Frontières: Shifting Medieval Boundaries at Multiple Scales*'.



Here be dragons! Outdoor performance at IMC 2018 celebrating 25 years of the IMC!

Late Call for Papers Now Open

If you are interested in speaking at IMC 2022 but have not yet submitted a paper, there are a range of sessions looking for late replacement papers. Both virtual and in-person presentations will be considered at the discretion of session organisers. Please indicate your preferred mode of presentation on the submission form.

You can check out the regularly updated list of opportunities to present at IMC 2022 via our Late Call for Papers: www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/imc-2022/latecall/

Hybrid IMC 2022 Format Update

The last two years have taught us all to expect the unexpected when it comes to planning our lives during the coronavirus pandemic. The same is true of the IMC. Therefore, while our strong intention is for IMC 2022 to largely take place in person, we are aware that changes to regulations as a result of, for example, a surge in cases or new variant, may require our plans to change quickly. We will communicate any changes to our plans with speakers and registered delegates if this becomes necessary.

More practically, we are currently working with teams across the university to source suitable spaces for IMC sessions in line with present social distancing and coronavirus control rules and guidance.

We hope that the majority of sessions will be able to be watched remotely in real time. However, many of the rooms we are



Dragons fly at IMC 2018. While we cannot promise dragons, we are excited to see campus buzzing with medieval activity again!



A packed crowd at the IMC 2018 Bookfair. We are currently working with colleagues across the university to facilitate the Bookfair in a COVID-compliant way

planning to use are currently being updated for hybrid teaching and it will take some time for these works to be completed and to ensure that they are suitable for IMC use.

As in 2021, the vast majority of sessions will also be recorded for viewing later via our secure virtual platform. Those sessions which will not be recorded will be clearly flagged in the online platform and if you have any concerns about your paper being recorded, [you can let us know here](#).

For speakers presenting in-person, some things may look a bit different. We will be asking presenters to share their slides through Zoom on the PC at the front of the room, otherwise remote audience members will not be able to see what you're talking about! In some rooms, it may be necessary for speakers to speak from the podium, or not move outside a particular area to ensure that they remain clearly visible and audible for remote attendees and those watching the recording later. Session room assistants will be on hand to advise and support speakers, moderators, and the audience.

Where possible, we are prioritising spaces where these additional considerations do not adversely affect the in-person experience, and will be supplementing standard provision in a number of spaces. Where this is not possible and we cannot bring in-room and virtual audiences together, we will endeavour to record presentations and make them available for viewing as soon as possible after the session has ended.

IMC Bookfair Returns to Campus

The IMC Bookfair will return to the iconic Parkinson Court and will run from Monday 04 July through to Thursday 07 July. We are delighted to welcome back publishers from around the world to exhibit in person, complemented by virtual exhibitor listings as in recent years.

Throughout the week, delegates will have the opportunity to browse the latest titles in medieval studies and access exclusive IMC discounts! There will also be opportunities to engage with publishers, discuss works in progress, and plan future collaborations.

There will be opportunities to engage with publishers beyond IMC week, too. Each publisher will also have a virtual stall on the IMC virtual event platform which will allow delegates to access Congress discounts, network and engage with staff both before and after IMC week.

The IMC Bookfair is 'always a highlight' of the week, and we are delighted to bring it home to the Parkinson Building in 2022.

Payment Methods Reminder

We were delighted that the vast majority of delegates were able to pay online via our secure payment system last year. This remains the easiest and most convenient way to pay for your IMC registration.

As in previous years, the system accepts Visa and MasterCard and is also the most secure way to make payment for your IMC registration. If you are unable to



Staff setting up the Marquee for IMC 2017. Though the spaces we will be using will be different, we're very excited to welcome delegates back to campus!



Delegates browse the IMC Bookfair during IMC 2018. We are delighted to be bringing the Bookfair back to Parkinson Court for IMC 2022 after two years' absence.

pay online, please get in touch to make alternative arrangements.

At present, owing to University coronavirus guidance which recommends working from home where possible, we are unable to continuously staff our office Monday-Friday, 09:00-17:00 (UK time). Therefore, while payment by credit/debit card over the phone may be possible, it may be necessary for us to arrange a time for you to call us to make payment when one of our team is available to take payment. Your patience in this matter is appreciated.

As in previous years, we can only accept card payment by telephone from Visa and MasterCard. Additionally, owing to UK financial regulations, we cannot make outbound calls to request payment. 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, process, and assign the inbound payment. Please contact us at your earliest convenience if you wish to pay by bank transfer or require a full, formal invoice. Please note that, as in previous years, we cannot accept payment by cash, cheque, Traveller's cheque, or Postal Order.

Craft Fair & Second-Hand Bookfair Update

As a result of coronavirus restrictions, as well as University graduation and other events taking place on campus, we are

currently working with colleagues in our Timetabling and Conferencing & Events teams to find suitable spaces for these events. Keep an eye on our website and social media for updates on these events.

Virtual Platform Update

Following the success of last year's wholly virtual event, all IMC delegates will be given access to our virtual event platform a few weeks prior to the IMC. The platform will again host all IMC content, including live-streaming and recording of the vast majority of IMC sessions. The platform will also function on mobile devices, enabling in-person attendees to navigate IMC 2022 with ease.

Virtual attendees can join sessions directly from the easy-to-use site, and these will launch in Zoom. Please note that all participants attending virtually must have Zoom installed on their device in order to attend live sessions, as well as deliver papers and moderate their session(s).

Each delegate will also have a personal profile on the platform 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 which will be automatically populated into your personal profile. You can review and update this information when the platform is made live in June 2022.

The opportunity to arrange virtual meetings was used by many delegates last year, and we are pleased to be able to offer this



A workshop taking place during IMC 2017. We're excited to bring events, excursions, and workshops back to campus for IMC 2022.



IMC 2019 Craft Fair exhibitor speaks with a delegate: details of 2022's Craft Fair will be available shortly via our website.



A speaker presenting their paper to a rapt audience during IMC 2018.

facility again for all attendees. Further technical details of the platform will be available via our website in due course.

Events, Excursions & Workshops

For IMC 2022, we are delighted to see a return to face-to-face events, including performances, hands-on workshops, and other well-established activities. For our virtual attendees, there will also be a select programme of virtual events and workshops. We will be regularly updating our online and PDF programme with details of these events, so keep an eye on our website for the latest updates.

Leeds University Union Medieval Society will also play a role in our events programme, hosting the ever-popular IMC Pub Quiz, the traditional music session, and the storytelling circle, giving delegates a chance to showcase their talents, whether it is their arcane medievalist knowledge, musical talents, or their ability to tell a good story!

After a two-year hiatus, IMC 2022 will also feature excursions, taking delegates to sites of historic interest. This year, delegates will have the chance to visit Kirkstall Abbey, Ripon Cathedral, as well as a walking tour of the city of Leeds. The excursions programme will also feature two walking tours to the city of York. One, on Sunday 3 July, features York's renowned city walls, often regarded as the finest remaining circuit of city walls in Britain. The other on Thursday 7 July will feature a tour of York Minster, as well as a tour of some of the many buildings relating to

the city's major religious houses. If you are booking one of these tours, remember to wear sensible shoes and come prepared for Yorkshire weather!

Due to uncertainties surrounding the pandemic at the time of writing, we are trying something new for our excursions programme this year. For both of our excursions to York, delegates are invited to make their own way to the city to meet the group for the tour. Trains run regularly from Leeds railway station to York with a journey time of around 20-30 minutes for non-stop services. Participants will be free to enjoy the many other sights and attractions that the city has to offer once the tour is concluded.

IMC 2022 Bursary Awards Announced

For IMC 2022, 278 applications were received and a total of £19,600 was awarded to 135 recipients from Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Kosovo, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the UK, Ukraine, and the USA.

Bursaries in 2022 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 2022, all unsuccessful bursary applicants will be eligible to register at the concessionary rate. Details of how to claim this reduction in the Registration and Programming Fee for any delegate who applied for a bursary in 2022 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.

Additionally, all eligible proposals will be considered for the following prizes automatically:

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 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.



Above, from top: A delegate studies a choice book at the IMC 2018 Bookfair; Erad ud Turan demonstrating at IMC 2019; delegates on University Square during IMC 2018; re-enactors in costume during Making Leeds Medieval at IMC 2018.

Sieglinde Hartmann Prize for German Language and Literature

Thanks to the generosity of Sieglinde Hartmann, former president of the Oswald von Wolkenstein-Gesellschaft and a long-standing supporter of the IMC, a prize of €250 has been instituted for 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. 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 2023 Call for Papers: Networks & Entanglements

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 2023, this is 'Networks and Entanglements'.

'Networks' have become a much-employed term in the connected world of the 21st century, and also in scholarship. Historical studies, including medieval studies, have adapted concepts from sociology and digital tools to survey, visualise, and analyse the webs of interaction and relations among individuals, groups, places, artefacts, or polities. These notions emerge from a far-reaching relational approach across disciplines. Networks thus emerge from, or are defined as, multifaceted interdependencies. They highlight linkages between the human and non-human sphere, akin to how medieval people perceived manifold connections between the macro- and the microcosm. 'Networks' can address all kinds of relationships, connections, and correlations, their manifestations and structures, dynamics, and limits.

IMC 2023 - Key Dates

Proposals Open in June 2022

Paper Proposal Deadline:

Wednesday 31 August 2022

Session Proposal Deadline:

Friday 30 September 2022

Submit your Proposal:

www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/imc-2023/

Read our Proposal Guidelines:

[www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/proposals/
proposal-guidelines/](http://www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/proposals/proposal-guidelines/)

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



**International Medieval
Congress - University of
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'Entanglements' is a term originally employed in studies of materiality to capture mutual dependencies between humans, artefacts, and sites in a fuzzier, but more flexible way. It has a key role in understanding complex connections, correlations, and relationships of diverse groups and cultures. Along similar lines, we invite medievalists of all fields to reflect upon linkages between individuals, groups, communities, and other bodies in various social and intellectual contexts, between humans, localities, and objects, between various species and ecologies, between motifs and iconographies, or between religious ideas, philosophical concepts, and narratives as networks of knowledge production. Especially welcome are attempts to entangle these various spheres, linking disciplines and methods, be they qualitative or quantitative, digital or non-digital, or coming from archaeology, art history, linguistics, philology, history, or environmental, intellectual, literary, and religious studies.

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

- Social, economic, or political networks within and between medieval societies
- Intellectual communities and networks of knowledge
- Religious networks and formations
- Spatial networks, architectures, and infrastructures
- Ecologies of connected, related, and entangled species
- Entanglements through artefacts and communities of practice and consumption
- Artistic networks and entangled iconographies and soundscapes

- Medieval and modern concepts of connectivity and interdependency
- Medieval and modern visualisations of entanglements and networks
- Medieval practices of networking
- Transnational, transregional, and trans-border networks
- Entanglements between the global and the local
- Narrative networks, literary and imagined entanglements
- Networks, mobilities, circulations, and flows, both real and fictitious
- Gendered networks: interconnections, relationships, and entanglements
- Network constraints, rules, and social roles
- Inclusion and exclusion through networks
- Identities, ego-networks, and emotional communities
- Network theory and complexity in medieval studies
- Digital humanities, linked data, and data ontologies
- Networks and networking in medieval scholarship past and present
- Ranges, limits, stability, and fragility of networks

Format

It is our intention to host IMC 2023 in-person here in Leeds, with a virtual element to ensure medievalists around the globe can participate in spite of the coronavirus pandemic. That said, July 2023 is many months away and we will communicate any format changes to affected participants as necessary.

View the Call for Papers online and find out the latest news about IMC 2023 online at 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: library.leeds.ac.uk/info/1500/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 comprises a core of language and skills modules, giving students an excellent grounding for postgraduate study, plus an outstanding range of interdisciplinary optional modules and an extended piece of supervised independent research.

Our teaching and supervision expertise extends over 1000 years and ranges across the Christian and Muslim world. Our programme enables students to study either a closely interrelated set of subjects or to spread their interests across time, space, and discipline. We offer specialised language teaching in medieval English, French, German, and Norse, as well as Arabic, Persian and Turkish. The MA in Medieval Studies provides an excellent

Above, clockwise from left: IMS members on a New Year's Day trip to Lud's Chapel in Staffordshire; IMS excursion to Kirkstall Abbey; church tower at Jarrow, Tyne and Wear; carvings at Ripon Cathedral; sculpture at Lastingham church.

basis for further work at doctoral level, either full-time or part-time, including key skills for research on medieval topics.

PhD Research in Medieval Studies

The IMS supervises doctoral research on a wide range of medieval topics. 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.

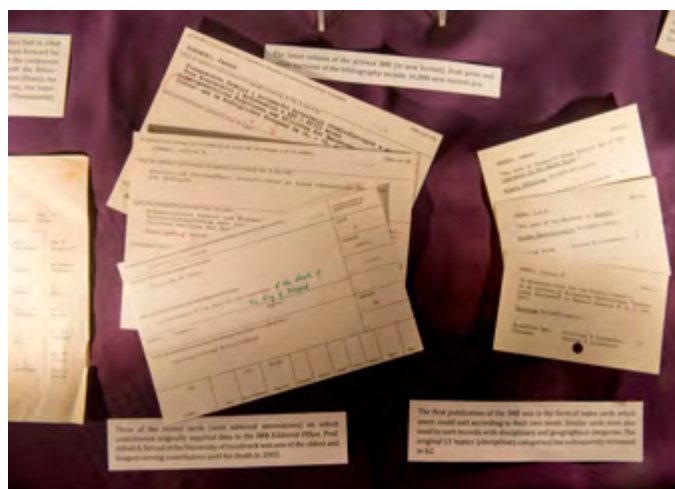
International Medieval Bibliography: Call for Contributors

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.



Guests discover old print editions of the *IMB* at the 2017 exhibition marking its 50th anniversary



Index cards from the early days of the *IMB*. More than 500,000 records are now in *IMB-Online*



MS 102, Brotherton Library, University of Leeds. John Sintram, Sermons, c. 1425

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