



LEEDS INTERNATIONAL MEDIEVAL CONGRESS

August 2023 Newsletter



2,648 Medievalists Entangled with Networks

We were delighted to welcome 2,648 delegates both in person to Leeds and virtually. 702 fully hybrid sessions took place between Monday 03 and Thursday 06 July, with 900+ hours (that's 1.4 terabytes) of recordings now available for registered delegates to view through till **31 August**.

Some 2,650 delegates attended the event which saw the University of Leeds transformed for four days of rigorous academic discussion and collegial networking and ideas-sharing. IMC 2023 had the broadband buzzing too, with 13.5% of attendees taking part virtually.

In total, colleagues from 60 countries on every continent came together to consider papers from across the field of medieval studies.

Our special thematic focus was on 'Networks and Entanglements'; papers and sessions on this topic were the focus of more than 400

sessions. We are immensely grateful to **Johannes Preiser-Kapeller** (Institut für Mittelalterforschung, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien) for his role as special strand co-ordinator for IMC 2023.

Connect with the Best: Keynote Speakers discuss 'Networks & Entanglements'

We were delighted to welcome six outstanding speakers in their fields to speak on aspects of this year's special thematic focus: 'Networks & Entanglements'.

Delegates arriving on Monday 03 July were greeted by a fascinating double-bill keynote paper. Featuring **Robert Gramsch-Stehlfest** (Historisches Institut, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena) and **Anna Somfai** (Department of Medieval Studies, Central European University, Budapest/Wien).



Robert's discussed 'Big Data' in History?: The Use of Social Network Analysis in Medieval Studies' and Anna's explored 'Medieval Manuscripts: Physical and Intellectual Networks Entwined'. The bright and airy Esther Simpson Lecture Theatre was packed as colleagues enjoyed being stimulated by two fascinating, and hybrid, lectures.

On Monday lunchtime, **Sarit Shalev-Eyni** (Department of Art History, Hebrew University of Jerusalem) addressed 'Interreligious Networks: Book Art, Material Culture, and Jewish-Christian Cooperation'. The lunchtime keynote lectures continued on Tuesday with **Verena Krebs** (Historisches Institut, Ruhr-Universität Bochum) keynote lecture entitled 'So, Who Killed the Elephant?: Tracing African-European Entanglements in the Age of the 'Global Middle Ages''.



David Zbíral (Centrum pro digitální výzkum náboženství / Dissident Networks Project (DISSINET), Masarykova univerzita, Brno) took the Wednesday keynote baton and spoke about 'Beyond Connected Dots: The Future of Network Analysis in Medieval Studies'. The programme of keynote lectures came to a close on Thursday with **Minoru Ozawa's** (College of Arts, Rikkyo University, Tokyo) lecture on 'The Making of Ship-Centred Communities in the Viking Age: Social Units, Maritime Networks, and the Global Entanglements of Historiography'.



In addition to the IMC keynote lectures, we were delighted to host the annual *Early Medieval Europe* lecture. **Caroline Goodson** (Faculty of History / King's College, University of Cambridge) spoke on 'Urban Ecologies of the Early Middle Ages'.



Finally, on Tuesday evening, the IMC was pleased to host the Annual Medieval Academy of America Lecture. Delivered by **Elina Gertsman** (Department of Art History & Art, Case Western Reserve University, Ohio), Elina's lecture on 'Somatic Entanglements' addressed Zoocephalic, or animal-headed, figures in Ashkenazic Jewish art. All IMC 2023 keynote presentations were recorded and remain available for registered delegates to view via Confex, the

Above, from top: An interested delegate listens to a session; customers chat at the **Anachronalia** stall; delegates socialising during the Gesso workshop; **Markéta Poskočilová** in medieval costume at the Medieval Craft Fair.

IMC 2023 virtual event platform, until **31 August 2023**.

Introducing 'Crisis' - IMC 2024

IMC 2024 will be held on 01 - 04 July and the special thematic focus for next year's Congress will be 'Crisis'. This special thematic strand will be coordinated by **Daniel R. Curtis** (School of History, Culture & Communication, Erasmus University Rotterdam); and we are delighted to welcome him to the Programming Committee. To learn more about our special thematic strand, please see the Call for Papers for IMC 2024 which can be found on the final page of this newsletter and via our website.

As with IMC 2022 and 2023, we intend to host a hybrid congress for IMC 2024, with both the Congress in Leeds and the virtual component coming together to facilitate the participation of online and in person delegates.

At the submissions stage, we will ask speakers and presenters whether they intend to deliver their paper virtually or in person. Please note that this response plays an essential role in our Programming Committee's review and allocation process when creating the IMC 2024 Programme.

A copy of the final IMC 2024 Programme will be published online in January 2024. In December 2023, acceptance emails will also be sent out, and we will ask speakers and delegates to confirm their participation format. This means that as with recent years, allocation for physical space will not



The IMC team was always smiling and ready to help throughout the week.

be made until a later date. Programme books will therefore only be available for in-person delegates to collect onsite on a pre-order basis. Programme books can be pre-ordered at registration, which will open in February 2024.

How to Submit Papers & Sessions

We are pleased to launch our new proposals management and submissions system for IMC 2024. Confex, who also provide our virtual platform, will be providing a new submission portal which will enable session organisers and paper proposers to submit their details to us via a new, secure online platform.

"This is an exciting step forward for the IMC," Congress Director, **Axel Müller** revealed. "Our previous system was reaching the end of its life for a number of reasons as technology has moved forward."

"Confex's online tool provides an easy-to-use platform for Congress participants to provide their details."

When you begin a submission for the first time, you will need to create an account. We recommend using your institutional email address (if you have one). You will be prompted to set a secure password and then can proceed to log in and begin a submission. If you attended IMC 2023, you should use these credentials to log in. If you no longer have access to the email address you used for IMC 2023, please contact us via email at imc@leeds.ac.uk.



Delegates browsing the shelves at the Second-Hand and Anti-quarian Bookfair.



Our ambassadors were a cheery sight across campus!

The submission portal allows you to submit paper, session, or round table sessions. You will progress through the submission process in order to provide the relevant information about your submission. At the 'People' step, you will be prompted to add all participants to the session or paper before progressing to the final step and reviewing your submission. Full instructions and guidance can be found here: www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/proposals/submit/.

Hybrid IMC Praised as "Inclusive" and "Accessible"

Building on the success of our first hybrid congress last year, IMC 2023 saw some 2,650 colleagues come together to share the latest research from across medieval studies, and we were delighted to welcome 86.7% of attendees in person, with the remaining 13.3% able to join virtually from around the world.

One delegate enthused that the hybrid format is a "brilliant compromise between environmental awareness and in-person fun!" IMC 2023 utilised Confex, a new platform for all attendees to come together and watch sessions as they happened, whether they took place in one of 40+ rooms around campus or online. Over 80% of delegates found the platform easy to use, with delegates noting how "intuitive" and "user friendly" it was. One attendee praised the 'My Schedule' feature, saying: "This was very useful for keeping track of what I wanted to go to and is now helping me keep track of recordings that I need to view."

We are delighted that 96.4% of sessions are now available to view as recordings on our virtual platform. To date, over 4860 people have watched session recordings through the virtual platform. We'll provide a full round up of how the virtual platform was used via the News page on our website after the platform has closed.

A significant number of both online and in person attendees found that the hybrid format enhanced their ability to network and socialise with other attendees. One virtual attendee, "a very isolated independent scholar", appreciated "the opportunity to hear people working in my field share their research". We were very grateful for moderators who made the effort to include our virtual delegates in discussions, one delegate, who was struggling to hear questions, praised their session moderator for the "very impressive response" not only "kindly repeated questions for online participants" but also "passing on the request to moderators in subsequent sessions, too".

While one delegate enthused that "IMC Leeds has perfected the hybrid aspects of the conference!", we are always looking for ways to improve our systems, so next year our focus will be on improving audio quality and providing clear guidance for speakers and moderators.

Our feedback indicates that a significant number of delegates value the hybrid format. As one delegate explained: "I hope the opportunity to attend virtually continues. It's more inclusive and helpful for people with family or caring responsibilities."



Eyes in the skies: our Virtual Cluster support team supervised sessions to ensure the hybrid element ran smoothly.



Delegates socialising at the picnic tables during IMC.

ities. You are ahead of time in medieval conferences. Don't step back now!"

Disentangling Networks: Academic Programme Summary

IMC 2023 saw 702 sessions taking place over 17 timeslots and 4 days, covering every aspect of medieval studies - from archaeological to zoological approaches.

Attendees praised the high quality of the research presented, as well as the opportunities to meet, network, and discuss new ideas with an international audience. One attendee praised "the very open, creative, friendly atmosphere", which another delegate "felt even participating virtually".

Nearly 90% of attendees felt that the academic programme offered excellent value for money, with attendees acclaiming the hybrid format. It "contributes greatly to the accessibility of knowledge to academics all over the world", said one participant.

Our Special Strand Keynotes were well received, with one noting that: "the ones I managed to go to opened my eyes to the medieval history of areas I would otherwise not have engaged much with". Delegates felt spoilt for choice with one noting that "I felt there was a session I was interested in, in every slot." There were delegates who questioned the clashes between sessions they wanted to attend; however, other delegates noted that this was one reason that "the ability to catch up with or review recordings is so valuable". Thank you to those who completed the feedback survey for IMC 2023; your thoughts and opinions are invaluable and will be carried

into the planning for IMC 2024.

Recordings of the IMC 2023 sessions are available to view through our online platform until the end of August. One delegate is looking forward to hearing more "excellent presentations" in the weeks to come.

Bookfair Busiest since COVID

The IMC Bookfair, hosted in Parkinson Court on Monday 03 - Thursday 06 July, saw over 30 new and returning publishers exhibiting a collection of works in medieval studies and beyond.

The main feedback indicated that the Bookfair was lively and bustling with delegates, and our exhibitors particularly enjoyed networking and entangling with readers, authors, and academics. This year Parkinson Court also housed the Registration Desk, so delegates collecting their packs and programme books were able to browse through the variety of stalls, meet publishers, and enjoy exclusive IMC discounts.

Thanks to the hybrid nature of IMC 2023, over 35 publishers were able to exhibit virtually, making a selection of discounts available to registered delegates through our virtual platform until the **31 August**.

The Bookfair also enjoyed a highly attended and well-received drinks reception on Monday 03 July, which presented even more opportunities for delegates and publishers to connect. It was wonderful to see that so many of our in-person delegates were able to network, socialise, and enjoy Parkinson Court once more!



One of our Bookfair representative smiles and chats with delegates.

Markets & Fairs Back in Business in University Square

The Second-Hand and Antiquarian Bookfair returned to the Leeds University Union Foyer on Sunday 02 - Tuesday 04 July this year and many delegates enjoyed browsing the multitude of rare and second-hand books whilst traversing the centre of campus. Feedback indicated that both traders and delegates enjoyed the lively nature of this setting and the central location meant that there was plenty of opportunity to take advantage of the unique offerings available.

Then on Wednesday 05 and Thursday 06 July, the Craft Fair popped up in its place, taking over both the LUU Foyer and University Square for the second half of IMC and Making Leeds Medieval. Many delegates browsed the stalls selling a variety of beautiful handmade goods such as pottery, jewellery, musical instruments, artwork, and more.

We were once again delighted to welcome the Historical and Archaeological Societies Fair. Feedback from all three fairs indicated that IMC 2023 was a positive experience on the whole and a particular highlight was meeting and engaging with IMC delegates.

Events, Excursions, Performances & Workshops

The IMC was proud to offer delegates a full programme of events and excursions for IMC 2023. We opened with a musical show and tell session by **de Mowbray's Musicke**, demonstrating the development and construction of a range of instruments.

Other performances included a concert by **Peter Bull**, music and tales from the *Ludus Danielis* by **Trouvère Medieval Minstrels**, and storytelling by **Daisy Black** inspired by medieval *mappa mundi*. The **Lords of Misrule** returned to give an outdoor performance of the 16th-century morality play *Hecastus*, and Leeds-born author **Nicola Griffith** gave a reading and talk about her forthcoming book *Mene-wood*, a sequel to *Hild*, about the life of Hilda of Whitby.



Above, from top: Crowds watching the **3 Swords** combat demonstraton; a delegate browses the threads on offer at **The Mulberry Dyer's** stall; delegates eagerly anticipate the start of a performance; delegates socialise in between sessions.



For the first time the IMC hosted two live podcast recordings in association with Medievalists.net, featuring historians **Eleanor Janega**, **Kelly DeVries**, and **Michael Livingston**. You can find these recordings online, or wherever you get your podcasts.

Hands-on workshops continue to be a vital part of the IMC experience. This year delegates could try out a range of historical activities, such as using an astrolabe, sword combat, bookbinding, spinning, embroidery and tassel-making, as well as preparing surfaces for painting using gesso. Other workshops offered the opportunity to try out nodegoat for visualising historical datasets, handle a wide range of Viking-age arms and armour, and learn about how to access and utilise records in the National Archives. The University of Leeds Library Special Collections also hosted several drop-in sessions, giving delegates the chance to see a range of manuscripts and early printed books.



Delegates keen to show off their knowledge could take part in Medieval Society's annual pub quiz, and the open mic night and storytelling circle also gave participants a chance showcase their performance skills.



The IMC provides a chance for delegates to take advantage of Yorkshire's many historic sites. This year the excursions programme included visits to Tickhill and Conisbrough Castles as well as monastic sites such as Mount Grace and Guisbrough Priors as well as Bolton Abbey.

For the first time ever, we offered excursions to the site of the Battle of Byland, where the forces of Edward II and Robert the Bruce clashed in 1322, and Shibden Hall, a 15th-century house most famous for being the residence of Anne Lister (recently the subject of the BBC drama *Gentleman Jack*).



Other excursions included an exclusive tour and handling session with curators at the Royal Armouries and a visit to the church of All Saints, North Street to learn more about the recent conservation of their exceptional collection of stained glass.

Above, from top: Delegates pose in Viking armour at the **Society for Combat Archaeology** workshop; delegates enjoying a roundtable discussion; **Daisy Black** captivating her audience in her performance, *Mappa Mundi*; delegates eagerly listen to the speaker in a session.

Making Leeds Medieval

As ever, the IMC events programme concluded with Making Leeds Medieval, a full day of demonstrations and activities including combat, textiles, music, and birds of prey. The day featured a medieval craft fair offering a range of hand-crafted items. Local historical societies also took part to showcase the role they play in preserving local and national history.

Attending Leeds for the first time, the **Kynges Ordynaunce** gave an exciting demonstration of 15th-century artillery, showing how to load two cannons. The day concluded with a dance performance by the **Arbeau Dancers** in which everyone was invited to join in the fun!

IMC Bursary Fund Opens Soon

We are putting the finishing touches to our new bursary submission portal and hope that this will be available during the autumn months to allow delegates from around the world to submit applications to the IMC Bursary Fund.

We will be in touch with everyone who has proposed a paper or session regarding the bursary fund deadlines in late September.

Applicants should ensure their supporting statement provides full details of their circumstances.

The IMC Bursary Fund is open to applications from students, independent scholars, pensioners, unwaged scholars, and delegates from outside Western Europe. It is a key part of our commitment to widening access to the IMC. Applications are especially welcome from scholars who are working outside of academia or experiencing precarity of employment.

At IMC 2023, around 5% of in person and virtual attendees received an IMC Bursary. Of 377 applications, 132 bursaries were awarded (35% of applicants). The Bursary Committee awarded over £20,000 of bursaries. 132 bursaries covering the full Proposal and Registration fee were awarded to recipients from Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Can-



*The **Kynges Ordynaunce** teaching interested delegates and members of the public about cannons.*

ada, Croatia, Czechia, Egypt, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the UK, Ukraine, and the USA.

Discipline-Specific Funding Opportunities

All eligible paper 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 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.

In 2023, three Templar Heritage Trust Bursaries were awarded covering full registration fees.



Delegates socialise in the Esther Simpson cafe.



A speaker gives their paper in a session.



*The **Lords of Misrule** performing Hecastus.*

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 was instituted for the International Medieval Congress in 2021.

This year, the bursary was awarded to two PhD students or postdocs in the fields of early and high medieval history who had applied to the IMC Bursary Fund.

Sieglinde Hartmann Prize for German Language and Literature

Thanks to the generosity of Sieglinde Hartmann, president of the Oswald von Wolkenstein-Gesellschaft and a long-standing supporter of the IMC, a new prize was instituted for the 2018 Congress. In 2024, a prize of €250 will be awarded for the best abstract for any paper proposal in the field

of medieval German language and/or medieval German literature.

Contribute to the Bursary or 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 imc@leeds.ac.uk.

IMC 2024 - Key Dates

Paper Proposal Deadline: Thursday 31 August 2023
 Session Proposal Deadline: Saturday 30 September 2023
 Notification of Acceptance: December 2023
 IMC 2024: 01-04 July 2024

Read the Call for Papers:
www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/imc-2024/
 Read our Proposal Guidelines:
www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/proposals/proposal-guidelines/

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

Social Media Summary

This year delegates thoroughly entangled themselves with Twitter, and we were delighted to discover that our tweets experienced an average of 30,000 organic views during IMC - almost double the engagement compared to last year! Thank you all for your wonderful posts; they really helped to create a sense of community spirit over the week. The next two pages have been dedicated to a small selection of our favourites:

We really enjoyed seeing your preparations, whether that meant travel to Leeds or logging onto our virtual platform like this hedgehog to the right!

We also saw some excellent photos of sessions rooms, including some surprising note-taking devices. We could wax lyrical about this one tweeted by Charlie Rozier all day long!

Other tweet topics that proved particularly popular included the disco, where Cassandra Schilling snapped a pic of delegates under bright lights dancing the night away; the Bookfair (there were too many shelves to share them all!); and behind-the-scenes footage of staff at the congress, such as exclusives of the IMC team with the freshly-printed programme and Punctum's photo with our high-spirited ambassadors (bottom right).

It was lovely to see so many delegates using Twitter to network with colleagues and excitedly discuss all things IMC once more. Like Owl and Tops (over the page), we found Thursday's ending to be a bittersweet moment but we console ourselves with looking forward to welcoming you all back next year. We just hope the only crisis you encounter will be the struggle to get all your purchases into one suitcase!

If you are planning to put together a paper or proposal for IMC 2024 please tag us at @IMC_Leeds and use the hashtag #IMC2024 so that we can retweet and add your call for papers to [our curated twitter moment](#), which is also available through our website.



Einat Klaffer
@medievalk

On the train to @IMC_Leeds, looking forward to seeing friends, hearing papers, amassing books, so excited to be going in person this year!
[#IMC2023](#)



Charlie Rozier
@RozierHistorian

Of all the things I saw at [#imc2023](#) @IMC_Leeds this was the biggest flex: note-taking on an actual wax tablet (shared with owner's permission)



punctum books
@punctum_books

Herewith the 2 delightful ambassadors of the International Medieval Congress @IMC_Leeds! They and only they can wear the red sash. & they do it exceedingly well. [#IMC2023](#)





Cassandra Schilling (she/her)
@CassandraSchil1

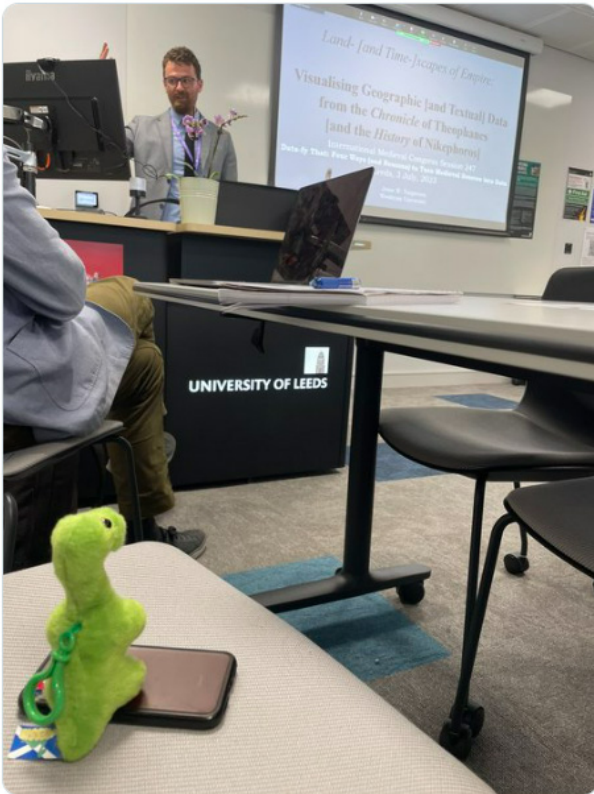
Disco is in full swing at @IMC_Leeds have fun everyone! I'm calling it a night in hopes that I can get myself to some of the sessions running tomorrow!



Jesse W. Torgerson
@JWTOrg

You never know who is going to turn up to your talk at #IMC2023, so it was a surprise and an honor to have Nessie loching on yesterday.

Thanks @IMC_Leeds for keeping the event open to medieval monsters, in spite of the "water beast" concerns of St Columba.



Another #MedievalMonday draws to a close and things have (quite literally) been hotting up in the office as we enter into the final stages of preparing for #IMC2023...

And our Programmes have arrived! Don't they look lovely?



Daniel Franke ✓
@medievaldaniel

"Well, Owl." "Yes, Tops?" "I guess it's time to leave."

(I'm documenting my travels for my kids with Owl and Triceratops.)

Thanks, @IMC_Leeds, for everything. Signing off from #IMC2023



International Medieval
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Delegate Feedback Summary

Delegates enjoyed the continued option to get together both online and in person for another hybrid IMC. To the right, we have included a small sample of delegates' favourite parts of IMC 2023.

Interest in the IMC continues to grow - nearly 35% of attendees said it was their first time attending, having heard about the IMC through friends, family, and colleagues - this is a further increase compared to 2022, and we're delighted to welcome so many newcomers.

Some aspects that delegates were particularly satisfied with included the quality and variety of sessions on offer; the opportunities to meet and socialise; the general atmosphere across the IMC; and the helpfulness of support received from staff.

The virtual platform and app used to store session recordings and deliver the online elements of IMC 2023 also received positive feedback, with a number of delegates noting that the layout was clear and easy to navigate. Registered delegates can view all session recordings on our virtual platform, Confex, until **August 31**.

Delegates completing our feedback survey also let us know about areas they would like to see improved. These suggestions, which related chiefly to catering and accommodation availability, will be carried forward by the IMC team as we begin to plan for IMC 2024.

"It had the buzz back. The programme felt rich and diverse."

"There are always a number of excellent panels at Leeds - it is great to be able to talk to medievalists from around the world and excellent to learn new things."

"I really enjoyed the IMC Bookfair - a selection of amazing books, and great offers as well."

"I would love to attend in person one day. Meanwhile, thank you all for the immense pleasure of being able to attend online from 2020-2023. This is HUGELY appreciated."

"It was great to be at an in-person conference again. The papers were almost all great, and the socializing and networking were outstanding."

"This was my first in-person IMC, and I enjoyed it immensely. Such a huge conference, with such a vast programme, and I thought it was remarkably well-organised and thought-through."

"The hybrid nature of the conference means I get to enjoy so many more talks. No compromise!"

"This is one of the things that really blew me away: how kind, welcoming and attentive all the IMC team were."

"I can barely imagine a more complicated, unwieldy kind of congress to organise, but the IMC Team make it run so smoothly and also make everyone feel welcome. Thank you!"

IMC 2024 Call for Papers: Crisis

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 2024, this is '**Crisis**'.

LEEDS INTERNATIONAL MEDIEVAL CONGRESS

Special Thematic Strand: **CRISIS**

1-4 JULY 2024 - CALL FOR PAPERS

The IMC seeks to provide an interdisciplinary forum for the discussion of all aspects of Medieval Studies.



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

'Crisis' has long been used when writing about the Middle Ages – incorporating climate and environmental issues such as epidemics, famines, and floods, political issues such as the breakdowns of dynasties and popular revolts, and socio-cultural issues such as religious apocalypticism and the questioning of faith. Yet while crisis is a concept deep-rooted in a wide range of scholarship, it has also recently been reconsidered. Rather than seeing whole periods as characterized by crisis conditions, medievalists now explicitly ask 'crisis for whom?' Medieval institutions and systems could be resilient, surviving challenges and pressures. Yet people simultaneously suffered hardships, even if not everyone suffered to an equal degree. Medievalists are also interested in how individuals and communities coped with crisis. Indeed, medieval societies had their own perception and understanding of risk and found ways to adapt. An important component of this was the construction of crisis narratives, sometimes informed by religious beliefs - stories that changed across time, place, and audience. Temporality is also fundamental to medievalists' understanding of crisis,

offering important counter-perspectives to views of linear progress and modernization paradigms often seen in crisis historiography. While substantial crises could serve as short-term ruptures and turning points, crises also provoked more incremental changes within economies, institutions, and cultures over time. Some things stayed the same despite crises and, thus, continuity remains important.

A new language of resilience, vulnerability, and adaptation has become prominent within medieval studies in recent years: stimulating new kinds of questions and new approaches to old issues, as well as allowing medievalists to engage with other disciplines. However, to what extent are these old ideas just repackaged with new terms? How we can define, measure, and test these concepts?

IMC2024 invites a plurality of viewpoints and critical engagement with these concepts. We hope to engage scholars working at a variety of geographical scales – from the global to the micro-community, and over a variety of timescales – from those linking the Middle Ages to Antiquity or the

early modern period to those focusing on an individual year. The proportion of IMC sessions focused outside Europe continues to grow – a trend we hope to see again in 2024. We welcome approaches from across medieval studies, including economic, political, social, cultural, demographic, linguistic, artistic and visual, religious-historical and intellectual, environmental, as well as those relating to landscape and material culture, and approaches that engage those working outside the disciplines of medieval studies per se, integrating relevant evidence from genetics, bio-archaeology, historical climatology, and much more!

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

- Critical discussion of relevant terminology – crisis, collapse, adaptation, risk, resilience, transformation, vulnerability – and pathways forward
- The creation of crisis narratives and stories
- Who is to blame during crises? Scapegoating, hate, compassion, and cohesion
- Medieval crisis-related datasets, their application, pitfalls, and uses
- Inequalities, and the unequal impacts of crises
- Explicitly gendered approaches to crises
- Entangled scales, global pressures/hazards played out at local or micro levels
- Early modern and modern representations of medieval crisis
- The interaction of religious and institutional responses to hazards
- Intersectional considerations in responses to crises
- Demographic approaches to hazards and disasters: deaths, births, marriages
- Material culture and conceptualizing crisis – objects and rituals

- Hazards, shocks, disasters, and their redistributive impact
- Textual representations of crisis and its impact on human agents – trauma, emotion, physical, and mental responses
- Concepts of longing for crisis – the signs of apocalypses, revolutions, and renewals
- Methodological insights – how to define, measure, and test medieval crisis ‘outcomes’
- Medieval crises represented in visual culture, music culture, and the arts
- Medieval climate change and its interaction with socio-ecological context
- Crises occurring or conceptualized across borders
- Settlements: adaptation and continuity under stress
- Human-animal connections and their place within crisis contexts
- Medieval studies and the natural sciences: how can we help each other?
- Hazards, the managed environment, and the body politic
- Medieval religious and intellectual responses to crisis in the Middle Ages

View the Call for Papers and find out the latest news about IMC 2024 at www.imc.leeds.ac.uk.