



LEEDS INTERNATIONAL MEDIEVAL CONGRESS

January 2024 Newsletter



Avoid a Crisis! IMC 2024 Registration Opens Soon

Don't panic! The world's largest medieval conference is back! From Monday 01 July-Thursday 04 July, some of the finest scholars in medieval studies will once again converge on the University of Leeds. Featuring 718 sessions, with over 2,070 papers and 2,370 active participants from 60 different countries, IMC 2024 will unite the global medievalist community, both in person and online, for four days of the latest research from across academia.

Registration will open at **10:00 GMT** on **Tuesday 20 February 2024**, and, as in previous years, will be via our online registration portal. Details of registration rates, as well as how to register, can be found on [our website](#).

Special Thematic Strand: 'Crisis'

Building on strands explored in previous years

such as Networks and Entanglements, Borders, and Climates, IMC 2024 will see over 400 sessions exploring and unpacking the special thematic focus of 'Crisis' through a multitude of different lenses: including the creation of narratives, textual representations, and material culture.

We are grateful to Daniel R. Curtis (School of History, Culture & Communication, Erasmus University Rotterdam) for co-ordinating such a substantial part of the IMC programme, as well as organising the programming of keynote lectures.

The IMC 2024 Programme is Online!

We are delighted to welcome you all to browse our online programme. While the PDF Programme will be available as usual on our website, this year the interactive Programme will be hosted through Confex, who also host



our virtual platform. Here, you can browse by session type, strand, index term, or search by person name, keyword, or final session number to find keynotes, sessions, roundtables, and things that pique your interest.

Click here to [view the Programme for IMC 2024](#).

Announcing our Fabulous Keynotes

IMC 2024 will feature a range of keynote presentations exploring distinctive facets of 'Crisis'. In collaboration with the special strand co-ordinator, Daniel R. Curtis, the IMC is delighted to welcome some outstanding keynote speakers to showcase their research.

The congress will open on Monday 01 July, with Tim Soens (Centre for Urban History, Universiteit Antwerpen) and Carenza Lewis (School of History & Heritage, University of Lincoln). Tim Soens will deliver a talk on 'Crisis from the Urban Low Countries', followed by Carenza Lewis's lecture on 'Crisis, Whose Crisis?: Archaeological Perspectives on Pandemics, Boiling Frogs, and the Domino Effect'. Grab a seat early to help begin IMC 2024 with a round of thunderous applause.

On Monday lunchtime, the keynote series continues with Nicole Archambeau (Department of History, Colorado State University). Nicole's lecture is devoted to 'A Crisis of Consolation: Experiencing the Sacrament of Penance in the 14th Century'.

On Wednesday lunchtime, 03 July, Zaroui Pogossian (Dipartimento di Storia, Archeologia, Geografia, Arte e Spettacolo (SAGAS), Università degli Studi di Firenze) concludes the IMC's own keynote series. Zaroui will explore 'Crises and Response: Texts and Social Practices in Medieval Armenia'.

In addition, we are delighted to host this year's annual Medieval Academy of America lecture, which will be presented on Tuesday, 02 July, by Monica Green on 'Crisis under a Microscope - The Black Death, Multidisciplinarity, and the Global Middle Ages'.



Above, from top: Delegates networking and socialising on campus; delegates browsing the IMC Craft Fair; a speaker delivering their paper; delegates browsing the Second Hand and Antiquarian Bookfair.

Rounding out our fantastic line up, the IMC is thrilled to once again host the *Early Medieval Europe* lecture. This will be given on Monday 01 July, by Steffen Patzold (Seminar für mittelalterliche Geschichte, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen), who will be discussing 'More than Canon Law: Collecting and Using *canones* in Early Medieval Europe'. Both the MAA and the *EME* lecture will be followed by their traditional drinks receptions.

Format for IMC 2024

IMC 2024 will once again be a fully hybrid event, with registration options for both in-person and virtual participation. All sessions at the IMC will be live-streamed via our virtual platform with an online audience, even if all speakers are present in person.

Speakers and moderators are expected to facilitate delivery of hybrid sessions. At the start of each paper, you must check that slides are shared through Zoom and that both virtual and in-person delegates can hear and see the presenter. Our team of in-person and virtual Session Room Organisers will be on hand to assist speakers and moderators where needed.

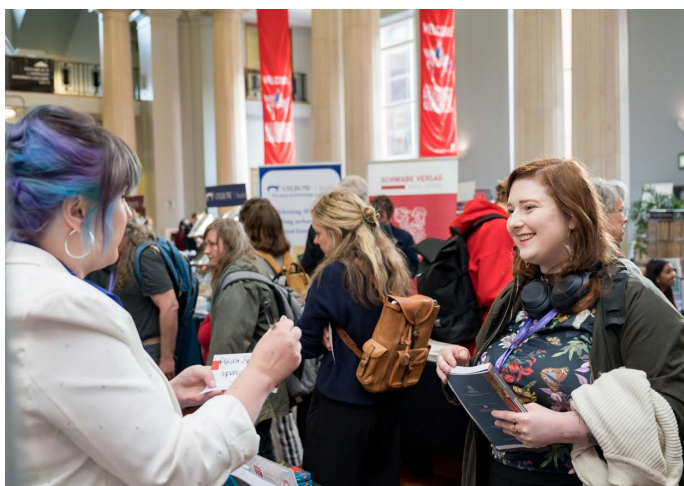
Speakers may choose any format for visual aids or slides, but we advise using Microsoft PowerPoint or saving presentations as a PDF file. If specialist software or access to your own device is needed, you must contact imc@leeds.ac.uk to arrange this in good time before the IMC begins. See [our advice for speakers on the IMC website](#) for further information and guidance.

If you are no longer able to present in person as planned, it is essential that you let us know as soon as possible. The IMC is one of the largest events of its kind, and suitable hybrid space on campus remains limited. While we will do our best to accommodate late changes, these cannot be guaranteed.

The deadline for switching mode of participation as a speaker, moderator, session organiser, round table participation, or someone else actively involved in the



Above, from top: A busy session during the IMC; delegates enjoying the combat display at Making Leeds Medieval; speaker Verena Krebs delivering her keynote lecture at IMC 2023; a speaker delivering their paper.



Delegates chatting with publishers at the IMC Bookfair.



Delegates enjoying socialising and networking on campus.

programme is **Friday 03 May 2023**. This is to ensure that we can make the necessary logistical arrangements to enable both simultaneous virtual participation, and to make essential logistical changes for in-person presenters and attendees.

We appreciate that last minute changes can occur and may affect your ability to participate in person. In this instance, we will do our best to facilitate virtual participation in line with our [Registration Terms and Conditions](#).

Registration & Programming Fee

We appreciate that many in our community are facing increased financial pressures as a result of inflation. Unfortunately, the IMC is not immune to these pressures and many of our costs – including venue hire, equipment, supplies, staffing, IT support, programme production, maintaining our programming, registration, and virtual event platform – have increased substantially. As the IMC operates on a

non-profit basis, it has been necessary to increase rates for 2024 to cover our operating costs.

Recent years have allowed us to innovate in how colleagues participate in the IMC, with 2020 and 2021's wholly virtual IMCs followed by 2022 and 2023's successful hybrid Congresses. Delivering hybrid solutions, together with inflationary pressures, has meant that the overall cost of facilitating the IMC has risen by over 35% since the start of the pandemic. In particular, the additional cost of synchronous presentation remains substantial, both in terms of technical costs and staffing needs.

Details of registration rates, as well as instructions on how to register and what to do if you are unable to register online, can be found on [our website](#).

Late Call for Papers 2024

If you would like to present your research at IMC 2024 but have not yet submitted



A Virtual Session Room Organiser delivers hybrid support.



Delegates greeting friends and colleagues before the start of a busy session.

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 when making your submission.

You can check out the regularly updated list of opportunities to present at IMC 2024 via our [Late Call for Papers](#).

The Return of Markets, Fairs, and More!

The IMC Bookfair will be in Parkinson Court from Monday 01 July - Thursday 04 July. We are excited to welcome back brilliant publishers from around the world to exhibit in person and online. Delegates will have the opportunity to peruse the freshest titles in the medieval studies field and access exclusive IMC discounts. The Bookfair is also a good opportunity to engage with publishers and discuss potential future collaborations.

The IMC online platform will host a virtual Bookfair featuring all our in-person exhibitors plus additional online only exhibitors - be sure to check out the publisher profiles for news, exhibit highlights and exclusive IMC offers. The virtual platform will also enable all delegates to connect with publishers.

We are delighted that the Second-Hand and Antiquarian Bookfair will once again grace the Leeds University Union Foyer from 30 June - 02 July, allowing more book-sellers



An enthusiastic delegate poses with an axe in the arms and armour replica handling workshop.

space to show off their wares, and giving delegates the chance to find a prized rare book or a hard-to-find edition!

Our popular Craft Fair will be in University Square and the Leeds University Union Foyer again from Wednesday 03 July - Thursday 04 July, showcasing a wide range of mediievally inspired beautiful crafts and gifts, created by knowledgeable artisans.

We are pleased to announce the return of the Historical & Archaeological Societies Fair to IMC 2024. Taking place in the Leeds University Union Foyer on Thursday 04 July, this fair will bring together societies working to preserve the heritage of Leeds, Yorkshire, and the UK.

Finally, join us in University Square on Thursday 04 July as 'Making Leeds Medieval' returns with demonstrations, displays, and activities to complement our Craft Fair and Historical & Archaeological Societies Fair, and help bring the IMC to a close!

Events, Excursions, Performances, and Workshops Update

We know delegates value the opportunity to explore the local area, discover a new skill, or absorb themselves in medieval culture and music. At IMC 2024, we are proud to provide our delegates with a diverse programme of paid and free events, excursions, and workshops.

Leeds University Library's Special Collections team will once again be running drop-in sessions on Monday, Tuesday, and



Delegates clapping at the end of a speaker's presentation.

Wednesday lunch time in the Treasures Gallery, so delegates can closely inspect medieval manuscripts and other items.

Recreating aspects of medieval life is always a highlight at the IMC. The practical combat workshop will return once again on Sunday 30 June, complemented by workshops on arms & armour replica handling, embroidery, nalbinding, bookbinding, and using an astrolabe. Daisy Black will also return with a storytelling workshop for historians, and the National Archives will return with their perennially popular workshop on using their resources. IMC workshops tend to sell out quickly, so book early to avoid disappointment!

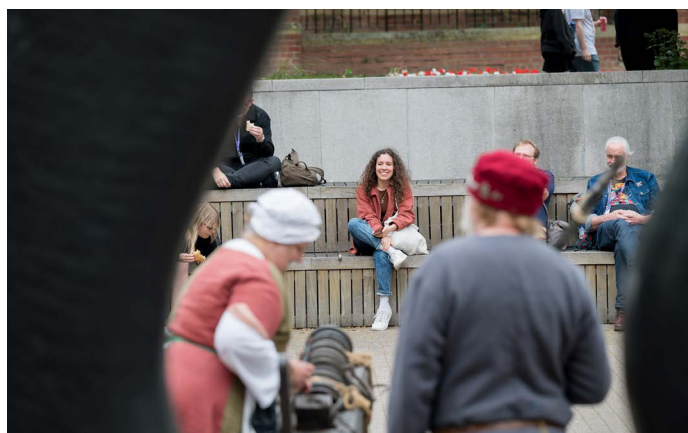
For those with a penchant for performances, the IMC has a variety of marvellously medieval music and theatrics on offer. This year, we are proud to open with Debbie Cannon's award-winning one-woman rendition of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, followed by the Leeds Waits' performance of 'The Life and Times of Richard III', which combines period music with speculation about one of England's most controversial monarchs. The Lords of Misrule will descend upon Beech Grove Plaza with another medieval drama, and the Assumption Ceilidh Band will make the last day of the IMC unforgettable with the opportunity to kick up your heels.

Our programme also includes excursions to Fountains Abbey, Middleham Castles, Lincoln Cathedral and Bishop's Palace, Heptonstall Church and Village, Richmond Castle, Kirkstall Abbey, and a Leeds Walking Tour. These trips offer delegates the chance to experience a wide variety of historical sites in the North of England.

On the final day of the IMC, 'Making Leeds Medieval' will return to University Square with a variety of medieval-inspired activities such as craft displays and live entertainment, including combat displays, falconry, and music.

Accommodation update for 2024

We will once again be providing a variety of accommodation options for delegates



Above, from top: The gesso painting workshop at IMC 2023; delegates browsing the IMC Craft Fair; the Kynges Ordynauce give a cannon demonstration at Making Leeds Medieval; delegates chatting, socialising, and enjoying the beautiful weather on campus.



Delegates smiling and listenign to a speaker present their paper.



A delegate presenting their paper.

including single-occupancy rooms in University halls of residence, 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 <https://www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/imc-2024/delegates/accommodation>.

We are delighted that for 2024, we are able to offer additional on-campus accommodation in Charles Morris Hall – Dobree and Whetton. Centrally located on-campus, Dobree and Whetton offer shared ensuite rooms consisting of one bathroom shared between two rooms, with doors to each bedroom located on either side of the ensuite bathroom. Rooms are organised into flats of 6-10 rooms, with a kitchen/lounge shared as a common area.

We are also offering a new hotel accommodation option at the Hampton by

Hilton hotel located on [Gower Street](#), which offers a fresh and modern experience for a mid-range price.

This year, we will also be offering a room-only option at the Ibis Styles Leeds City Arena, giving guests flexibility to enjoy breakfast in the many local cafes or 'grab-and go' from nearby shops.

All our new and existing accommodation options are within a 25-minute walk from the university, making them very convenient for those staying off campus. We expect demand for accommodation to be high again for 2024. Early booking is recommended, especially if you would like to book a room on campus.

Bursary Awards

For IMC 2024 a total amount of £20,000 was awarded. 430 applications were received

IMC 2025 - Key Dates

Paper Proposal Deadline: Thursday 31 August 2024
Session Proposal Deadline: Saturday 30 September 2024
Notification of Acceptance: December 2024
IMC 2025: 07-10 July 2025

Read the Call for Papers:
www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/imc-2025/
Read our Proposal Guidelines:
www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/proposals/proposal-guidelines/

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



A delegate taking notes as a speaker presents their paper.



After the combat display, delegates can handle and pose with props.

and 135 applicants were awarded bursaries. For this year's Congress, bursaries were awarded to participants from Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the USA.

In addition, three Templar Heritage Trust Bursaries were awarded. We would like to thank the Templar Heritage Trust (THT) for offering bursaries covering IMC Registration and Programming Fees.

All bursary recipients will receive an email containing instructions on how to register and claim their bursaries shortly before registration opens.

Looking Ahead: 2025 Special Thematic Focus 'Worlds of Learning'

IMC 2025 will take place between Monday 07 and Thursday 10 July 2025. The special thematic focus will be 'Worlds of Learning', and will be co-ordinated by Sita Steckel (Historisches Seminar, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt). We are delighted to welcome Sita to the IMC Programming Committee and look forward to working with them to bring together an exciting programme of papers and sessions addressing this important topic.

As ever, the IMC welcomes paper, session, workshop, and round table proposals from across the field of Medieval Studies, as well as those addressing the special thematic focus. Key deadlines, as well as the Call for Papers for IMC 2025, can be found on the next page.



**International Medieval
Congress - University of
Leeds**



@IMC_Leeds



@IMC_Leeds

Contact the IMC Team

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

Tel: +44 (113) 343 3614

International Medieval Congress, 1.03 Parkinson
Building, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT, UK

Call for Papers: IMC 2025, 07-10 July

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 2025, this is **'Worlds of Learning'**.



Histories of learning have transformed fundamentally over the last generation: older research mainly investigated educational institutions or specific intellectual traditions, typically privileging forms of learning which could be connected to modern Western institutions and disciplines. More recent scholarship takes a broader approach, historicising the production and circulation of different forms of knowledge, including many non-Western cultural traditions, as well as practical knowledge, oral traditions, and types of technical or artisanal expertise not represented in the modern canon. As a result, new interdisciplinary research fields have broadened the thematic and geographical scopes of investigation and developed new comparative frameworks.

Perhaps most importantly, different cultural traditions and historiographies of learning across the globe are increasingly discussed in relation to each other or on the basis of interdisciplinary exchange on methodologies. The increasingly global scope of academic exchange enables us to think more productively towards connected histories of learning, whether global or regional in scope, and including non-elite and non-traditional forms of learning.

Processes of learning and resulting written traditions have also been re-situated in their social and material contexts, deepening our understanding of the cultural embeddedness of knowledge. Various recent approaches question the meaning of institutional descriptors like 'schools' and challenge the dividing lines between 'scholarly'/'expert' or 'elite' and 'popular' cultures. Frameworks discussing 'communities of learning', 'communities of interpretation', or 'communities of practice' highlight the role of exchange and conflict between different communities and social strata in the production of knowledge. They also allow for a much broader integration of different forms of practice, performance, and oral communication into the study of intellectual production.

On a methodological plane, our understanding of the use, distribution, and long-term differentiation of specific bodies of knowledge profits greatly from a greater appreciation of their mediality and materiality, with new approaches to genre, communicative uses, and the circulation of manuscripts and printed books, but also to a variety of images, objects, and (architectural) landscapes. A growing toolkit of digital approaches has proved to be both a boon and a challenge, as the gathering, analysis, and visualisation of relevant data promises innovative new insights, but also raises questions about standardisation and access to costly infrastructures.

Against this background, IMC 2025 invites a plurality of viewpoints investigating the manifold social, intellectual, and geographical 'worlds of learning' shaping pre-modern societies. Seeking to stabilise the trend of the previous years, the strand particularly encourages sessions focusing on non-European worlds of learning. It also invites sessions which address the challenges inherent in the highly diverse disciplinary landscape and the asymmetries shaping extant historiographies of learning, which come from both different global regions and separate disciplines with different emphases.

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

- Ideals, practices, and rituals of teaching and learning
- Gendered ideals of learning and gender in learning
- Pedagogical techniques for different age groups
- Technical and artisanal knowledge
- Oral transmission, practice, and performance in learning processes
- Medieval epistemologies and systematisations of knowledge
- Religious conceptualisations and interpretations of learning
- Forms of learning and/about the self
- Languages and their role in the acquisition of learning
- Representations of learning in literature and art
- Learning materials, including instructional objects, texts, images, and diagrams
- Social contexts and their impact on intellectual dynamics
- Financial and political networks supporting communities of learning
- *Lieux de savoir* and locales of learning, including (permanent or situational) material and spatial arrangements
- Distribution and circulation of knowledge traditions
- (Digitally) Mapping intellectual networks
- Cross-cultural and inter-religious learning
- Cultural transfer and cultural appropriation
- Different national and confessional/religious historiographies of learning, their continuing impact, and their problems

Proposals should be submitted online at www.imc.leeds.ac.uk. Deadlines: **Paper proposals: 31 August 2024; Session proposals: 30 September 2024**

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



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 Abrahamic 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 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.

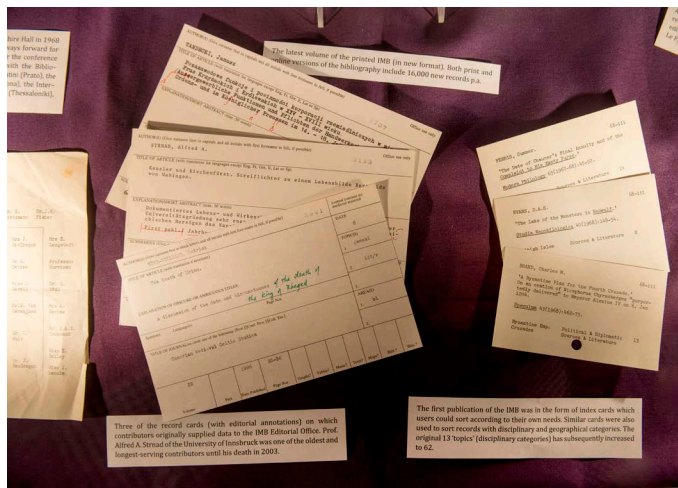
Contributors are sought for national, regional, and local history in Brazil, Chile, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, Portugal, Serbia, Sweden, Ukraine, and the Middle East/North Africa. Thematic contributors (who may 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.



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



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.

Contact the Institute for Medieval Studies

IMS / History Postgraduate Teaching & Research
Michael Sadler Building, University of Leeds
Leeds, LS2 9JT, UK
ims@leeds.ac.uk
www.ahc.leeds.ac.uk/medieval