



# LEEDS INTERNATIONAL MEDIEVAL CONGRESS

January 2023 Newsletter



## Time to Get Networking! IMC 2023 Registration Opens Soon

From Monday 03 July - Thursday 06 July 2023, the University of Leeds' scenic city centre campus will again be transformed by Europe's largest gathering of medieval studies scholars.

Featuring 714 sessions, with 2,035 papers and 2,331 active participants from 63 countries, IMC 2023 will bring together the global medievalist community both in person and online for four days of the latest research and findings from across the humanities.

Registration will open at 10:00 GMT on **Tuesday 14 February 2023** 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 here.](#)

### Special Thematic Strand: 'Networks & Entanglements'

Building on the trend set by recent strands,

including Borders, Climates, and Materialities, IMC 2023 will see 420 sessions exploring the special thematic focus of 'Networks and Entanglements'.

We are grateful to Johannes Preiser-Kapeller (Institut für Mittelalterforschung, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien) for co-ordinating such a substantial part of the IMC programme, as well as organising the programme of keynote lectures.

### Meet our Thrilling Keynote Speakers

IMC 2023 will feature a range of keynote presentations exploring 'Networks and Entanglements'. In collaboration with the special strand co-ordinator, Johannes Preiser-Kapeller, the IMC is delighted to welcome these extraordinary scholars to present their research here in Leeds.





The IMC will open on Monday 03 July at 09:00 BST with a double-bill of keynote presentations. The very first session will feature Robert Gramsch-Stehlfest (Historisches Institut, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena) and Anna Somfai (Department of Medieval Studies, Central European University, Budapest/Wien).

Robert's paper will explore 'Big Data' in History?: The Use of Social Network Analysis in Medieval Studies' and Anna's will examine 'Medieval Manuscripts: Physical and Intellectual Networks Entwined'. The opening keynote sessions are always well attended, so early arrival is encouraged to ensure you can get a spot.



Our keynote series continues on Monday lunchtime with Sarit Shalev-Eyni (Department of Art History, Hebrew University of Jerusalem). Sarit's keynote lecture will be on 'Interreligious Networks: Book Art, Material Culture, and Jewish-Christian Cooperation'.



Tuesday's lunchtime keynote lecture will be delivered by Verena Krebs (Historisches Institut, Ruhr-Universität Bochum). Verena's work is entitled 'So, Who Killed the Elephant?: Tracing African-European Entanglements in the Age of the 'Global Middle Ages''.

On Wednesday lunchtime, David Zbiral (Centrum pro digitální výzkum náboženství / Dissident Networks Project (DISSINET), Masarykova univerzita, Brno) will speak on 'Beyond Connected Dots: The Future of Network Analysis in Medieval Studies'.



Finally, on Thursday lunchtime, Minoru Ozawa (College of Arts, Rikkyo University, Tokyo) will present their keynote lecture concerning 'The Making of Ship-Centred Communities in the Viking Age: Social Units, Maritime Networks, and the Global Entanglements of Historiography'.

We hope attendees find the keynote presentations throughout the IMC valuable. We are certainly looking forward to hearing more from the cutting edge of research into medieval networks and entanglements.

*Above, from top: a busy session during the IMC; makers speaking with delegates at the Craft Fair; a speaker delivering their paper; delegates browsing the Second Hand and Antiquarian Bookfair.*

In addition to the IMC keynote lectures, we are delighted to host the annual *Early Medieval Europe* lecture. On Monday 03 July, the lecture will be delivered by Caroline Goodson (Faculty of History / King's College, University of Cambridge). Details of Caroline's lecture will be available via our website in due course.

We are also pleased to host the Annual Medieval Academy of America Lecture which, in 2023, will be delivered by Elina Gertsman (Department of Art History & Art, Case Western Reserve University, Ohio). Elina's lecture will take place on Tuesday 04 July and full details will be available via our website shortly.

### Format for IMC 2023

Building on the success of IMC 2022, this year's Congress will be again a fully hybrid event, with registration options available for both in person and virtual participation.

In December, we confirmed the format of all papers, sessions, and other activities currently included in the IMC Programme. If this information is incorrect, or 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. We will do our best to accommodate late changes, but these cannot be guaranteed, especially in light of the unusually large number of other scheduling requests we have received this year.

The deadline for switching mode of participation as a speaker, moderator, session organiser, round table participant, or someone else actively involved in the programme is Friday 5 May 2023. This is to ensure that we can make the necessary logistical arrangements to enable both simultaneous virtual participation, as well as essential logistical arrangements for in-person presenters and attendees.

We appreciate that last minute changes can occur and this may affect your ability to participate in person. In this instance,



*Above, from top: delegates browsing the IMC Bookfair; getting up close with medieval materials from Special Collections; a delegate tries their hand at a lute during the Craft Fair; delegates making their way across campus.*





*Where next? Two delegates consult the IMC Programme.*

we will do our best to facilitate virtual participation in line with our [Registration Terms and Conditions](#).

## **Now Open! Late Call for Papers 2023**

If you would like to present your research at IMC 2023 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 when making your submission.

You can check out the regularly updated list of opportunities to present at IMC 2023 via our Late Call for Papers: [www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/imc-2023/late-call/](http://www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/imc-2023/late-call/).

## **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 2023 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's successful hybrid Congress. These events provided vital opportunities to bring colleagues together despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Delivering hybrid solutions, together with inflationary pressures, has meant that the overall cost of facilitating the IMC has risen by over 25% 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.

Registration fees will increase in line with UK inflation for in-person delegates, whilst virtual registrations will increase by a larger amount to reflect the true cost of synchronous delivery, technology, and support associated with virtual attendance. While we were previously able to absorb some virtual participation costs via the in person rates, this is no longer sustainable. Thus, we will be increasing virtual prices such that they cover the costs associated with virtual participation.

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](#).

## **Markets, Fairs, and more Return**

The IMC Bookfair will return to the iconic Parkinson Court and will run from Monday 03 July through to Thursday 06 July. We are delighted to welcome back publishers from around the world to exhibit in person.

Throughout the week, delegates will have the opportunity to browse the latest titles



*A delegate making notes during an academic session at IMC 2022.*



*A performance by Mara Aranda, sponsored by Instituto Cervantes, at IMC 2022.*

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.

We are also pleased to be able to bring back the ever-popular Second-hand and Antiquarian Bookfair to IMC 2023. The fair will return to Leeds University Union Foyer from Sunday 02 July – Tuesday 04 July, providing increased space to welcome back more book-sellers, providing delegates with even more opportunity to find a prized rare book, hard to find edition, or simply a bargain!

The Craft Fair will once again take up residence on University Square from Wednesday 05 July – Thursday 06 July, showcasing a wide range of mediievally-inspired crafts and beautiful gifts lovingly made by knowledgeable artisans.

Finally, be sure to join us on Thursday 06 July on University Square where we will once again be 'Making Leeds Medieval' with a range of demonstrations, displays and activities joining our Craft fair traders to bring IMC 2023 to a colourful close.

## Events Programme Update

We know that many delegates appreciate the opportunity to see more of the local area, learn new skills, or simply enjoy some medieval music and culture. Therefore, we are delighted to be running a full programme of events, excursions, performances, and workshops at IMC 2023.

We are particularly pleased that the Leeds

University Library's Special Collections team will be running drop-ins on Monday-Wednesday lunchtime to allow delegates to get up close and personal with some of the medieval items in their care.

The professional skills workshop programme includes sessions from the National Archives on accessing and utilising their fantastic medieval collections, as well as from Medievalist.net on podcasting, and from the team from LAB1100 on the use of nodegoat to help colleagues create, analyse, and visualise historical datasets.

Essential medieval life skills are also well represented. We are delighted that the practical combat workshop will return on Sunday 02 July. In addition, throughout the week, delegates will have the opportunity to learn bookbinding, embroidery, spinning and sewing techniques, as well as how to apply gesso and use an Islamic astrolabe.

The musically-minded among you will enjoy our programme of performances throughout the IMC. Opening with a show-and-tell session about medieval instruments and concluding the Congress with a hands-on dance workshop, we are delighted to welcome performers including Arbeau dancers, Peter Bull, de Mowbray's Musicke, and Trouvère to perform at IMC 2023. Daisy Black and the Lords of Misrule will also return to the IMC with a programme of stories inspired by Mappa Mundi and the morality play Hecastus respectively.

Looking further afield, our programme for excursions includes visits to Mount Grace and Guisborough Pories, Bolton Abbey, Byland Battlefield, the Royal Armouries



*Delegates enjoying chatting and networking together on campus.*



Museum, Shibden Hall, All Saints North Street in York, as well as Tickhill and Conisbrough Castles. These trips, all led by expert guides, provide the opportunity to see a little more of the region's varied medieval history during your stay.

On the last day of the Congress, our 'Making Leeds Medieval' events will take place around University Square where - once again - we will bring a number of medieval-inspired activities to the main campus, with displays of crafts and local produce as well as live entertainment including cannon and combat displays, falconry, music, and re-enactments. The celebration will conclude with an informal dance workshop with guidance from the Arbeau Dancers.

## Virtual Platform News

Recently, we were informed that Pathable, the virtual event platform which we have used for the last two IMCs, will shortly close down.

Over the next few months, our team will be working to source a replacement platform that replicates much of the key functionality which delegates found so useful at last year's hybrid event.

Our key requirement is the ability to enable live virtual participation in sessions, and a platform that can cope with the large number of simultaneous sessions that happen at the IMC without requiring substantial technical expertise from delegates. We will keep you all updated on our new platform for IMC 2023 and beyond.

Please note that the closure of Pathable does not affect any IMC archive data, which has been securely archived and deleted in line with our Registration Terms and Conditions.

## Bursary Awards 2023

For IMC 2023, 377 applications were received for the IMC Bursary Fund and



*Above, from top: Combat re-enactors during Making Leeds Medieval; delegates chatting and browsing books during the IMC Bookfair reception on Monday night; a delegate browses the Craft Fair; outdoor social activity on the closing night of the IMC.*



*A delegate chats with exhibitors at the Second Hand and Antiquarian Bookfair.*



*Delegates meeting and chatting together in the Marquee.*

£20,000 of bursaries were awarded. 132 bursaries covering the full Proposal and Registration Fee were awarded to recipients from 36 countries.

Bursaries were awarded to scholars from Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Egypt, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Lebanon, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, the UK, Ukraine, and the USA.

In addition, the following discipline-specific bursaries were awarded in 2023. Three Templar Heritage Trust Bursaries were awarded covering full registration fees. We would like to thank the Templar Heritage Trust (THT) for offering bursaries covering IMC Registration and Programming Fees.

Two further PhD students or postdocs in the fields of early and high medieval history received funds from the Miriam Czock Memorial Fund, which was set up to honour Miriam Czock (1976-2020), a brilliant medievalist, dedicated university teacher, and long-standing attendant of the IMC.

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

### **Looking Ahead: 2024 Special Thematic Focus 'Crisis'**

IMC 2024 will take place between Monday 01 and Thursday 04 July 2024. The special thematic focus will be 'Crisis', and will be co-ordinated by Daniel R. Curtis (School of History, Culture & Communication, Erasmus University Rotterdam). We are delighted to welcome Daniel to the IMC Programming Committee and look forward to

## **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/](http://www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/imc-2024/)  
**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.



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 2024, can be found on the next page.

## How to Propose Papers and Sessions Is Changing

We are delighted to be working with Confex who, from IMC 2024, will provide the IMC with a new proposal and submission management system. This means that the way in which session proposals will be changing for IMC 2024.

This system works well with modern web browsers, and gives participants more control over their data. It will replace our existing webforms which were no longer compatible with modern web browsers and also had an unfortunate habit of requiring submitters to re-enter data.

We will be providing updated guidance on how to submit papers, sessions, round table sessions, and workshops via our website over the coming months.



*Above, from top: Useful conversations with publishers at the IMC Bookfair; re-enactors and delegates chat during Making Leeds Medieval; colleagues catching up in the Esther Simpson Building cafe.*



**International Medieval  
Congress - University of  
Leeds**

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# 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](http://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.

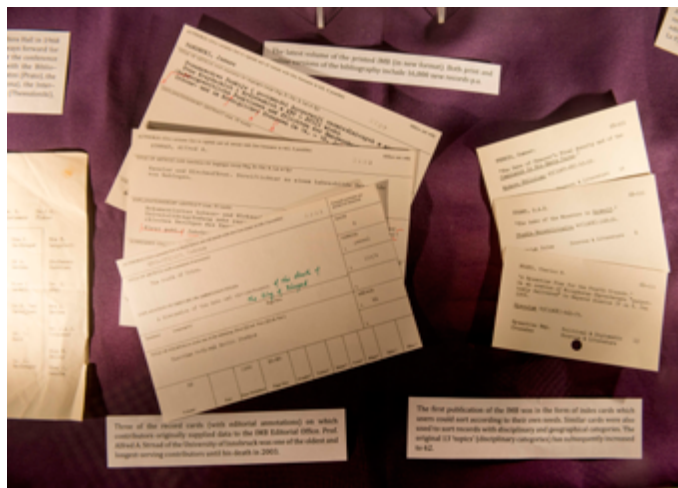
Contributors are sought for national, regional, and local history in Brazil, Chile, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, Portugal, Serbia, Sweden, Ukraine, and the Middle East/North Africa. Thematic contributors (who may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

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# 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**'.



'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?

IMC 2024 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](http://www.imc.leeds.ac.uk).**