



CALL FOR PAPERS

Medieval Cultures: Conversations and Confrontations

Graduate Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Reading
Postgraduate Conference

Friday 27 March 2020

The idea of the existence of one monolithic and static medieval culture has been continuously contested and challenged. Sophisticated cultural interactions were apparent on the borders of Medieval Christendom, such as in the Latin East, Iberia, and Eastern Europe, while equally significant cultural exchanges were occurring within Christendom itself, on both macro and micro levels. Medieval cultures were not only numerous, but also continuously changing and adapting through their interactions with each other. Such encounters took many forms - they could be sympathetic to the point of becoming interdependent, but interactions could also be influenced by opposition and conflict. This postgraduate conference aims to uncover the complexity of encounters between various medieval cultures, and to spark further discussion pertaining to the multiplicity and diversity of cultures that took part in forming the Middle Ages.

Proposals are welcomed from postgraduate students and early-career researchers of any discipline, addressing broadly defined aspects of medieval cultural interactions including but not limited to:

- Toleration and discrimination
- Gendered encounters
- Sacred and profane
- Popular faith and 'official' religion
- Social, cultural and interfaith exchanges
- Literary transmissions and translations
- Intellectual debates
- Armed conflict and peace making
- Geography and borders: imagined and real
- Travel and exploration
- Literary transmissions and translations
- Dreams and visions vs reality
- Death and life
- Natural and artificial

The length of an individual **paper presentation** should be **20 minutes**. Additionally, this year, the GCMS also welcomes **poster presentations**.

Abstracts of around **200 words** to present either a paper or a poster should be sent to the organisers, Cheryl Midson and Mari-Liis Neubauer, via gcms.reading@gmail.com by **Friday 17 January 2020**. We aim to notify speakers by Monday 3 February. Successful presentations are invited to be submitted to the *Reading Medieval Studies*, subject to the standard editorial process. Should you have any inquiries or wish to contact the organisers directly, please feel free to do so via c.midson@pgr.reading.ac.uk (Cheryl Midson) and m.neubauer@pgr.reading.ac.uk (Mari-Liis Neubauer).