



Sponsored Sessions at ICMS 2022: CFP

The Hagiography Society is sponsoring several panels and a roundtable at the International Congress of Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University, May 9-14, 2022. The Congress will be online. Please submit paper proposals by August 18 to individual session organizers, noted below. Proposals for papers must include the paper's title and an abstract of no more than 300 words. If you wish to participate in the roundtable, please discuss the questions to be addressed in no more than 300 words. (Any abstract we do not accept we will forward to the Congress organizers to be considered for general sessions.)

1. Iberian Sainthood—Panel

The proposed panel invites papers dealing with the construction of Iberian sainthood and local saint-based pilgrimage in hagiographies from the Visigothic period through the 15th century. Special consideration will be given to papers dealing with high medieval (~900-1200) Iberian sainthood, since this area is especially neglected in scholarship. Possible topics include institutional or individual patronage of hagiography-writing, the function of hagiography in establishing destinations for pilgrims in Iberia, relationships between political, ecclesiastical, and/or monastic figures as represented in hagiographies, distribution and popular reception of hagiographies in Iberian societies, liturgical matters represented in hagiographies, manuscript studies of script/colophons/illuminations of hagiographies, and art and architecture associated with hagiographies and the pilgrimage sites associated with them. This list is simply illustrative and should not be considered exhaustive.

CONTACT: Kate Perl, cperl1@nd.edu, AND Anna Harrison, annaharrison@lmu.edu

2. Global Saints/Global Holiness—Roundtable

For this roundtable, we seek scholars from any and all disciplines (BOTH the non-Western/ non-Christian/non-European tradition as well as the Western/ Christian/ European) for a comparative look at saints and saintliness across cultural, linguistic, religious, and geographic borders during the Middle Ages. The major driving question behind this roundtable is: what *is* holiness? What are the characteristics, definitions, categories, and considerations that make a person truly holy? Who/What determines when holiness has occurred or can be bestowed upon an individual?

CONTACT: Stephanie Grace-Petinos, stephanie.grace.petinos@gmail.com

3. Sainthood Dismemberment—Panel

This panel seeks to explore the notion of dismemberment with respect to sainthood. In its most obvious/frequent form, saints' bodies are dismembered postmortem in order to be distributed as relics. There are, moreover, several saints who experienced dismemberment during their lifetime, or for whom dismemberment was the cause of death and, thus, their vehicle for sainthood. This panel takes a broad look at the relationship between dismemberment and saints/sainthood/saintliness. Some possible themes/ ideas/questions that could be addressed in this panel are (though by no means an exhaustive list): Examining dismemberment through the lens of disability; the materiality of dismemberment; monstrosity and dismemberment; dismemberment vs healing; becoming 're'membered.

CONTACT: Stephanie Grace-Petinos, stephanie.grace.petinos@gmail.com

4. Saints and Animals II—Panel

Animals have figured significantly in the lives of the saints since early Christianity. This session explores the relationships between animals and saints and welcomes paper proposals that shed light on how these relationships deepen our understanding of themes pertinent to hagiography and/or animal studies. Themes paper proposals might address include but are not limited to: the function of animals within hagiographic texts, emotions binding saints and animals, animals themselves as exemplary or even saintly figures, animal stories within *exempla* literature, the symbolic meanings of animals, and theological approaches to animals and nature.
CONTACT: Catherine Mooney, catherine.mooney@bc.edu

5. Saints and Sermons—Panel (Cosponsored with the International Medieval Sermon Studies Society)

The ways in which medieval hagiography and sermon literature intertwined were myriad. The lives of the saints furnished preachers with lively material, preachers authored *vitae* collections, and some famed preachers were themselves canonized as saints (or treated as such). Manuscripts further reveal the enmeshed nature of both genres, as compilers and copyists organized sermons by saints' days and punctuated *exempla* collections with saints' stories. Each genre sought to edify and instruct their audiences toward moral behavior. *Saints and Sermons*, therefore, seeks to highlight new research that emphasizes the link between hagiography and sermons, which in turn will provide a promising venue for collaboration among scholars from these two overlapping fields.

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