VISCOM SESSIONS at the INTERNATIONAL MEDIEVAL CONGRESS

Wednesday 4 July 2018
Emmanuel Centre: Wilson Room

Session 1237  Global Practices of Memory and Exchange I

1415-1515
Maritime Transfer and Communication in the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean, c. 1200-1550

Session 1337  Global Practices of Memory and Exchange II

1630-1800
Acts of Remembering in Central European Towns and Cities, c. 1200-1550

Michael Sadler Building: Banham Theatre

Session 1318  Visions of Community I

1630-1800
Adventures in Comparison

Thursday 5 July 2018
Michael Sadler Building: Room LG.10

Session 1518  Visions of Community II

900-1030
Comparative Perspectives on Medieval Biographical Collections

Session 1618  Visions of Community III

1115-1245
Tales of Two Cities - Urban Identities and Biographical Collections in the High Middle Ages

Leeds 2018
### Visions of Community I

**ADVENTURES IN COMPARISON**

**Walter POHL** Institut für Mittelalterforschung, ÖAW & Institut für Geschichte, Universität Wien  
**Visions of Community: An Adventure in Comparison**

**Naomi STANDEN** Centre for the Study of the Middle Ages, University of Birmingham  
**Trying to Define the Global Middle Ages: Collaborative Methods from an AHRC Network**

**Ana RODRÍGUEZ** Departamento de Historia Medieval, CSIC Madrid  
**Comparing Power and Institutions in Medieval Islam and Christendom**

**Moderator:** Rutger Kramer  
Institut für Geschichte, Universität Wien  

**Organisers:** Rutger KRAMER, Walter POHL

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### Visions of Community II

**COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON MEDIEVAL BIOGRAPHICAL COLLECTIONS**

**Daniel MAHONEY** Institut für Geschichte, Universität Wien  
**A Comparative Approach to Medieval Biographical Collections from Rasulid South Arabia**

**Veronika WIESER** Institut für Mittelalterforschung, ÖAW  
**Constructing a Mediterranean Church Community: Reading Gennadius’ Continuation of Jerome’s De Viris Illustribus**

**Rutger KRAMER** Institut für Geschichte, Universität Wien  
**A Community Redone: The Gesta Sanctorum Rotonensium in a Comparative Context**

**James PALMER** St Andrews Institute of Mediaeval Studies, University of St Andrews  
**The Eminent Life: Collected Stories in the 6th Century from Gregory of Tours to Hui Jiao of Jiaxiang Monastery**

**Moderator:** Jamie KREINER  
University of Georgia  

**Organisers:** Rutger KRAMER, Veronika WIESER

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**ABSTRACT:** The speakers of three comparative projects (Visions of Community, Defining the Global Middle Ages and Power & Institutions in Medieval Islam and Christendom) will reflect on the challenges of engaging with global or comparative history. Comparative approaches stood at the heart of these projects: methodological challenges arising from disciplinary practices or cultural backgrounds have been an intrinsic part of the experience. Ranging from source-based comparison to questions of periodisation, and from establishing an interdisciplinary dialogue in the present to figuring out how various people were dealing with their pasts, each of these projects has been a learning experience that has greatly benefited those involved. By sharing these experiences, future researchers may gain a fresh appreciation of the pitfalls and possibilities of comparative, global history.

**ABSTRACT:** A hitherto underappreciated aspect of medieval ‘life writing’ is their appearance as part of a series or collection. Whether as compilations of individual texts or as original compositions focusing on multiple life stories, the collective nature of such narratives adds layers of depth to the visions of community contained within. As this session will show, looking at such narratives as a series of stories and their institutional settings allows us to reframe such comparative studies away from the Western European ideal figure of the (Christian) saint and towards different examples focusing on collections of lives as a ‘collective’ as envisaged by their respective authors. From sixth-century China to ninth-century Brittany, the papers in this session are each aimed at unlocking the comparative potential of the sources we use.
Visions of Community III
TALES OF TWO CITIES
Urban Identities and Biographical Collections in the High Middle Ages

Giorgia VOCINO Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici, Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia
Shaping a Christian Capital: Milan through the Lives of Its Early Bishops
Diarmuid Ó RIAIN Institut für Geschichte, Universität Wien
A Place Apart?: The Liber de sanctis Iuvavensibus between Admont and Salzburg
John ELDEVIK Department of History, Hamilton College, New York
From Medieval Memories to a Modern Legendary: Wilhelm Wattenbach, Monumenta Germaniae Historica SS XI, and the Deeds of the Archbishops of Salzburg

Moderator: Jonathan LYON
University of Chicago
Organisers: Rutger KRAMER, Veronika WIESER

ABSTRACT: Bishops occupied a central position in the process of creating an urban identity in the high medieval period. The combination of religious responsibilities and worldly occupations that came with their spiritual authority made them a focal point for communities seeking to assert themselves. Given the institutional nature of an episcopal see, this could be harnessed to an even greater extent: series or collections of the lives of bishops (gesta episcoporum) could be used to justify the current and future position of a city by hearkening back to its long and glorious past. This session will shed light on the enduring legacy of this phenomenon by presenting cases from Milan and Salzburg. Based on analyses of narratives, manuscripts and editions, these presentations aim to demonstrate the enduring importance of bishops for a city, and how their legacy was treated by and through history.
**ABSTRACT:** Moving beyond western, eurocentric ideas about memory, this two-part series explores unchartered academic territories both in a geographical and a methodological sense. Adopting interdisciplinary approaches to land- and seascapes of the Eastern Occident and the Global East, the panelists examine both textual and pictorial representations of the fabrication and exchange of memory within urban communities.

The first session takes a maritime perspective on the transfer and communication of memory among and within communities in the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean. Addressing diplomatic, commercial, and artistic interactions across the sea, the papers compare cases from Venetian Dalmatia, Ethiopia, Yemen and China.

The second panel addresses the issue of creative memory policies in the urban eastern borderlands of Western Christianity. The Bohemian towns receive a focus through anti-Hussite mercantile (re)membering and their Central European counterparts through the role of saints in recall traditions. Finally, the closing paper examines the partially fictionalised discourse of memory formation attached to the public worship of the Eucharist in metropolitan contexts in Hungary and Poland.