Pe(s)ts to Parchment

Multidisciplinary Research on Animals in the Middle Ages

Medieval Studies Day 2024
Friday November 8th @ Sint-Baafshuis, Ghent

Theme & concept

The recent breakthrough of 'critical animal studies' emphasizes the fact that the history of the preindustrial world, and the Middle Ages in particular, can hardly be understood without paying specific attention to animals. Indeed, creatures great and small were everywhere and pervaded nearly all aspects of life. They did so as valuable sources of food, material and energy in everyday life and across economic sectors, but also as symbols of power, as dreaded pests or carriers of cataclysmic disease and of course as objects of inspiration and imagination in art and literature. The relation between humans and animals – often exploitative or utilistic – has been broadly studied for some decades, and the same is true for the sociocultural or symbolic significances of certain species in the Middle Ages. On the other hand, the study of animals in the past in their own right, for example as parts of historical ecosystems or as victims of mass anthropogenic or natural extinctions, is only beginning to be developed, albeit with impactful results. It is high time to take stock of this vibrant multidisciplinary field of medieval animal studies! This year's Medieval Studies Day 'Pe(s)ts to Parchment' will bring to the fore perspectives and recent research from ecological and economic history, archaeology, archaeozoology, literary studies, bio-codicology, heraldry and more. The day will consist of a mix of plenary lectures by some of the foremost experts in the field, as well as small-group hands-on workshops to be selected by the participants. The programme will be concluded with parallel sessions in which PhD students from various Flemish and Dutch universities will be offered the opportunity to present their ongoing research, which does not necessarily relate to the central theme of the day.

VLAAMSE WERKGROEP MEDIËVISTIEK
Het samenwerkingsverband van Vlaamse Mediëvisten

HENRI PIRENNE INSTITUTE FOR MEDIEVAL STUDIES

GHENT UNIVERSITY

Programme

The Medieval Studies Day 2024 will kick off in the **evening of Thursday November 7th** with an optional **cultural activity** for early arrivals. More information will follow soon.

On **Friday November 8th**, the **Medieval Studies Day** will take place at conference centre Sint-Baafshuis, Biezekapelstraat 2, Ghent.

09:45: Welcome with coffee and tea

10:15: Introduction

10:30: Keynote lecture by prof. dr. Thijs Lambrecht (Ghent University)

11:30: Lecture by dr. Antonella Sciancalepore (UC Louvain)

12:00: Lecture by dr. Jordan Claridge (London School of Economics and Political Science)

12:30: Discussion

13:00: Lunch

14:00: Workshops (parallel sessions)

    Option 1 (at Boekentoren, Rozier 9, Ghent)

        Workshop 1: Bio-codicology with dr. Nicolas Ruffini-Ronzani (Université de Namur)

        Workshop 2: Manuscripts from the collection of Ghent University with prof. dr. Jeroen Deploige and prof. dr. Wim Verbaal (Ghent University)

    Option 2 (at Sint-Baafshuis)

        Workshop 1: Archaeozoology with dr. Anton Ervynck and dr. An Lentacker (Agentschap Onroerend Erfgoed)

        Workshop 2: Heraldic and emblematic animals with dr. Hanno Wijsman (IRHT – CNRS)

15:00: Coffee break

15:30: Presentations of ongoing research by PhD students (parallel sessions)

17:00: Reception

Participation

The **call for contribution** for PhD students is now open. Presentations (20 min. in Dutch or English) do not have to relate to the theme of the Medieval Studies Day, although contributions on this topic are encouraged. Abstracts (max. 250 words) should be sent to secretariaatvwm@gmail.com before September 1st.

The **registration** for the Medieval Studies Day will open on June 17th. Participation will be free.

For more information or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via secretariaatvwm@gmail.com.