

The 5th Middle Ages in the Modern World (MAMO) Conference

Schedule

24–26 June 2025

King's College, Strand Campus



Tuesday 24th June

10:00-10:30	Registration [Council Room]			
	Room K016	Room K018	Room K019	Room K020
10:30-12:00	<i>Gawain Revisited</i>	The Middle Ages in Modern Games (I) [hybrid]		18 th and 19 th Century Medievalism
12:00-13:00	Lunch [Council Room]			
13:00-14:30	Screen and Stage (I): Modern Cinema	The Middle Ages in Modern Games (II)		Paston Letters, Lives and Legacies [hybrid]
14:30-15:00	Break [Council Room]			
15:00-16:30	Screen and Stage (II): Mid-Century Theatre	Spanish and Portuguese Medievalisms	<i>Event:</i> Playtesting the Middle Ages	<i>Event:</i> St Just Ordinalia: A Community Celebrating their Medieval Heritage
16:30-17:00	Break			
17:00-18:00	Plenary: Angela Weisl and Robert Squillace [Safera Lecture Theatre] <i>Contested Spaces: Medievalisms in a Global Context</i>			
18:00-19:00	Reception (Sponsored by the New Chaucer Society) [The Terrace, Macadam Building]			

Wednesday 25th June

10:00-10:30	Arrival [Council Room]			
	Room K016	Room K018	Room K019	Room K020: Chaucer Special Strand
10:30-12:00	Online Use and Misuse	The Middle Ages in Modern Games (III) [hybrid]	Death, Burial, and Strange Survivals	Chaucer: At Home and Abroad (I)
12:00-13:00	Lunch [Council Room]			
13:00-14:30	Institutional Use and Misuse	The Middle Ages in Modern Games (IV)	Medievalism and the Epic	Chaucer: At Home and Abroad (II) [hybrid]
14:30-15:00	Break [Council Room]			
15:00-16:30	<i>Workshop:</i> Resisting Radicalisation: Medievalism and the Extreme Right	<i>Event:</i> Game showcase: Field of Glory: Kingdoms – Rajas and Tribes		Chaucer: Scholars and Theories [hybrid]
16:30-16:45	Break			
16:45-18:00	Plenary Roundtable [Safrá Room]: Mary Flannery, Euan Roger, and Caroline Bergvall <i>Public Chaucer</i>			
18:15-20:00	Performance [King's College Chapel]: Daisy Black <i>Yde and Olive</i>			

Thursday 26th June

10:00-10:30	Arrival [Council Room]			
	Room K016	Room K018	Room K019	Room K020
10:30-12:00	<i>Workshop: Wiki-thon</i>	Crusade Imagery in the 21 st Century	Modern Mysticism	Medievalism and Scholarship Today
12:00-13:00	Lunch [Council Room]			
13:00-14:30	Landscapes and Medievalisms (I)	Christianity and Medievalism (I)	Visibility, Connectivity, Creativity	New Theoretical Approaches
14:30-15:00	Break [Council Room]			
15:00-16:30	Landscapes and Medievalisms (II)	Christianity and Medievalism (II)		Pedagogy and Practice
16:45-17:45	Plenary [Safrá Lecture Theatre]: Michael Eden <i>Gawain is Not a Hero? Tensions Between the Heroic and the Complex Subject in Representations of Sir Gawain in Art</i>			
18:00-19:00	Reception [The Terrace, Macadam Building]			

Guide to rooms

The conference will take place at King's College London's Strand Campus. There is a map available here: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/visit/strand-campus>. Please enter King's via the main entrance on the Strand. There will be a student ambassador on the gate to give you directions.

Registration, coffee and the morning and afternoon, and lunch each day will be in the Council Room, which is on the first floor of the King's Building. It will be signposted from reception.

Sessions will take place in rooms K016, K018, K019, and K020 which are all the ground floor of the King's Building. They will be signposted. K017 will be available to conference attendees as a quiet space to work and/or decompress.

Plenary sessions will take place in the Safra Lecture Theatre, on the ground floor of the King's Building. It will be signposted. Daisy Black's performance will take place in the Chapel on the first floor of the King's Building. If you would like to attend please sign up via the Eventbrite page.

Receptions on Tuesday and Thursday will take place in the Terrace Café in the Macadam Building. It will be signposted and conference organisers and King's staff and students will be on hand to lead parties to the reception from the plenary sessions.

For accessibility information on the rooms in use, please visit:
<https://themamo.org/information-for-participants/>.

Stalls

Visit the Council Room (where registration and refreshment breaks will take place) to browse our publisher stalls, including several academic series related to medievalism.

Publishers:

- ARC Humanities Press
- Boydell and Brewer
- Brepols
- Brill
- Manchester University Press

Organisations:

- The Guild of Medievalist Makers
A newly formed organisation for academic & academic-adjacent creatives and makers dedicated to furthering creative-critical practice in the humanities and making space for creative play!
Find out more: www.guildmedmak.com.



Full Programme

Tuesday 24th June

10:00-10:30 Registration [Council Room]

10:30-12:00 Parallel Sessions 1

Session 1A: *Gawain* Revisited [Room K016]

Chair: Usha Vishnuvajjala

- Sabina Rahman (University of Sydney):
“Make Merry, and Tell Me What You See”: Visibility of Race in Colonialist Fantasy and David Lowery’s *The Green Knight* (2021)
- Simran Dhaliwal (Hughes Hall, Cambridge):
The Green Knight’s Temporal Assimilation
- Stacy Kessler (Indiana University of Pennsylvania):
From Gawain to TikTok: Beheading the Tortilla

Session 1B: The Middle Ages in Modern Games (I): Chronological Flexibility [Room K018 – hybrid session]

Chair: Josh Davies

- Kate Cook (King’s College London):
Collecting or understanding the past? Attitudes to the Roman period and interactions with past time in medievalist games
- Baha Tan Oral and Deniz Özyurda-Ergen:
Elastic Histories: Time and Player Interaction in Medieval-Themed Games
- Marcus Jensen:
Audio amalgamation: Collapsing temporalities in Medieval fantasy game soundtracks
- Robin Kessler (East Stroudsburg University):
Balancing the overpowered in OverPower

Session 1C: 18th and 19th-century Medievalisms [Room K020]

Chair: Victoria Turner

- Crystal Biggin (University of Nottingham):
Translating Boccaccio in Charlotte Lennox’s *Shakespeare Illustrated* (1753–54)
- Lucinda Menaul (King’s College London):
The ‘Knight in Shining Armour’ and the ghost of Pegasus in William Morris’s ‘The Earthly Paradise’

Tuesday 24th June

- Akari Kobayashi (University of Oxford):
Re-evaluating Elizabeth Siddal's *Lady of Shalott* (1853) via Medievalism
- Natalie Hanna (University of Liverpool):
Elizabeth Barrett Browning's Medieval Feelings

12:00-13:00 Lunch [Council Room]

13:00-14:30 Parallel Sessions 2

Session 2A: Screen and Stage (I): Modern Cinema [Room K016]

Chair: Beatrice Wilford

- Felipe Brandi (NOVA University Lisbon):
When Cinema Aims to Reveal How Little We Know About Medieval Life. The Middle Ages, Cinema and the European Imaginary of the 1980s.
- Patrick Masters:
Templars in Space – The influence of the Knights Templar on Star Wars

Session 2B: The Middle Ages in Modern Games (II): Cycles and Breaks [Room K018]

Chair: Stacy Kessler

- Graham Culbertson (University of North Carolina):
Roguelites and Eternal Recurrence: Medieval Cycles of Catastrophe in *Wilderness*
- Maria Vrij (University of Birmingham):
Seasons and seasonality: Charting the passage of the year in historical games
- Robert Houghton (University of Winchester):
A Time of Transition or A Time of Crisis? The Periodisation of the Middle Ages in *Sid Meier's Civilization VII*
- Vinicius Marino Carvalho (State University of Campinas):
How to address hyperobjects in historical video games?

Session 2C: Paston Letters, Lives and Legacies [Room K020 – hybrid session]

Chair: Josh Davies

- Diane Watt (University of Surrey):
God's Own Gentlewoman: Writing a Biography of Margaret Paston
- Holly Maples (University of Essex and College of William and Mary):
Margaret Paston's Women of the Roses
- Karen Smyth (University of East Anglia):
Walking in Paston Footprints

14:30-15:00 Break [with refreshments in the Council Room]

15:00-16:30 Parallel Sessions 3

Session 3A: Screen and Stage (II): Mid-Century Theatre

Chair: Rebecca Menmuir

- Beatrice Wilford:
Desire Against the Will in *I Know Where I'm Going!*: Medievalism in Powell and Pressburger
- Victoria Turner (University of St Andrews):
Performing *Aucassin and Nicolette*: amateur theatre and local medievalism in twentieth-century England
- Sara Torres (University of New Mexico):
Magic to Do: Musicals and Medievalism on the Mid-Century Stage

Session 3B: Spanish and Portuguese Medievalisms [Room K018]

Chair: Crystal Biggin

- Pedro Martins (NOVA University Lisbon):
“The Cradle of the Nation”? The Medievalist Construction of Guimarães in Modern Portugal (1887-1940)
- Ana Maria Machado (University of Coimbra):
Portuguese Studies in Medievalism. The *Humildade gloriosa*, by Aquilino Ribeiro
- Claudia Fernández Estrada:
Contemporary Arthurianism: Negotiating the Global and the Local through Exclusion and Identity.

Session 3C: Event [Room K019]

- Playtesting the Middle Ages

This session showcases a selection of board games at various stages of development created by participants in the Middle Ages in Modern Games strand. These include *OverPower* (Robin Kessler), *Galar* (Vinicius Marino Carvalho), and *Canossa* (Robert Houghton). The session represents a series of practical demonstrations of the expression of historical theory and analysis in a ludic format utilising a range of mechanical approaches and genres.

Session 3D: Event [Room K020]

- St Just Ordinalia: A Community Celebrating their Medieval Heritage

Isobel Bloomfield (St Just Ordinalia Project Committee) and Max Morrison (St Just Ordinalia Participant and Young Scholar) will introduce the Cornish Ordinalia Mystery Plays and discuss the modern-day performance of these texts as a community project: the St Just Ordinalia.

They will present the project, screen the documentary made by Awen Productions about the 2021 performances, and demonstrate a little more about how the St Just Community make these medieval plays their own today.

16:30-17:00 Break [with refreshments in the Council Room]

17:00-18:00 Plenary: Angela Weisl (Seton Hall University) and Robert Squillace (New York University) [Safra Room]

Chair: Josh Davies

Contested Spaces: Medievalisms in a Global Context

Contested Spaces: Medievalisms in a Global Context considers how Global Medievalisms engage with space—real, cartographic, imagined—through a variety of forms of contestation, whether literal (battles, wars, the displacement of peoples, etc.) or figurative. In so doing, we wish to continue a conversation about what “Global Medieval” might mean and how we might usefully understand these terms and their value. Through a series of exempla ranging from the Tsui Hark’s *Detective Dee* films and the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in Mumbai, to Historical Medieval Combat leagues and *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds*, we hope to offer a taxonomy of spatial contestation: temporarily medievalized spaces, structurally medievalized spaces, fictions set in historical medieval spaces, and fictions set in invented medievalized spaces in order to map the global contestations of the spaces of medievalism itself.

Angela Jane Weisl is Professor of English and Women and Gender Studies at Seton Hall University, where she teaches courses on Medieval Literature, Medievalisms, History of the English Language, and Literature of Adolescence. Her publications include *Conquering the Reign of Femeny: Gender and Genre in Chaucer's Romance*; *Constructions of Widowhood and Virginity in the Middle Ages* (with Cindy Carlson); *The Persistence of Medievalism: Narrative Adventures in Contemporary Culture*; *Medievalisms: Making the Past in the Present* (with Tison Pugh); and *Medievalisms in a Global Age* (with Robert Squillace). She also co-authored *Medieval Literature: The Basics* with Anthony Joseph Cunder. Currently in the works are *Silent Medievalisms* (with Tison Pugh) and *Global Medievalism and the Contest of Space* (with Robert Squillace).

Robert Squillace is a Clinical Professor in Arts, Text, and Media and Educational Technology Liaison at New York University's School of Liberal Studies. He has published extensively on the Edwardian novelist Arnold Bennett, including the book *Modernism, Modernity, and Arnold Bennett* (Bucknell UP, 1997). As Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Liberal Studies, he was instrumental in the creation of its Global Liberal Studies bachelor's degree. He has presented jointly on various topics in Global Medievalism with Angela Jane Weisl at half a dozen conferences over the last four years; they recently edited and introduced the collection *Medievalisms in a Global Age* (Boydell & Brewer, 2024) and have a monograph on the contested spaces of global medievalism in contract with Routledge, which should appear in 2026. He has been the recipient of an NEH Digital Humanities grant and an NYU Global Institute for Advanced Study grant on the topic of Global Studies and the Humanities.

18:00-19:00 Reception [The Terrace, Macadam Building]

Sponsored by the New Chaucer Society.

Wednesday 25th June

10:00-10:30 Arrival [with refreshments in the Council Room]

10:30-12:00 Parallel Sessions 1

Session 1A: Online Use and Misuse [Room K016]

Chair: Gwen Seabourne

- Kenna L. Olsen (Mount Royal University):
Beyond Medieval Mimicry to Chaucer's Wicker House: Evoking Medieval English Experientiality via Immersive Performances of Medieval English Texts
- Andrew B.R. Elliott (Independent Researcher):
Amusing, Awful, and Artificial: AI & Medievalism
- Rachel Moss (University of Northampton):
Medieval chivalry, social media and the emotional drivers of radicalisation into extreme right online cultures

Session 1B: The Middle Ages in Modern Games (III): Periodisation Beyond the West [Room K018 – hybrid session]

Chair: James Worth

- Muhammad Abdul Karim:
No Middle Ages in Timor: Understanding the concept of Middle Ages in *Temukung: Cultivation in Drylands*
- Kristina Wittkamp (University of Passau):
Medievalisms in Russian-language computer games – depictions of Rus' between fantasy and historical simulation
- Hirohito Tsuji (University of East Anglia):
Japanese Stereotypes in Medievalist Games: The *Onimusha* series

Session 1C: Death, Burial, and Strange Survivals: The Norse-Gothic Response and Literary Receptions in Britain [Room K019]

Chair: Josephine Spelsberg

- Sharon Choe (University of Copenhagen):
Loðbrók, Lodbrach, Lodbrog: Revisiting Norse Death in Eighteenth-century Britain
- Maggie Pavleszek (University of York):
"Lost in the wind and the night": Ship Funerals and Imperial Anxiety in H. Rider Haggard's *Eric Brighteyes* (1891)
- Hannah Armstrong (University of York):
Strange Survivals: Sabine Baring-Gould and the Norse-Gothic

Session 1D: Chaucer: At Home and Abroad (I) [Room K020]

Chair: Daniel Sawyer

- Helen Brookman (King's College London):
At home with the medieval: reading Chaucer with Mary Eliza Haweis and the National Home Reading Union
- Nancy Warren (Texas A&M University):
Chaucer's Wife of Bath in Colonial Virginia: Aphra Behn's *The Widow Ranter*
- Ben Parsons (University of Leicester):
Unmilitary and Perverted: Chaucer in Zululand in the 1870s and 80s

12:00-13:00 Lunch [Council Room]

13:00-14:30 Parallel Sessions 2

Session 2A: Institutional Use and Misuse [Room K016]

Chair: Andrew Elliott

- Gwen Seabourne (University of Bristol):
Legal Medievalisms: appeals to the 'medieval' in modern common law sources
- Eleanor McDonald-Dick (University College London):
Anti-Normanism by Omission: Discussions of the Origins of Kyivan Rus' in English-language news and popular history media following the 2022 Russian Invasion of Ukraine
- Alexandra Sterling-Hellenbrand (Appalachian State University):
Working off the Past? Monuments and the Medieval Imaginary in Austria and the American South
- Michael Makin (University of Michigan)
First as Farce, then as Tragedy? The Death, Rebirth, and Subsequent Weaponization of East-Slavic Medievalism in Russia and Ukraine

Session 2B: The Middle Ages in Modern Games (IV): Education and Exploration [Room K018]

Chair: Vinicius Marino Carvalho

- Josip Mihaljević (Old Church Slavonic Institute):
Web Games for Learning and Promoting the Glagolitic Script
- James Worth (University College London):
Creating the Age of Apocalypse: Game Mechanics as Pedagogical Tools for imparting a Historiographical Periodisation of West Roman Collapse in *Total War: Attila*
- Thom Gobbitt (Karl Franzens Universität, Graz):
Rules Lawyers' Time: Early Medieval Laws, Plot, and Gamification

Session 2C: Medievalism and the Epic [Room K019]

Chair: Ben Parsons

- Daniel Sawyer (University of Oxford):
Early Forms and Modes for Unusual Readerships: A Case Study
- Julio San Román Cazorla (Complutense University of Madrid):
‘You’re a Girl Dragon!’: The Evolution of Epic Identity in *Beowulf* from the Anglo-Saxon Poem to Maria Dahvana Headley’s Feminist Adaptation
- Josephine Spelsberg (King’s College London):
Sexist or feminist? A comparison between the fifteenth-century epic *Salman und Morolf* and the twenty-first-century motion picture *Jennifer’s Body*

Session 2D: Chaucer: At Home and Abroad (II) [Room K020 – hybrid session]

Chair: Helen Brookman

- Mary Boyle (St Edmund’s College, Cambridge):
Dirty Great Literature: The *Canterbury Tales* in German
- Hugo Lacoue-Labarthe (Université Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle):
Impersonating Chaucer: Pier Paolo Pasolini and J.R.R. Tolkien, aspiring medieval poets in the 20th century?
- Candace Barrington (Central Connecticut State University):
“This false traytour Deeth”: Chaucer in Iran

14:30-15:00 Break [with refreshments in the Council Room]

15:00-16:30 Parallel Sessions 3

Session 3A: Workshop [Room K016]

- Radicalisation: Medievalism and the Extreme Right

Dr Rachel Moss, medievalist and Co-Investigator of the University of Northampton’s Extreme Right Research Network (ERRN), will lead an interactive workshop that asks what role medievalism plays in radicalising people into extreme right spaces, and what role we – as educators and experts in the Middle Ages – can play in the vital work of combatting rising extremism. Rachel will introduce the work ERRN has been doing with practitioners in the charitable and law enforcement sectors to identify and address radicalisation, particularly of young people and online spaces, and we will then use the session to collectively brainstorm strategies and resources for developing our activist potential within our fields of interest.

Session 3C: Event [Room K018]

- Game showcase: Field of Glory: Kingdoms – Rajas and Tribes

Neil McKenna (Lead External Producer at Slitherine)

Authentic history enhances immersion in the gaming experience

Richard Yorke (Twitch streamer):

A gaming session through Field of Glory: Kingdoms - Rajas and Tribes, set during the period of 1054–1270. The focus is on the Rajput kingdoms of India, the Christian stronghold of Ethiopia, and the Kingdom of Ghana.

Session 3D: Chaucer: Scholars and Theories [Room K020 – hybrid session]

Chair: Mary Boyle

- Yasmin Ibrahim (King's College London):
Eleanor Hammond (1866-1933): A Scribe of Chaucer
- Wan-Chuan Kao (Washington and Lee University):
Anaracialism and Its Situatedness

16:30-16:45 Break [with refreshments in the Council Room]

16:45-18:00 Plenary Roundtable: Public Chaucer [Safra Room]

Chair: Rebecca Menmuir

- Mary Flannery (University of Bern)
- Euan Roger (The National Archives)
- Caroline Bergvall (Queen Mary University of London)

Public Chaucer brings together experts on Chaucer who work in various ways on Chaucer outside of the academy, whether by engaging with Chaucer creatively, working with the media, or bringing Chaucer to new audiences. Their work often sits at the intersection between academic scholarship, public engagement, and creative-critical response. How does scholarly work and public-facing work interact? What are the benefits and dangers of public-facing Chaucerianism? And what is the future of 'public Chaucer'?

Mary Flannery is a Swiss National Science Foundation Eccellenza Professorial Fellow in English at the University of Bern, where she is leading a project on 'Canonicity, Obscenity, and the Making of Modern Chaucer, 1700–2020' (COMMode). Her most recent book is a biography of Geoffrey Chaucer for the general public: *Geoffrey Chaucer: Unveiling the Merry Bard*, published with Reaktion in 2024. She also writes short humour about the Middle Ages

and other topics for publications such as *McSweeney's*, *The Belladonna Comedy*, *Defenestration*, and *Points In Case*.

Dr Euan Roger is a Principal Medieval Specialist at The National Archives (UK), specialising in the records of late medieval and early Tudor English government, the central law courts, and the secular clergy. He has published on a wide variety of subjects, including a 2022 special edition of *Chaucer Review*, which introduced newly discovered life-records for the poet Geoffrey Chaucer and made headlines around the world. Other research includes medieval labour disputes, Tudor quarantine measures, Windsor Castle, and the history of treason in the UK, his work featured in publications including *TIME* Magazine, *The Guardian*, and *The Times*.

Caroline Bergvall is Global Professorial Fellow, Queen Mary University, London, and a Henry Moore Artist Fellow 2025. Award-winning writer and interdisciplinary artist who works across languages, media, and artforms. Her work includes books, performances, installations, soundworks, drawings. She often works collaboratively, and explores materials from both contemporary and historical contexts. Her research frequently involves transhistoric approaches to languages. The recipient of many international commissions and fellowships, noted works include the book trilogy *Meddle English* (2011), *Drift* (2015), awarded a Cholmondeley Award, and *Alisoun Sings* (2019). With Dr. Joshua Davies co-edited the collection of essays, *Caroline Bergvall's Medievalist Poetics: Migratory Texts and Transhistorical Methods* (2023, Arc Humanities Press). Current performances include *Nattsong*, and the conversational *Conference of the Birds*. Of French-Norwegian heritage, based in London.

18:15-20:00 Performance [King's College Chapel]

- *Yde and Olive*, performed by Daisy Black
Storyteller and academic Daisy Black presents the remarkable thirteenth-century tale of Yde, who dresses herself as a knight and cuts her own paths to freedom. A tale of disguise adventure, gender fluidity, straight-talking angels, and the power of queer love.
Weaving medieval narrative with modern folk song, this performance will take you from birthing chambers to military barracks, through moonlit country lanes and woods stained with slaughter, and from quiet chapels to court chambers crackling with gossip.

Thursday 26th June

10:00-10:30 Arrival [with refreshments in the Council Room]

10:30-12:00 Parallel Sessions 1

Session 1A: Workshop [Room K016]

- MedievalWiki – A Wikipedia citation-a-thon for MAMO 2025
Organised by Fran Allfrey (University of York), Lucy Hinnie (University of Leeds and Wikimedia UK), and Richard Nevell (University of Exeter and Wikimedia UK).

With billions of page-views every month, and its content scraped to power artificial intelligence, digital assistants, and search engines, there's a case to be made that Wikipedia is one of the most effective ways to get the Middle Ages out into the modern world.

However, Wikipedia tends to reproduce biases and exclusions that exist in the real world. Work by women, BIPOC, and queer scholars is under-represented on medieval historical topic pages, which often rely on a limited number of cited sources.

In this hands-on workshop, we will introduce participants to key concepts and practical tools for Wikipedia editing. Participants will be split into folks who have edited before and first-time editors. Experienced editors will be invited to select existing Wikipedia pages to audit and improve, and to gather research to cite. First-time editors will learn the basics of editing before moving to live editing to improve articles together.

Session 1B: Crusade Imagery in the 21st Century: Symbol, Image, and Action [Room K018]

Chair: Daisy Black

- Eleanor Janega:
Nostalgia, Easy Answers and the Battle for the Public Imagination
- Matthew Gabriele (Virginia Tech):
Crusade Studies Haunted by the So-Called Clash of Civilizations
- Mike Horswell:
Back to the Crusades: Reflecting on Crusader Medievalism after 9/11 in Comics
- Brett Whalen (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill):
Response

Thursday 26th June

Session 1C: Modern Mysticism [Room K019]

Chair: Sarah Salih

- Michelle M. Sauer (University of North Dakota):
Modern Adaptations of the Medieval Anchoritic Lifestyle
- Mirabelle Dominé-Walley and Luke Walker:
Into the Mystic: Margery Kempe's White Clothes
- Eduardo De Oliveira Correia (King's College London):
'To Give Rise to a True Image': Andrei Tarkovsky's *Andrei Rublev* and Julian of Norwich's *Revelations of Divine Love*

Session 1D: Medievalism and Scholarship Today [Room K020]

Chair: Kathryn Maude

- Camille Campos Fragoso (EHESS, Paris):
Searching for Oneself in the Medieval Past: Trans Erasures, Cis Gestalts, and the Limits of Historiography
- Peter Jones (University of Plymouth):
MORRÍSLAND Glöggt er gests augað (William Morris & Iceland)

12:00-13:00 Lunch [Council Room]

13:00-14:30 Parallel Sessions 2

Session 2A: Landscapes and Medievalisms (I) [Room K016]

Chair: Simon Trafford

- Emma Nuding (University of York):
More Foreign than 'Fellow': Finding the Early Medieval with Charles Kingsley and St Guthlac of Crowland
- Maia Blumberg (Queen Mary University of London):
Local Medievalisms and 'Nostalgia for the Ordinary': The Case of Malmesbury
- Linsey Hunter (UHI):
Why here? Why now? An analysis of Identity and Place in retellings of the legend of Finella, Lady of the Mearns, c. 1900-c.1960

Session 2B: Christianity and Medievalism (I) [Room K018]

Chair: Eleanor Janega

- Helen Young (Deakin University):
“The New Middle Ages” and Twenty-First Century Christian Nationalism
- Sarah Schnödewind (University of Hamburg):
Between Popular Culture and New Age. The Modern Reinterpretation of the Cathars in “The Cathar Tarot: The Secret Wisdom of the Cathars”

Session 2C: Visibility, Connectivity, Creativity: Honouring Medieval Women’s Stories in the Modern World [Room K019]

Chair: Fran Allfrey

- Laura Varnam (University College, Oxford):
Wealhtheow on the Whale-Road and Beyond: Poems for Heorot’s Queen and Reflections on Writing Her Story / Herstory
- Sheila Passey (University of Wolverhampton):
Reclaiming Aethelflaed: Feminist Storytelling and the Challenges of Adapting Early Medieval Herstories into Modern Historical Fiction
- Daisy Black (University of Wolverhampton):
A Many-Woman Show: *Yde and Olive*, Women’s Work and Storytelling as Medievalist Feminist Praxis

Session 2D: New Theoretical Approaches [Room K020]

Chair: Karen Winstead

- Usha Vishnuvajjala (SUNY-New Paltz):
Medieval(ist) Mothers and Daughters: One Avenue for Reconciling Medieval Studies and Medievalism Studies
- Sophia Philomena Wolf (University of Freiburg):
Experiments with Blank Spaces: Condensation and Expansion in Contemporary Retellings
- Caroline Banerjee (City, University of London):
Liveable Cities and Liveable Bodies: Stepping into Power in Caroline Bergvall’s *Alisoun Sings*

14:30-15:00 Break [with refreshments in the Council Room]

15:00-16:30 Parallel Sessions 3

Session 3A: Landscapes and Medievalisms (II) [Room K016]

Chair: Eduardo De Oliveira Correia

- Fran Allfrey (University of York):
Medieval stories in a neolithic landscape
- Kathryn Maude (The National Archives) and Emily Robinson (University of Sussex):
Curating the Medieval: Telling the ‘Lost’ History of a Sunken Island
- Bathsheba Lockwood Brook (University College London):
Moving Encounters: Towards an Affective Practice of Walking in *Refugee Tales*

Session 3B: Christianity and Medievalism (II) [Room K018]

Chair: Michelle Sauer

- Emmet Taylor (University College Cork):
Mythconceptions: ‘Paganized’ Retellings of *Lebor Gabála Éirenn*
- Allie Richardson (University of Tennessee Knoxville):
Exploring Japanese Demonology: The Red Book of Appin in Anime and Manga
- Lucie Herbreteau:
Who will kill the dragon? Rewriting the legend of Saint George and the dragon for children in the 20th and 21st century

Session 3C: Pedagogy and Practice [Room K020]

Chair: Laura Varnam

- Kirsty Bolton (University of Oxford):
Medieval and Modern Experiences of Migration
- Karen A. Winstead (The Ohio State University):
Medievalism as Pedagogy: Creating “Wicked Students”
- Brendan O’Connell (Trinity College Dublin):
Teaching Medieval Complaint through Sara Ahmed

16:45-17:45 Plenary: Michael Eden [Safrá Room]

Chair: Sarah Salih

Gawain is Not a Hero? Tensions Between the Heroic and the Complex Subject in Representations of Sir Gawain in Art

Sir Gawain, as depicted in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (SGGK), has traditionally been represented in illustrations accompanying translations of the

poem. I have previously referred to this as an ‘established visual language’—a framework that oscillates between portraying Gawain as a conventional heroic figure and as a complex, introspective subject. On one hand, he appears as a visual cipher of the knight: depicted in action, traveling, and fighting. On the other, artists attempt to convey his interiority—his regret, fear, and anticipation. While these representations may appear to depict the same Gawain, they reveal an underlying fault line: where iterations of Gawain, such as the man of action vs the introspective subject reflect significantly, and uncomfortably, on one another.

This plenary will explore Gawain as both a site and sight of crisis, moving beyond the traditional monomyth. Unlike conventional heroes, his transformation remains unresolved, complicating the notion of heroic incorporation. This ambiguity, rather than diminishing his significance, presents compelling opportunities for contemporary artists who seek to reimagine this figure in new and innovative ways.

Michael Eden is a visual artist, researcher, and writer exploring the intersections of monstrosity, subjectivity, and landscape representation. His practice spans semi-abstract figurative and landscape painting, ceramics, and sculptural constructions, often engaging with themes of eeriness and flux as critiques of resurgent right-wing ideologies. He earned his PhD from Middlesex University, where his research bridged medieval literature, modernist art criticism, landscape theory, national myth-making, and monster studies, framed through the lens of artistic practice. His work is particularly informed by *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* and the problematic modernism of Wyndham Lewis. Eden contributes to academic and journalistic publications on art practice, film, monstrosity, and arts education and is a fellow of The Digswell Arts Trust and editor of the *Journal of Art & Writing*.

16:45-17:45 Closing remarks [Safra Room]

18:00-19:00 Reception [The Terrace, Macadam Building]