

Saints in Crisis: Emotional Responses to Sanctity in the Middle Ages

Thematic focus: Crisis

Call for Papers for Session Proposal at the
International Medieval Congress (IMC 2024)

July 1-4, 2024

University of Leeds

They were frightened and they hit in great pain their heads and hearts- How do people react when they encounter the sanctity of saints? How do they feel? Are they in crisis - crisis for whom? Does crisis change individuals?

The proposed session focuses on the emotional responses of individuals/communities in relation to sanctity. Suggested topics on the emotional reactions of individuals/communities, from any geographic area or time period (between 300-1500), may include, but are not limited to:

- Visual representations of emotions (behavior of the body, gestures, looks);
- Textual sources on emotional reactions (hagiographies, miracle stories, narratives in relation to crisis and sanctity);
- Medical (psychological, neurological, physical, and mental) responses;
- Liturgy and music culture;
- Regions/areas of communities (rural, urban, monastic, ecclesiastic), emotions, and sanctity;
- Living saints, discoveries of saints, relics – reliquaries, icons, and viewership reactions;
- Performance, sanctity, and emotions;
- External crisis/internal crisis, positive/negative emotional reactions, and sanctity;
- Conversion stories/lack of conversion/otherness and emotional reactions;

Submissions from a variety of disciplines are accepted including but not limited to: history, art history, visual culture, social history, cultural history, hagiography, religious studies, cultural studies, textual studies in a transdisciplinary perspective.

Please submit a 250- 400 words proposal (in English) for a 15-20 minute paper. Proposals should have an abstract format and be accompanied by a short CV, of no more than 800 words, including e-mail, institution, and profession. The session is planned to be in-presence. Please submit all relevant documents by 12 September, 2023, to the e-mail address: znorovszkyandrea@usal.es

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