

And thence. Doyne repaired home oon see in to his
owne lordshipp of Lurgoyne and there abode all his
lyf. And King Delyne abode at Niche troyn And
bilde there a noble yate fast by the water of Tamyne
and called it. Delynestrate after his owne Name

CENTRE FOR MEDIEVAL STUDIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24



University of
BRISTOL



Table of Contents

1. Research Directors' Reflections
 2. Arrivals and Departures
 3. CMS Executive Committee
 4. Research Seminars
 5. Conferences
 6. Postgraduate Conference
 7. Grants
 8. New PGRs
 9. CMS Publication Series
 10. Reading Groups
 11. Visiting Professors
 12. Major Publications
 13. Outreach, Public Engagement and
Other News
- 

Research Centre

Directors' Reflections

The annual report is always a valuable opportunity to take stock of the year just gone while also looking forward to the new academic year. Highlights of the last year included the PG conference; the public Bristol650 events; the academic conferences organised by our medievalists; and our panels and reception at the Leeds IMC. All these took place alongside the regular reading groups and a busy programme of research seminars, which were remarkably well-attended.

Given the economic climate in universities, it is a challenging time for the Arts and Humanities, especially in taught postgraduate programmes. We noted last year that recruitment to the MA had fallen below sustainable levels, and with minimum numbers in our newly merged Faculty now set at 20, the MA in Medieval Studies was withdrawn. We are in active discussions with the Heads of School and the PGT Directors to ensure that taught provision in medieval studies remains available for MA students in years to come. In the past, we also used the core Masters units to provide PGR training, but alternative ways of meeting this need are already available without the restrictions of a credit-bearing unit.

The future of medieval studies at Bristol otherwise looks bright. Like last year, we welcome a bright cohort of new PhD students and early career researchers as postdocs and newly appointed lecturers (see below, sections 2 and 8). Our research environment is strengthened by the international visitors who join us each year (see below for details) and become part of our community for short visits – and we hope that when they return, they will sing our praises elsewhere. We would also like to express our appreciation

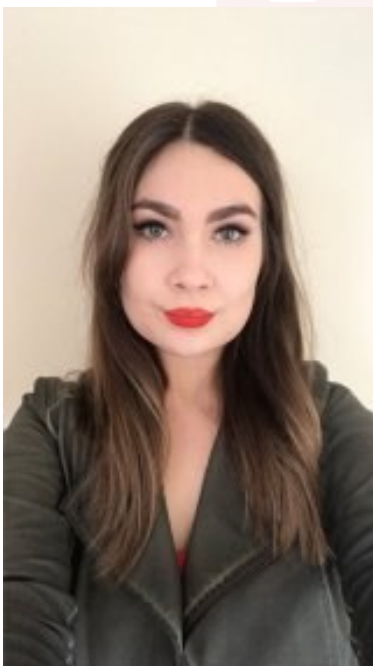
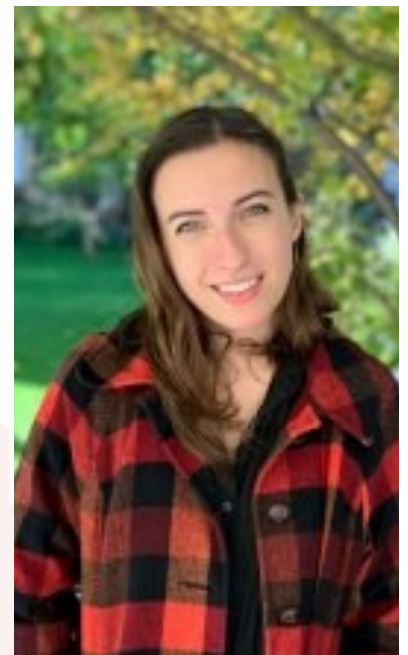
for the contributions honorary and emeritus staff make to the running of the Centre and to the success of our events, often willingly acting as specialist consultants to postgraduates and others in our community, enriching the research environment.

There are always changes in the executive committee and we extend our thanks especially to the two outgoing postgraduate representatives, Abi Weaver and Ben Cattle, and to our intern, Shauna Roach, who has done so much to support our activities in the year just gone and who fortunately remains on the CMS executive committee. We also welcome Tristan Kay as the new Co-Director with Ad Putter, who continues in this role for one more year. We have found leading the CMS to be hugely rewarding role, not least because of the wonderful colleagues and students we work with, and we are confident that Tristan will find it so too.



Arrivals and Departures

We are delighted to welcome **Dr Harriet Soper** who joined us on 1 January 2024 as Lecturer in Old English literature. Prior to her appointment she was Simon and June Li Fellow in English Literature at Lincoln College Oxford. She is particularly interested in the ways that humans are drawn into intimacy with their environments in their experience of time. Her first monograph, *The Life Course in Old English Poetry*, was published by Cambridge University Press in 2023, and explores depictions of human ageing in Old English verse.



In January 2023 we welcomed Dr Melek Karataş to the French department, covering Prof. Ailes' Leverhulme Fellowship. We are pleased that she has since been appointed as postdoctoral research assistant (January 2024 – August 2025) to work on Professor Kathleen Kennedy's British Academy-funded project on the manuscripts of the city of Bristol. Melek's research brings together medieval literature, visual culture and gender theory. She has a particular interest in illuminated vernacular manuscripts, especially the manuscripts of the *Roman de la Rose*.

Dr Mary Bateman joined the department in April 2023 as lecturer in medieval English literature, based in the English department. Mary was previously a postdoctoral researcher at Heinrich-Heine University in Düsseldorf, where she supported Professor Miriam Edlich-Muth on the DFG-funded project 'The Medieval Bevis-Tradition in Multi-Text Manuscript Contexts'. Her recent book, *Local Place and the Arthurian Tradition in England and Wales, 1400-1700* (Boydell & Brewer, 2023) was awarded the 2023 Dhiria B. Mahoney prize.



In January 2024, Bristol PhD graduates **Dr Emily Wride** and **Dr Marcus Jones** began work on Giovanni Varelli's ERC-funded SCRIBEMUS project. Their postdoctoral positions are hosted by the University of Bristol in 2024 (Wride) and 2024-25 (Jones), working on relationships between southern European musical notations in the tenth century.



Dr Melanie Shaffer joined the Department of Music in August 2024, for a two-year UKRI/Marie Curie International Fellowship, working on neumed Latin poetry and hymns in medieval Iberia.

CMS Executive Committee

The CMS officers for 2023-2024 were:

Co-Directors: Kathleen Kennedy/Marianne Ailes and Ad Putter

MA Medieval Studies programme director: Benjamin Pohl (TB1)/ Leonardo Costantini (TB2)

Research seminar convener: Eileen Gardiner (Honorary Fellow)

Publicity Officer: Steve De Hailes

Publications series general editors: Ronald Musto (Honorary Fellow) and Benjamin Pohl

International Development Officer: Kathleen Kennedy

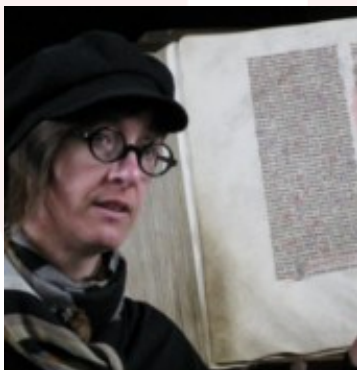
PGR officer and PGR conference convener: Abigail Weaver

PGT rep: Ben Cattle

EDI Officer: Marianne Ailes

Intern: Shauna Roach

Member without portfolio: Helen Fulton



CMS Co-Directors 2023-2024

(Kathleen Kennedy, Ad Putter and Marianne Ailes)

Our International Advisory Board members:

Richard Trachsler (Zürich, Romance Philology); David Wallace (University of Pennsylvania, Medieval Literatures); Carolyn Muessig (University of Calgary, Medieval Theology); Peter Crooks (TCD, Medieval History and Digital Humanities); and Rebecca Maloy (University of Notre Dame, Medieval Music and Liturgy).

We thank all officers and advisory board members for their service.

Changes for 2024-2025:

Tristan Kay (Italian) has begun his stint as Co-Director. Our thanks to Marianne Ailes for all her work as Co-Director of the Centre. The PGT rep for 2024-2025 is Helen Clutton. Our incoming intern is Sarah Collinson. Shauna Roach is the PGR officer and PGR conference convener. This year there is also a PGR student rep, Maria Ciszkowicz, whose role is student-facing. We are delighted to welcome on our International Advisory Board the medieval historian Professor Steven Vanderputten (University of Ghent).



Research Seminars

The CMS hosted 16 seminars during the 2023–24 academic year, eight in the Autumn of 2023 and eight in the Spring of 2024. The series included seminars on art history, English, French, and Italian literature, history, geography, global studies, literacy, manuscript studies, science, and travel. Invited speakers included the University of Bristol Vice Chancellor -- a Renaissance art historian -- one scholar from Switzerland, three from the United States, and the remaining from the UK (Bristol, East Anglia, Cambridge, Lancaster, Surrey, and York). The seminars were held in the Arts Complex on Thursday afternoons from 16:00–17:15 and included a question-and-answer session at the end and an opportunity for further discussion after the conclusion of the event. Two seminars took place at the Lord Mayor’s Chapel in Bristol in conjunction with Bristol Cathedral and Bristol 650, an initiative celebrating the 650th anniversary of the royal charter granting administrative independence to Bristol. All sessions were in person and open to the public. CMS owes a huge debt to the seminar convener, Eileen Gardiner, for putting together a wonderful programme.

UPCOMING SEMINARS

Autumn 2024

- ◇ 17 October, Catherine Léglu, University of Luxembourg, “The Anglo-Norman Bible and Its Glosses: Exploring a New Context”
- ◇ 24 October, Jelmar Hugon, Utrecht University/Bristol Next Generation Visiting Researcher, “Perceval Passing Borders: Adaptations and Continuations of the French Conte du Graal Outside Medieval France”

- ◇ 7 November, Nick Havelly, University of York, “Apennine Crossings: Travellers on the Edge of Tuscany”
- ◇ 14 November, Jaclyn Rajsic, Queen Mary University, “Cross-Channel Histories: Picturing England’s Past in French and English Genealogical Rolls, 1415–1461”
- ◇ 21 November, David Scott Macnab, North-West University/Leverhulme Visiting Professor, “Representations of Animals, Animal Communication and Human–Animal Relations in Edward of York’s Master of Game” (Leverhulme Lecture)
- ◇ 12 December, Justin Stover, University of Edinburgh, ‘Ennius in the Middle Ages’

Spring 2025

- ◇ 30 January, Rebecca Tyson and Rachael Harkes, University of Bristol, Map Making Workshop “Mapping for Medievalists”
- ◇ 6 February, Russell Ó Ráigáin, University of St Andrews, “Adventures in Transdisciplinary Research: Making Sense of the Insular Scandinavian Diaspora”
- ◇ 13 February, Matt Lampitt and Rachael Harkes, University of Bristol, Mapping the March Project, “Mapping Literature and Society in the Late Medieval Welsh Marches”
- ◇ 20 February, Elizabeth Lambourn, De Montfort University, “Metals and Models: The Exchange of Technologies between Aden and the Malabar Coast as Recorded in Geniza Documents”
- ◇ 27 February, Eleanor Janega, London School of Economics, Title TBC
- ◇ 6 March, Luciana Cordo Russo, University of Bristol, Brut in Wales, Title TBC
- ◇ 13 March, Kathryn Beebe, University of North Texas, Title TBC
- ◇ 1 May, Niamh Kehoe-Rouchy, University of Oxford, Humour in Old English Saint’s Lives (Title TBC)
- ◇ 8 May, David Rundle, University of Kent, medieval manuscript cataloguing / palaeography and the ‘graphosphere’ TBC

Conferences

2023-2024 was a bumper year for conferences and conferences sessions organized by CMS. CMS brought three conferences to Bristol in 2023-2024:

3-5 April 2024. *The Association for Art History's Annual Conference.*

As part of the Association's 50th Anniversary conference Sophie Kelly, Peter Dent, Lucy Donkin, and Beth Williamson, together with Naomi Speakman (British Museum), organised a double session on 'Ecologies of Visual Culture in the Global Middle Ages'. The speakers were Naomi Speakman (British Museum), Meg Bernstein (Alfred University) & Meg Boulton (York), Mads Vedel Heilskov (Aarhus), Zoe Appelby (Case Western), Jamie Forde (Edinburgh), Jessica Barker (Courtauld). Papers ranged from the British Isles and the Mediterranean to Mexico and West Africa and considered works including a wooden citole; an ivory horn; and mosaics in marble, glass and shell. The session was well attended and generated lively discussion.



Sophie Kelly and Lucy Donkin, representing the convening group (Sophie Kelly, Peter Dent, Lucy Donkin, Beth Williamson, and Naomi Speakman) that nearly outnumbered its speakers, introducing the session 'Ecologies of Visual Culture in the Global Middle Ages'

Amanda Luyster (Holy Cross College, Worcester, Mass.) and Matthew Reeve, (Queen's University Toronto), Convenors of the session sponsored by the International Center of Medieval Art: The Past, Present and Future of Medieval Art in the British Isles'



27-29 June 2024. Society for International Brut Studies Conference.

Bristol hosted the triennial Society for International Brut Studies conference at St James' Priory (organisers: Marianne Ailes, Steve De Hailes, Helen Fulton, Ad Putter, Leah Tether and Shauna Roach). The conference considered the wider Brut chronicle tradition from all angles and disciplines, including art history, literature, manuscript studies, and historical studies. There were excellent papers by Bristol postgraduates (Rachel Tod, Tim Watson, Maria Rupprecht, Max Fincher) and staff (Helen Fulton, Ad Putter, Mary Bateman). The plenary speaker was Julia Marvin (Notre Dame). A highlight of the conference was a public event with Marianne Ailes in conversation with the bestselling Somerset-based author Amy Jeffs; this was very well attended with the room filled to capacity.



Beth Bryan and Keynote speaker Julia Marvin



Amy Jeffs addresses her audience

3-6 July 2024. 26th British Legal History Conference: *Insiders and Outsiders in the History of Law.*

Gwen Seabourne (with Dr Joanna McCunn, an early modern legal history specialist in the Law School) hosted the British Legal History Conference, which took place in the Humanities Building in Bristol, 3-6 July 2024. The conference theme was ‘Insiders and Outsiders in the History of Law.’ This conference featured several papers on medieval legal subjects, from the identities of medieval judges, through the use of seals to the place of the Devil in medieval legal history. There was also a wonderful plenary lecture by Dr Carissa Harris, of Temple University, USA, a specialist in medieval and early modern literature, on the varied meanings of *ancilla* and issues of reproductive freedom. This was chaired by Ad Putter, and conference delegates found it extremely stimulating and boundary-expanding. The plenary, and the conference more generally, showed the potential for future CMS collaboration with scholars in Law departments at Bristol and beyond.

3-6 July 2024. *Leeds International Medieval Congress*

CMS medievalists organised eight conference sessions at Leeds International Medieval Congress (IMC 2024), 3-6 July, and hosted an exceptionally lively reception, which we will certainly want to repeat. At the reception Helen Fulton was presented with her Festschrift (see further under section 13).

Sessions were as follows:

- ◇ Emotions and Crisis, I: Emotional Crisis in Medieval Literature
- ◇ Emotions and Crisis, II: Social, Political and Narrative Functions of Emotions in Medieval History
- ◇ From Manuscript to Print (and back again): Re-Mediating Books in the Age of the Incunable, co-sponsored by REBPAF
- ◇ Critical Border Studies, I: Mapping Late Medieval Boundaries and Lordships.
- ◇ Critical Border Studies, II: Crises of Identity on British and French Borders.
- ◇ Critical Border Studies, III: Nationalisms in Crisis.
- ◇ Critical Border Studies, IV: Medieval Wales and the March in Crisis.
- ◇ The Life, Death, and Afterlife of Miners: Interdisciplinary and Trans-Regional Approaches to Mining Cemeteries in Later Medieval Europe.

July 2024. International Congress of the International Arthurian Society

CMS medievalists were also in strong attendance at the International Congress of the International Arthurian Society in Aix-en-Provence in July 2024, with many delivering papers and round tables. A number of CMS members presented at the conference, with contributions from **Leah Tether, Matt Lampitt, Veronique George, Sebrina Varley, and Kaila Yankelevich.**

UPCOMING CONFERENCES/CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Conferences:

- ◇ **Brat Symposium.** An informal conference encouraging new ideas and perspectives, and nontraditional approaches that challenge the standard model of academic research. 23 October 2025. Organiser: Shauna Roach.
- ◇ **Medieval English Theatre Society conference,** 29 March 2025. Organisers: Cathy Hume and Ellie Rycroft.
- ◇ **The French of the Celtic Worlds conference,** 9-11 April 2025. Organisers Matt Lampitt and Luciana Cordo Russo.
- ◇ **PGR postgraduate conference in Medieval Studies,** 24-25 April 2025. Main organiser: Shauna Roach. This year's conference theme is Memory and Legacy.
- ◇ **Historical Sociolinguistics Conference,** 21-23 May 2025. Main organiser: Anna Havinga
- ◇ **Society for Renaissance Studies (SRS 11th Biennial Conference),** 2-5 July 2025. Main organiser: Sebastiaan Verweij.
- ◇ **Conference of the British Branch of the International Arthurian Society** (September 2025). Main organiser: Leah Tether.

Conference sessions organised at international conferences outside Bristol:

The CMS will be organising conference sessions at the major international Medieval Congress at Leeds. These consist of one PGR session, one Old English session, one session on 'magical learning', and sessions related to the large EU/UKRI projects run by CMS medievalists: MOWLIT (PI: Fulton) and REBPAF (PIs: Ailes and Putter). We plan to repeat a highly successful reception at Leeds IMC (International Medieval Congress).

Annual Postgraduate Conference 2024

The *Bodies and Boundaries* 2024 CMS PGR conference was a resounding success. Taking place over two days (11th-12th April), the conference welcomed 40 in-person and 47 online delegates all engaging in discussions on the theme of bodies and boundaries within medieval studies. Delegates explored a wide array of concepts from fields including History, Literature, Art History, Archaeology, Musicology and Law. We had the privilege of hosting as keynote speakers: **Dr Alice Jorgensen** (Trinity College Dublin, English); **Dr Jack Hartnell** (University of East Anglia, Art History); and **Dr Henry Parkes** (University of Nottingham, Musicology).

Alongside our fantastic keynote speakers, the conference hosted ten paper sessions with presentations on fascinating and engaging topics, in the following panels:

1. Manuscript Culture and Decorated Texts
2. Hybridity and Transformation
3. Space and Communities
4. Political Bodies and Legal Boundaries
5. Appetite and Sensory Experience
6. Performance and Religious Practice
7. Mastering the Body: Spirit and Soul
8. Spiritual Journeys
9. Monstrosity and Divergence
10. Monuments and Burial Practices



The conference also featured a lively social program which included: a walking tour led by Dr Evan Jones; a workshop with Schola Cantorum at St

James' Priory, conducted by Professor Emma Hornby; a visit by the South West Anarchy Research Project Team; and a presentation by Dr Stuart Prior about work at the Hartygrove Site. Each of these immersive experiences allowed delegates to fully engage with the conference theme and we are extremely grateful to Dr Jones, Professor Hornby, Dr Prior and the SWARP team for their involvement.



The organisers (Abigail Weaver, Sara Madoré, Shauna Roach, Kaila Yankelevich, Veronique George, Harry Lewis, Sarah Collinson, Isla Dawson, Sidhant Sarkar, and Ben Cattle) would also like to extend our gratitude to the Centre for Medieval Studies, the Department of English, the Department of History, the Department of Music, the School of Humanities, and the Faculty of Arts for their generous financial support.

Feedback at the conference was positive, with participants from the UK and abroad praising the friendly environment we created. Listed below are some examples of the comments we received from some of our delegates post-conference:

- ◇ 'Impeccable organisation, stimulating and high-quality papers and discussions. I also particularly appreciated the extra events, which gave us the possibility to physically and mentally engage with the true spirit of medieval spaces and culture! That was brilliant.'
- ◇ 'I especially enjoyed the short walking tour we took on the first day as I thought it was great to get out and learn a bit about the city while walking around. I enjoyed all of the papers and events immensely and I thought it was all very well organised.'
- ◇ 'I'm so glad this was my first conference experience, it was all I could

have hoped for and more.’

- ◇ ‘I truly enjoyed the whole conference, the members of the committee were kind and helpful, the sessions were well-organised, the speakers were great and I loved that we were nearly at the same academic level of studies and research.’



Grants

Grants Awarded

- ◇ Marianne Ailes, Leverhulme Research Fellowship, 2022-2023, £52,933
- ◇ Helen Fulton, ERC Advanced Grant/UKRI Frontier Research Guarantee, 'MOWLIT: The Medieval March of Wales, c. 1282–1550: Mapping Literary Geography in a British Border Region', 2023–2028, £2,056,621
- ◇ Helen Fulton, AHRC Impact Acceleration Account, Historical Maps and Community Building in Bristol and Swansea', £15,000
- ◇ Helen Fulton, Being Human Festival, University of London School of Advanced Studies, 'Finding Medieval Bristol', £3000
- ◇ Cathy Hume, AHRC RDE fellowship 'Rewriting the Bible: Medieval Poems and Modern Audiences', April 24 – September 25, £242,000
- ◇ Kate McClune, NERC Cross-Disciplinary Research for Environmental Discovery Science: "Levelling the Land: the Somerset Levels, wetland degradation, medieval archives", £4096
- ◇ Stuart Prior and Kostas Trimmis, SWARP: South-West Anarchy Research Project. Heritage Fund Project Award. £111,165
- ◇ Ad Putter and Marianne Ailes, Marie-Curie Doctoral Training Network, Remediating the Early Book: Pasts and Futures (March 2023-February 2027). The Network provides funding for 13 PhD studentships across five Universities, with skills training and placements in collaboration with 9 non-HEI partners. UKRI share £560,000
- ◇ Ad Putter: Leverhulme Visiting Professorship 2024 (David Scott-Macnab, South Africa): 12.9K
- ◇ Sebastiaan Verweij, 'Place and Poetry in Premodern Scotland', British Academy Midcareer Fellowship, 2023/24, £128,109.85.
- ◇ Leah Tether, Leverhulme Research Fellowship, 'Unpublished: Medieval

Literature and the Early Modern Publisher, 2023/24-2024/25, £62,600

- ◇ Brendan Smith and Mike Jones, Jean Golding Institute, University of Bristol, follow-on seed corn funding: 'The Irish Receipt Rolls of Edward I: A Digital Humanities Approach'. £6,000.

Grants Bids in Preparation/Submitted

- ◇ Marianne Ailes, Royal Society of Arts Partnership Grants, Medievals and Moderns in Conversation, 3K
- ◇ Helen Fulton: AHRC Curiosity Grants, Border Geographies: Topography, Text and Identity on Britain's Medieval Borders: 98K (submitted)
- ◇ Emma Hornby: AHRC (standard), ERC (Advanced), Anonymous agency in the making of Christian Iberia 589-1100: production, dissemination, revision and experience – AHRC = in preparation; ERC = submitted August 2024.
- ◇ Sophie Kelly, AHRC Catalyst Award, Devotion and Diplomacy: The Crozier in Medieval England, c. 1060-1500, 300K
- ◇ Benjamin Pohl, ERC Advanced Grant, Writing the Hinterland: Professional Literacy in the Medieval Countryside, c.1000–1300, c.€2,900,000/c.£2,300,000, submitted August 2024.
- ◇ Leah Tether and Benjamin Pohl, AHRC project grant, Rare Books at Bristol Central Library: Uncovering Diversity amongst Book Donors to England's Third-Oldest Public Library, £1.5 million
- ◇ Kate McClune, Leverhulme, Sturgeon Histories: Reconstructing baselines of ecology, exploitation and loss for Britain's largest inland vertebrate (in preparation)
- ◇ Kate McClune, AHRC Curiosity Award, Marshlands and the Medieval Archive (in preparation)
- ◇ Mary Bateman, AHRC Impact Acceleration Awards (Proof of Concept), Worlds of Wonder: The Books of Wells Cathedral's Chained Library (in preparation)
- ◇ Mary Bateman, Brigstow Funding (Proof of Concept), Worlds of Wonder: The Books of Wells Cathedral's Chained Library (in preparation)
- ◇ Anna Havinga, AHRC Catalyst Award, Latin and vernaculars: A cross-linguistic comparison of historical multilingualism in documentary legal texts from northern Europe (1300–1600) (in preparation)

New PGRs

Our postgraduate research students are the future of the profession, and we are proud to welcome the following research students to the Centre for Medieval Studies:

- ◇ **Amy Jones**, Defining the March of Wales: Usage and Semantics in Medieval and Early Modern Texts', funded by the MOWLIT project 'Mapping the Medieval March of Wales'. Supervisors: Helen Fulton and Ad Putter.
- ◇ **Laura Welsh**, Terms for eternity: perceptions of time and timelessness in Old English and Middle English (from Oct. 2024). Supervisors: Anna Havinga, Harriet Soper, and Ad Putter.
- ◇ **Maria Ciszkowicz**, Project working title: Dunfermline and Durham: Gender, Family, and Commemoration after the Norman Conquest, Supervisors: Benjamin Pohl and Kate McClune.
- ◇ **Huifei Wu**, Visiting PhD student from University of Beijing, China (TB2 2024-2025), Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (supervisors Ad Putter and Helen Fulton)
- ◇ **Francesca Sartori**, PhD, Project working title: 'Gender, Genre and Geography: Dante's Italy through the eyes of Victorian Women Writers'. Supervisors: Tristan Kay and Samantha Matthews. Funded by a University of Bristol Scholarship.
- ◇ **Sophie Stradling**, MPhil, Project working title: 'Lakes and Waters in Arthurian medievalist writers'. Supervisors: Steve De Hailes and Kate McClune
- ◇ **Michelle Szobody**, PhD, Project working title: 'The Role of Ambiguity in Translations of the Exeter Book "Elegies"'

CMS Publication Series

Bristol Studies in Medieval Cultures Publication Series

Established in 2009, the Bristol Studies in Medieval Cultures series draws on a long and well-established tradition of multidisciplinary medieval research at the University of Bristol and its world-leading Centre for Medieval Studies. It is served by an international editorial advisory board of globally-recognised experts and features titles from across the field of Medieval Studies. The series welcomes submissions addressing a broad range of disciplines, including literature, art, history, religion, and thought. We particularly encourage proposals that engage with medieval cultures from a comparative perspective. Our aim is to publish the best in current research and to help readers appreciate the Middle Ages in cross-cultural and global contexts.

Editorial Advisory Board:

The new series editors, Ronald Musto and Benjamin Pohl, have refreshed and expanded the editorial advisory board to include international members:

CMS Board Members: Marianne Ailes; Rhiannon Daniels; Peter Dent; Helen Fulton; Tristan Kay; Stuart Prior; Ad Putter; Leah Tether; Ian Wei; Beth Williamson

External Board Members: Peter Crooks (Trinity College Dublin); George Ferzoco (Calgary); Rebecca Maloy (Notre Dame University); Carolyn Muessig (Calgary); Alheydis Plassmann (Bonn)† (looking for replacement, suggestions made to CMS Directors, awaiting confirmation); Richard Trachsler (Zurich); David Wallace (Pennsylvania)

Titles published in 2023-2024:

Medieval Welsh Literature and its European Contexts: Essays in Honour of Professor Helen Fulton, ed. Victoria Flood (Birmingham).

New titles for 2024-2025:

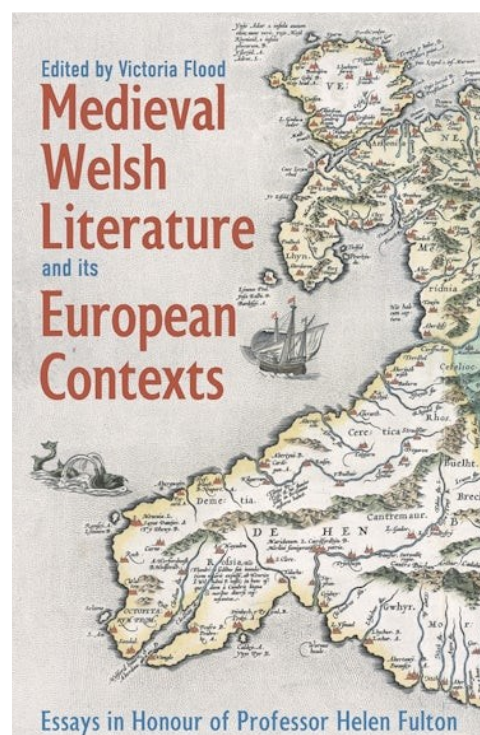
Christian Cooijmans (Liverpool/Oslo), *A Past in Progress: Vikings and the Cult of Saints in the Later Medieval Low Countries*, proposal and sample materials received, under review.

Sofia Lodén (Stockholm), *Strangers and Peripheries in Medieval Literature: Old Swedish Texts in Light of their European Context*, proposal and sample materials received, review completed, awaiting publisher's decision on book contract.

Medieval Manuscripts in Bristol Collections: A Descriptive Catalogue, ed. Kathleen E. Kennedy (Bristol) and Melek Karataş (Bristol), full manuscript received, review completed, awaiting authors' final manuscript.

Marianne Ailes (Bristol), Philip Bennett (Edinburgh), *et al.*, *Charlemagne in the Francophone World and Occitania*, contracted, full manuscript received, review completed, awaiting authors' final manuscript.

For a full list of books published in the series, see: <https://boydellandbrewer.com/search-results/?series=byd91-bristol-studies-in-medieval-cultures>



Reading Groups

Old French Reading Group

During the academic year, two Old French reading groups ran: Corin Corley led a group for Intermediate readers of Old French; Melek Karatas and Matt Lampitt led the group for beginners. The students themselves submit texts which they are working on for the group to study together. The intermediate group also hosts researchers from other institutions, enhancing Bristol's reputation as a leader in the field. The Old French reading groups will continue in 2024-2025 with a Beginner and Intermediate group.

Medieval Welsh Reading Group

This reading group, open to all staff and postgraduates, is convened by Luciana Cordo Russo; it will run in 2024-2025 subject to demand.

Old English Reading Group

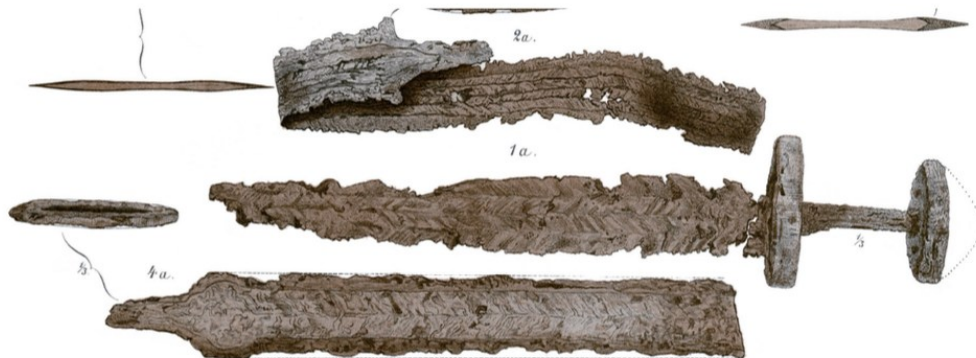
This group is open to all, whether familiar with the language or new to it, and requires no preparation in advance. It is convened by Harriet Soper and began running in the spring of 2024. Since then, the group has enjoyed making its way through *The Wanderer* and is now looking forward to beginning *Judith* in the autumn. In the future, OERG will continue to run each term from Week 6 onwards.



OLD ENGLISH READING GROUP

Wednesdays 3–4pm from Week 5 onwards

No prep/ knowledge required, **all welcome!**



Contact Hattie Soper if you have any questions: harriet.soper@bristol.ac.uk

Image: viking swords from Anders Lorange, *Den Yngre Jernalders Sværd* (Bergen, 1889), digitised and enhanced by Vegard Vike.

New for 2024-25: Manuscripts Reading Group

A “manuscripts reading group” for staff and students will run fortnightly from Autumn 2024. This will be a relaxed, low- to no-prep group meeting to discuss a folio or two from a particular medieval or early modern manuscript (either digitised online or via our own Special Collections, who are keen to be involved).

Visiting Professors

Visiting Professors 2023-2024 and 2024-2025

In 2023-24, we hosted:

- ◇ **Professor Leslie Zarker Morgan** (Loyola University Maryland) as a visiting professor on the Benjamin Meaker distinguished Professor scheme. Professor Morgan gave two research papers to members of the School of Modern Languages and the Centre for Medieval Studies. Additionally, Professor Morgan is collaborating with Professor Ailes in the development of tools for teaching Franco-Italian, and developing methodology for researching Franco-Italian and Anglo-Norman redactions (and original texts) of *chansons de geste*. A future output of this collaboration will be a joint paper given at a conference organised in Lyon by the French branch of the Société Rencesvals.



In 2024-2025, we are hosting:

- ◇ **Professor David Scott Macnab**, NWU, South Africa, as Leverhulme Visiting Professor. During his stay (TB1), David Scott Macnab, an internationally renowned expert on medieval hunting and hunting treatises, will give the



English Department's Annual Tucker-Cruse lecture; a CMS seminar; and contribute a masterclass on editing, drawing on his current research project which is an edition of *The Master of Game* for the Early English Text Society.

- ◇ Also in TB1 (arriving 1 October), **Dr Jelmar Hugén**, Lecturer in Historical Dutch Literature, will join us from the University of Leiden as Bristol Next Generation Visiting Researcher, to work on Middle Dutch Arthurian romances from a comparative perspective.



While in Bristol, Dr. Hugén will present: a lecture for the Centre for Medieval Studies Research Seminar series; a guest lecture for the BA English course 'Literature 1150-1550'; and a Masterclass workshop to MA and Ph.D. students of Medieval Studies on Transkribus, an AI-powered handwritten text recognition tool used by medievalists.



Major Publications

Major Publications by CMS members in 2023-2024

Mary Bateman, *Local Place and the Arthurian Tradition in England and Wales, 1400-1700* (Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer, 2023). Awarded the Dhira B. Mahoney prize.

Helen Fulton and Giles Darkes, *Historical Maps of Swansea and the Mumbles* (Historic Towns Trust, 2023).

Emma Hornby [co-edited with David Andrés Fernández] Special Issue of *Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies* (2023).

Benjamin Pohl, *Abbatial Authority and the Writing of History in the Middle Ages*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023.

Benjamin Pohl, *Publishing in a Medieval Monastery: The View from Twelfth-Century Engelberg*, Elements in Publishing and Book Culture, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023.

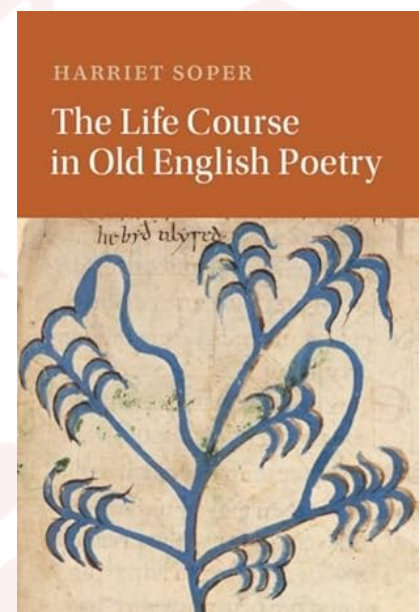
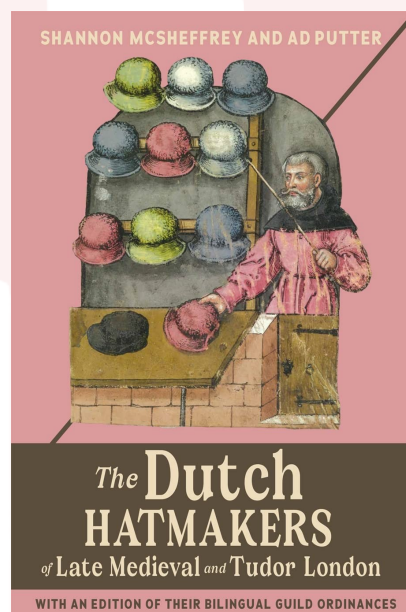
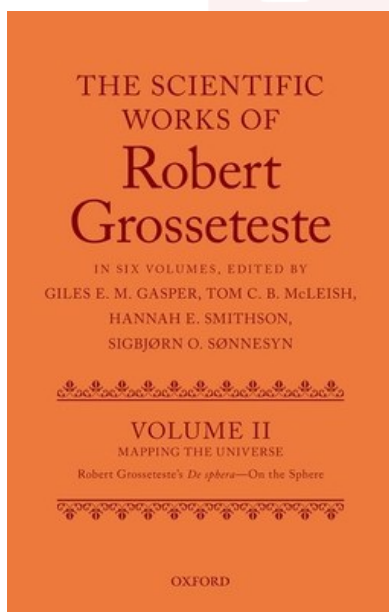
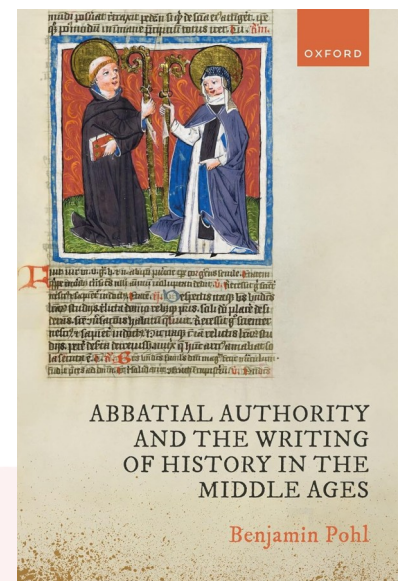
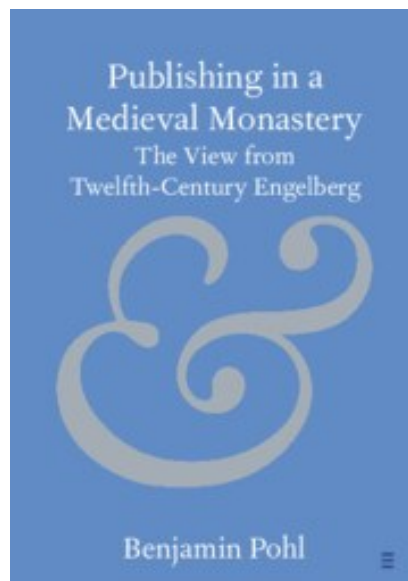
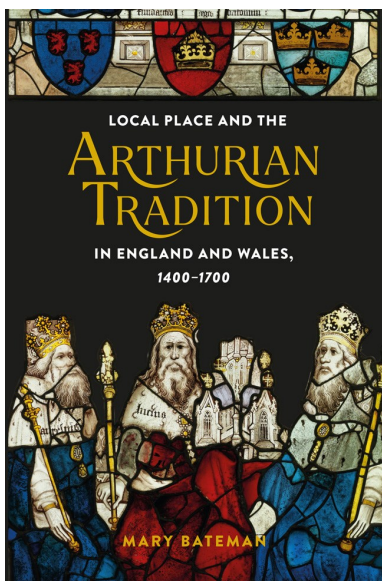
Benjamin Pohl, Notker Baumann, et al., *Michaelskirche, Fulda*, Kunstführer, Regensburg: Schnell & Steiner, 2023.

Stuart Prior, Mark Horton and Konstatinos Trimmis (eds), *Berkeley Castle Tales* (Oxford: Archaeopress, 2023).

Ad Putter and Shannon McSheffrey, *The Dutch Hatmakers of Late Medieval and Tudor London*. Woodbridge: Boydell, 2023). Open Access.

Sigbjørn Sønnesyn, Giles E. M. Gasper et al., *Mapping the Universe: Robert Grosseteste's De sphaera - 'On the Sphere'* [The Scientific Works of Robert Grosseteste Vol. II] (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023)

Harriet Soper, *The Life Course in Old English Poetry*, Cambridge Studies in Medieval Literature 122 (Cambridge University Press, 2024)



Outreach, Public Engagement and Other News

Members of the CMS have been very engaged in many different ways, offering numerous papers at conferences, organising exhibitions and giving public talks. We list a selection of these activities and news items below.

Bristol 650

With the City of Bristol marking the 650th anniversary of its charter, our medievalists gave public lectures and led outreach events to celebrate the city's medieval past, in partnership with Bristol Ideas: <https://www.bristolideas.co.uk/projects/bristol-650/>:

- ◇ **Evan Jones** led a medieval Bristol walk (30th September) and put the medieval perambulation of the city 'on the map', both literally and figuratively, in his research and outreach. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bristol_perambulation for further information.
- ◇ **Helen Fulton** and **Brendan Smith** gave public lectures in the beautiful medieval surroundings of the Lord Mayor's Chapel, Helen on 'Literary Topographies and Historical City Maps: Bristol, Swansea, London' (7 December), and Brendan on 'Bristol and Ireland in 1373'.

Festschrifts

At a packed reception hosted by the Centre for Medieval Studies at the Leeds International Medieval Conference (03/07/2024), **Helen Fulton** was presented with a Festschrift in her honour, <https://boydellandbrewer.com/9781843847212/medieval-welsh-literature-and-its-european-contexts/>.



The book, *Medieval Literature and Its European Context*, was edited by Helen Fulton's former PhD student, Victoria Flood (University of Birmingham), and includes essays by former Bristol PhD student **Claudio Cataldi** (now Kore University of Enna) and **Ad Putter** (CMS Co-Director). The work honours Helen's magnificent contribution to the study and teaching of medieval Welsh literature, and to her unselfish support of generations of research students and early career researchers.

Lectures

- ◇ **Marianne Ailes** gave her inaugural lecture 'Humanising the Enemy: Empathy in Old French Crusade Narrative' on Monday 22 April.
- ◇ **Helen Fulton** delivered the John V. Kelleher Memorial Lecture at Harvard University in October 2023.
- ◇ The *Mapping the March* team gave a group paper at the online seminar series organised by the Mortimer History Society (19 Jan), a public-facing group. **Matt Lampitt** also gave a lecture at the Society's Spring Conference (18 May).
- ◇ **Beth Williamson** delivered the first lecture in the UoB's 'Autumn Art Lectures' series, tied in with the city-wide 'Bristol 650' celebrations, in the nave of Bristol Cathedral. Beth also gave a public lecture to the Historical Association Bristol Branch showcasing the forthcoming exhibition at the Met Museum in New York and opening at the London National Gallery in January 2025 – *Siena: the Rise of Painting, 1300–1350*, to the catalogue of which both she and **Peter Dent** have contributed essays.

Visiting Fellowships and Elections

- ◇ **Marianne Ailes** spent two months as a Visiting Medieval Fellow at Fordham University, New York.
- ◇ **Helen Fulton** has been awarded a Visiting Fellowship at the Humanities Research Centre at the Australian National University in Canberra from July to October 2024.
- ◇ **Emma Hornby** spent two weeks as a Visiting Professor at Angers University.
- ◇ Leah Tether has been awarded a Visiting Professorship at Somerville College, Oxford for the academic year of 2024/25.
- ◇ **Benjamin Pohl** was promoted to Professor of Medieval History, and he was elected as a corresponding member of the *Centre for Medieval Studies/Zentrum für Mittelalterstudien* (ZEMAS) at the University of Bamberg.
- ◇ **Leah Tether** was elected International Vice-President of the International Courtly Literature Society in July 2023, and has also been elected Director of the Vinaver Trust, commencing from 2025.
- ◇ **Beth Williamson** has recently been elected to the Advisory Board of the Paul Mellon Center for British Art.

Other News

- ◇ **Eileen Gardiner** participated in the year-long webinar/workshop: *Project Paradiso: A Gateway to Dante's Heaven*, and on 17 May she presented a seminar on "Paradiso in World Religions and Spirituality."
- ◇ **Cathy Hume** designed and organised the exhibit 'Swallowed by a Whale!' (based on the poem *Patience*) at the research festival Up Late SS Great Britain in autumn 2023 for two different public-facing events, with invaluable assistance from **Steve De Hailes, Maria Rupprecht and Abigail Weaver**.
- ◇ **Kathleen Kennedy** led manuscript workshops at Bristol Central Library (14 Oct) and assisted in the Open Day at Bristol Archives (29 Oct).
- ◇ **Matt Lampitt** and **Marianne Ailes**, as editors of the Old French volume of *The Literary Encyclopedia* (an online publication with over 130 subscribing institutions globally), published 12 entries on a variety of texts, authors, and wider contexts .