

CERÆ

An Australasian Journal of
Medieval and Early Modern Studies



Volume 8
2021



CERÆ: An Australasian Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies

ISSN: 2204-146X

<https://ceraejournal.com/>

General Editor: Gwendolyne Knight

Deputy Editor: Matthew Cleary

Book Reviews Editor: Patrick Huang



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/).

Any images contained within this article that are reproduced with permission are specifically excluded from the Creative Commons License. They may not be reproduced under any circumstances without the express written permission of the copyright holder.

Table of Contents

Editor's Foreword.....	1
------------------------	---

ARTICLES

Chrysovalantis Kyriacou The Empire Strikes Back: Multi-Faith Cyprus and Byzantine Orthodox Culture in Seventeenth-Century Eastern Mediterranean.....	3
Albrecht Classen The Topic of Persia in Medieval Literary Imagination, with a Focus on Middle High German Literature.....	35

VARIA

Raissa R. Bombini A Brief Account of the Emerald and its Magico-Medical and Symbolic-Religious Qualities against the Black Death	66
Luiz Felipe Anchieta Guerra A Presentation of Grupo de Estudos em História Medieval	73

BOOK REVIEWS

Stefka G. Eriksen, Karen Langsholt Holmqvist, and Bjørn Bandlien, eds., <i>Approaches to the Medieval Self: Representations and Conceptualisations of the Self in the Textual and Material Culture of Western Scandinavia, c. 800</i> (Minjie Su).....	76
Yaniv Fox and Erica Buchberger, eds., <i>Inclusion and Exclusion in Mediterranean Christianities, 400</i> (Meredith Cutrer)	81
Sinah Theres Kloß, ed., <i>Tattoo Histories: Transcultural Perspectives on the Narratives, Practices, and Representations of Tattooing</i> (Erica Steiner)	86
Aisling Byrne and Victoria Flood, eds., <i>Crossing Borders in the Insular Middle Ages (Veronica De Duonni)</i>	92
Emily Dolmans, <i>Writing Regional Identities in Medieval England: From the Gesta Herewardi to Richard Coer de Lyon</i> (Victoria Shirley)	96
Oisín Plumb, <i>Picts and Britons in the Early Medieval Irish Church: Travels West Over the Storm-Swelled Sea</i> (Erica Steiner).....	100

A Presentation of Grupo de Estudos em História Medieval



Luiz Felipe Anchieta Guerra
State University of Montes Claros (Unimontes)

The Study Group of Medieval History (Grupo de Estudos em História Medieval, GEHM), was created in early 2020 through the initiative of undergraduate students from the State University of Montes Claros (Unimontes) who were studying themes involving the Middle Ages for their bachelor theses. It accompanied a surge of interest in the field of Medieval Studies in both pop culture and in academia in many countries, including Brazil.¹ This was largely due to the recent growth in popularity of medieval themes in movies, books, and TV shows like *Game of Thrones*, which even inspired a “medieval” Brazilian telenovela.² But the aforementioned surge also benefited, to some extent, from the advancement of new technologies that allowed easier access to primary sources and recent publications, as well as a greater exchange of information between international researchers. This stimulated scholarship and interest about the European Middle Ages in Brazil, and allowed

¹ Néri de Barros Almeida, 'A História Medieval no Brasil', *SIGNUM-Revista da ABREM*, 14.1 (2013), 1–16; Clinio Amaral and João Guilherme Lisboa Rangel, *A historiografia medieval no Brasil: de 1990 a 2017* (Curitiba: Appris Editora, 2019).

² Carolina Gual Silva, 'Relações de Gênero e Telenovelas: um estudo de caso com abordagem de neomedievalismo', *SIGNUM-Revista da ABREM*, 22.1 (2021), 183–203; Richard Utz, 'Don't be Snobs, Medievalists', *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, August 24, 2015 < www.chronicle.com/article/dont-be-snobs-medievalists/ > [Accessed 6 May 2022].

students to engage with the academic environment beyond the Medieval History course, which is mandatory in the History curriculum at Unimontes.

Within this context, GEHM was envisioned as a safe environment for the students of Unimontes to discuss scholarship, as well as their own research themes and ideas. While it is formally under the supervision of professors Vinícius César Dreger and Robson Murilo Della Torre, the group is student-led, and is always coordinated by an undergraduate, who at the time of founding was Karolina Santos. This workshop environment was to be achieved through weekly in-person meetings at the Unimontes campus. However, due to the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020, only the first in-person meeting ever took place, and soon the group was forced to adapt to the new “remote” reality.

The transition, however, was ultimately beneficial for GEHM, as it allowed for undergraduate students, graduate students, and even professors from other institutions and parts of Brazil to participate in and engage with the meetings, bringing different perspectives and expertise. This also opened the possibility to invite guests, usually the authors of the texts being discussed, to partake in the debate, which eventually led to the idea of inviting non-Brazilians for special meetings and trying to make the group truly global. Starting with Richard Utz and including other well-known scholars like Louise D'Arcens, Ronald Hutton, and Daniel Wollenberg, GEHM's seminar series has hosted, to date, over 30 scholars, from 5 continents, ranging from graduate students to retired professors. These seminars have, in turn, also attracted both a regular and varied international audience from all over the world.

Following the success of this internationalization effort, in 2021 GEHM hosted its first conference: the 2021 Global Medievalisms Conference,³ which had over 300 registrants and included participants and guests from around the world, reaching far beyond the traditional Anglophone world and including Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and Central and South America. The conference also produced a

³ Fully available at GEHM-Unimontes, Home [YouTube Channel] (n.d.) <<https://youtube.com/channel/UCeN4Xsyc8k7avSEVVt8XuBA>> [Accessed: 6 May 2022].

selection of texts, curated from the papers, which are in the process of being transformed in a peer-reviewed book.

As a result, the group grew and started to incorporate other members from outside of Unimontes as members and collaborators, including graduate student Luiz Guerra, PhD candidate Leandro César, and Prof. Dani Galindo. Currently, the group comprises more than 20 academics, from undergraduate students to tenured professors, who conduct research within or are interested in the fields of Medieval Studies, Medievalism, and Late Antiquity, with specialties that encompass many themes, sources, locations, and methodologies. The current coordinator is the undergraduate student Melissa Martins Veloso, with Luiz Felipe Anchieta Guerra acting as co-coordinator, and professors Vinícius Dreger and Robson Della Torre as supervisor and co-supervisor respectively.

Due to its newfound broader audience, GEHM decided to keep its activities 100% online, even as the COVID-19 restrictions started to be lifted, and has maintained its international profile with regular guests and special events. Also, the group will be hosting its second international conference in 2022, Global Medievalisms II. This will be the final conference that GEHM organizes on the topic of medievalism; we plan to hold a more traditional Medieval Studies conference in 2023, and possibly a hybrid conference (in person and remote) in 2024. The group also hosts weekly meetings to discuss texts and research ideas, in Portuguese, and monthly meetings in English with guests or volunteers. All meetings and events hosted by GEHM are open for all to watch and participate in, regardless of degree or background, and they are also free of charge, including the conference. So, anyone who is interested is more than welcome to come to a meeting and see how it goes.

To be updated on the group's schedule and announcements, please check our Facebook and Instagram pages (@gehm.unimontes). For up-to-date news about the 2022 conference please check its website (globalmedievalism.org). Finally, for any inquiries, doubts, questions, proposals, or suggestions please contact us via medieval.unimontes@gmail.com. We hope to see some new faces soon!