



CERÆ: AN AUSTRALASIAN JOURNAL OF MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN STUDIES

Call For Papers: IMC Leeds 2027

Constructing Selves, Constructing Communities

What made a medieval self? Augustine's *noverim me, noverim te* ("May I know myself; may I know You") suggests that knowing oneself depended upon relationships with both God and other people. Taking this insight alongside Paul Ricoeur's distinction between *idem* (sameness) and *ipse* (selfhood), this panel asks how medieval people negotiated selfhood through their relationships with communities, institutions, and the divine.

This panel aims to explore how selves and communities were imagined, enacted, negotiated, and transformed through material culture, texts, language, and social practice. We are particularly interested in the significance of belonging, memory, and authority in shaping both individual and collective experience.

Papers may consider, among other themes:

- **Communities of belonging:** how kinship, family, household, monastic, urban, and other communities fostered, negotiated, or challenged medieval identities.
- **Embodied and material expressions of selfhood:** how dress, adornment, art, objects, and material culture shaped, and performed identities within a community.
- **Texts, rituals, and discourse:** how rhetoric, narrative, images, and language mediated relationships between individuals, communities, and the divine.
- **Authority, spaces and social order:** how hierarchy, sacred or social spaces, exclusion, and reputation structured medieval selves and communities.

We welcome interdisciplinary approaches from across medieval studies.

We invite submissions of a **150–250 word abstract**, accompanied by: a paper title; a brief personal biography including your current institutional affiliation (if any) and academic title (if any); your full contact details (email and phone); any equipment/accessibility requirements and scheduling requests; and whether you intend to participate in person or virtually.

Submissions must be sent to ceraejournal@gmail.com by 11:59 PM (GMT) Monday 7 September 2026.

All submissions will be reviewed by the Ceræ Committee. Decisions will be communicated to all applicants within 5 days of the deadline.

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Featured Image: Anonymous, after Jheronimus Bosch, *De bruiloft te Kana (The Marriage at Cana)*, c. 1560, oil on panel, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam. Image via Wikimedia Commons.



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