

CARMEN Inaugural Meeting, Budapest 2007

Minutes of a meeting held on Friday-Sunday, 9-11 March 2007 at the Central European University, Budapest.

Present:

Elmar Mittler (Göttingen)	Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL)
Jacqueline Hamesse (Louvain-la-Neuve); José Meirinhos (Porto)	Fédération Internationale des Instituts d'Études Médiévales (FIDEM)
Annemarie Bos ('s-Gravenhage)	Eranet (HERA – Humanities in the European Research Area)
Gerhard Krieger (Trier)	Mediävistenverband e.V.
Paul E. Szarmach (Cambridge MA)	Medieval Academy of America
Torstein Jørgensen (Bergen); Kurt Villads Jensen (Odense)	Nordic Centre for Medieval Studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Göteborgs universitet, • Finnish Literature Society, • Helsingin Yliopisto / University of Helsinki, • Institut for historie, Syddansk Universitet (Odense), and • Centre for Medieval Studies, Universitetet i Bergen
Constant Mews (Monash)	The Network for Early European Research, Australian Research Council
Andrew Taylor (Ottawa); James Weldon (Waterloo)	Canadian Society of Medievalists / Société canadienne des médiévistes
Régine Le Jan (Paris-I); Pierre Monnet (EHESS, Paris); François Menant (Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris)	Société des Historiens Médiévistes de l'Enseignement Supérieur Public (SHMESP)
Paolo Delogu (Roma-La Sapienza); Giorgio Chittolini (Milano); Pietro Corrao (Palermo)	Società italiana degli storici medievisti (SISMED)
Dick de Boer (Groningen)	Onderzoekschool Mediëvistiek: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universiteit Amsterdam, • Vrije Universiteit te Amsterdam, • Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, • Universiteit Leiden, • Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen, and • Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht
José Meirinhos (Porto)	Sociedade Portuguesa de Estudos Medievais (SPEM)
Wendy Scase	Hilton Shepherd Postgraduate Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Birmingham
Martin Homza	Katedra slovenských dejín / Dept. Of Slovak History, Univerzita Komenského, Bratislava
Pamela King	Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Bristol
Gábor Klaniczay; Balázs Nagy; József Laszlovszky; György Geréby; János Bak	Department of Medieval Studies, Central European University, Budapest
Sarah Alyn Stacey	Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Trinity College Dublin
Giles Gasper	Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, University of Durham

Adrian Tudor	Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Hull
Nils Holger Petersen	Center for Studiet af Kulturarven fra Middelalderens Ritualer, det Teologiske Fakultet, Københavns Universitet
Axel Müller	Institute for Medieval Studies, University of Leeds
Cristina Jular; Julio Escalona	Departamento de Historia Medieval, Instituto de Historia (CSIC), Madrid
Maria-Anne Polo de Beaulieu	EHESS - Groupe d'anthropologie historique de l'Occident Médiéval (GAHOM), Paris
Stephen Morrison	Centre d'Études Supérieures de Civilisation Médiévale (CESCM), Poitiers
Josef Zemlicka; Petr Sommer	Centre for Medieval Studies, Univerzita Karlova / Charles University, Praha
Bryan Deschamp	Institutum Carmelitanum and the Titus Brandsma Instituut, Nijmegen
Gunilla Iversen; Denis Searby; Brian M. Jensen	Avdelningen för klassiska språk, Stockholms universitet
István Petrovics; Zsolt Hunyadi; István Zimonyi	Medieval History Dept., University of Szeged
Christian Krötzl	Trivium: Tampere Centre for Classical, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Tampereen Yliopisto
Grzegorz Myśliwski	Instytut Historyczny, Uniwersytet Warszawski
Jocelyn Wogan-Browne	Centre for Medieval Studies, University of York
Neven Budak	Medieval History Programme, Filozofski fakultet Sveučilišta u Zagrebu
Simon Forde	CARMEN
Előd Nemerényi; Ottó Gečser; Cristian Gaspar	CEU, Budapest

Apologies for absence:

Conal Condren (New South Wales)	The Network for Early European Research, Australian Research Council
Raluca Radulescu	Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Wales at Bangor / Prifysgol Cymru Bangor
Stephen Kelly	School of English – Medieval Studies section, Queen's University (Belfast)
Attila Zsoldos	Medieval Department of the Institute of History, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Ken Rooney	Department of English, University College Cork
Gerhard Jaritz	Institut für Realienkunde des Mittelalters und der frühen Neuzeit (Österreich-ischen Akademie der Wissenschaften)
David Bates	Institute of Historical Research, University of London
Isabel Alfonso	Departamento de Historia Medieval, Instituto de Historia (CSIC)
Jean-Claude Schmitt	Groupe d'anthropologie historique de l'Occident Médiéval

	(GAHOM)
Márta Font	Medieval History Department, University of Pécs
Kornél Szovák	Medieval Studies Programme, Pázmány Péter Katolikus Egyetem / Peter Pazmany Catholic University
Anne Lawrence	Graduate Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Reading
Ruth Evans	Department of English Studies, Stirling University
Helen Fulton	English Department, University of Wales at Swansea / Prifysgol Cymru Abertawe
Monique Smit	CARMEN

The meeting opened on Friday at 17.20 and the following matters were discussed:

1. Introductions

- a. Yehuda Elkana, Rector and President of the Central European University welcomed the meeting, and spoke about the value of humanities research in the academy today.
- b. Gábor Klaniczay, Head of the Department of Medieval Studies, Central European University (hereafter CEU) summarized the history of the foundation of the CEU, the political context at the time and the CEU's aims, the discussions that led to the creation of a Medieval Studies Department, and the achievements and features of the department. He then went on to outline the challenges faced in East-Central Europe today for medievalists: resurgent nationalist movements which claimed their own medieval authenticity, academic jealousies between public and private, religious and secular universities in the region, and the historic and contemporary meanings invested in the concept of Europe.
- c. Dick de Boer, Academic Director of the Dutch national Research School for Medieval Studies introduced the activities of CARMEN and the goals of the weekend.
- d. Simon Forde summarised the guiding principles of CARMEN, as defined at the exploratory meeting at Leeds in July 2006, and presented an overview of the weekend's programme and what the meeting hoped to achieve during the weekend and by the end of 2007.

2. Presentations of Associations, Centres and Networks

- a. Jacqueline Hamesse, president of FIDEM gave a comprehensive survey of the work of the society since its foundation. See text on the [CARMEN website](#) -
- b. Torstein Jørgensen, research team-leader for the 'Religion' team within the Nordic Centre for Medieval Studies presented an overview of this centre bringing together five institutions. See text on the [CARMEN website](#) -
- c. Elmar Mittler, chairman of the Consortium of European Research Libraries both presented the scope and activities of the group, but described lessons drawn from computing science applications in libraries which were applicable to medieval studies. See text on the [CARMEN website](#) -

3. Funding Possibilities

All participants had been notified in advance of ten research themes that seemed suitable for major funding at a European or other level, eight of these through the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (hereafter EU FP7). For most of these there was an initial call for submissions of proposals in May 2007. A second call was expected in 2009 or thereabouts. Participants recorded their preferences and the following six Research Lines were identified for study within a series of work-groups which took place on the Saturday:

- The Advancement of Basic Research on Medieval Europe – in which the core focus was on the preservation and making accessible of (essentially textual) sources, but

repackaged during the course of the weekend under the heading '*Medieval Sources for Multiple Identities*'

- Cutting-Edge Research – focused on *Information Sciences and Methodologies*, during which five subthemes were identified:
 - Digital Research Infrastructure for the Humanities
 - Computer-Aided Textual Criticism
 - New Methods in Archaeology
 - Digital Technology in Archiving
 - Open Access to Cultural Memory
 - *Cultural Interactions: Lessons from the Medieval World*
 - *Techniques of Conflict Resolution, ca. 200-1648*
 - *Divergent Histories and Plural Identities in Medieval Europe*
 - *The Challenge of Creative Art and Artists in Diverse Political Structures* – during which the following sub-areas for further work were identified:
 - Creative Arts and Cultural Tourism
 - Museology
 - Medieval Archaeology and Urban and Spatial Planning
- a. Annemarie Bos, co-ordinator of Eranet HERA (Humanities in the European Research Area) presented the range of funding possibilities through the EU's FP7 programme and other programmes, and also the opportunities offered by the European Science Foundation. She offered insights into the thinking in Brussels, encouraged medievalists to apply, but gave various items of advice (see further below). See text on the [CARMEN website](#) -
- b. The six work-groups had two sessions to explore possible content, likely outcomes and benefits for funding agencies within each of their Research Lines. The reports are presented on the [CARMEN website](#) -
- c. There followed a Plenary Session and a Follow-up Session on Sunday morning. During these and other occasions over the weekend the following comments were made:
- i. Hamesse: Argued that the comments made at the exploratory meeting of CARMEN in Leeds, as recorded in the meeting's Minutes, misrepresented the true nature, objectives and achievements of FIDEM.
 - ii. Bos and Escalona: The summaries presented by many of the work-groups, while interdisciplinary and multinational among medievalists, required (for success in the EU FP7 scheme) expertise and partnership offered by non-medievalists, particularly social scientists.
 - iii. Mittler: Many projects lacked a high-level technology element, which is normally advantageous for bids.
 - iv. Mews: The NEER network had developed a wiki-based collaborative workspace, called 'Confluence' which could easily be adopted by any of these Research Lines. He offered to contact the librarian and computing team responsible for developing the software.
 - v. Various: Not all Research Lines were appropriate for EU FP7 funding, and many core needs of our discipline required funding from other sorts of sources.
 - vi. Krieger: There was a need to articulate the needs of medievalists and thence to lobby to influence the agenda of public funding agencies, both national and international.
 - vii. Krieger: There was a need to develop a general policy for medieval research at an international level.

- viii. Chitollini and De Boer: A discussion took place about the selection process which might occur when universities sent applications to join one of the Research Lines. It was made clear that this would not be decided by CARMEN, but within the Research Lines themselves, according to procedures set by the co-ordinators of each line. De Boer insisted that CARMEN must not become an extra board of approval, but an instrument to stimulate the quality and effectiveness of applications, by assisting the creation of suitable consortia. Funding proposals will not be under CARMEN's auspices, though we hope that our mediation will prove a guarantee of a certain quality.
- ix. Klaniczay: The Research Lines with their co-ordinators should be envisaged as information and communication pools and it was crucial that representatives of larger national networks would now transmit this information to their membership and encourage them to make direct contact with the relevant co-ordinator, informing them of their research interests and any existing, relevant projects.
- x. Hamesse: The greater the formality of procedures and any indication of a central or hierarchical structure within CARMEN the greater the impression of an embryonic Society, which CARMEN had previously denied.
- xi. Deschamp and Gasper: It was important to define responsibilities between partners. Equally it was crucial to budget correctly so that full economic costs would be reclaimed within any funding bid. The bodies that would be submitting bids would be universities themselves, who would be responsible for assuring the commitments made in the bids.
- xii. Various: Many institutions had the experience of applying for funds and seeking partners but not being able to readily identify such partners at short notice. A sort of 'dating' service would be valuable, and not only in relation to the funding proposals for FP7.
- xiii. Jørgensen: Several of the Research Lines believed that the May 2007 deadline would be unachievable. They recognised, however, that the next FP7 call may not be till 2009 at the earliest.
- xiv. King: It was suggested that CARMEN should open itself up to scholarly societies.

4. Next steps

- a. Co-ordinators were indentified for the following Research Lines, each of which would assess whether a bid for FP7 funding were possible and, in any case, would lead the development of work in these areas during 2007:
 - Medieval Sources for Multiple Identities – Budak (Zagreb)
 - Information Sciences and Methodologies – Corrao (Palermo)
 - Cultural Interactions – Villads Jensen etc. (Odense etc.)
 - Conflict Resolution – Kroetzl (Tampere)
 - Histories and Identities - De Boer (Groningen)
 - Creative Art and Artists – Petersen (København)
- b. For each of these bids, the following steps would take place:
 - A summary of the thoughts of each work-group developed over the weekend would be posted on the CARMEN website.
 - The co-ordinator for each Research Line would decide precisely what funding bids would be applied for, and against what deadline.
 - All participants were strongly encouraged to relay the information from this meeting to their members or colleagues, particularly explaining how they can participate in the Research Lines.

- An invitation to participate would be made available to participants who had been involved in CARMEN discussions, and others. For the May 2007 FP7 deadline, this initial 'expression of interest in participation' was expected to be 31 March.
 - An evaluation of the success (or otherwise) of this process would be undertaken towards the end of 2007, and the lessons applied for the future.
- c. Future Research Lines were proposed, for possible activation in late 2007, so that funding bids could be made in good time during 2008, as follows:
- Looking Medieval – King (Bristol)
 - Mechanisms of Government and State Formation – Sommer (Praha)
 - Sustainable Development – Escolana (Madrid)

5. Round Table

All bodies present at the meeting who had not previously made a presentation of their activities (i.e. FIDEM, the Nordic Medieval Centre, CERL and HERA) gave a short outline of the scope, remit and current activities of their institution or organisation. Whilst many expressed openness to various types of international collaboration the following specific offers were made (some outside the confines of the Round Table):

- Publication series which welcomed external material (Dublin, Hull, Poitiers, York)
- Exchange of staff and students (various)
- Database of medievalists, for use by CARMEN (Leeds)
- Hosting of future meetings of CARMEN (FIDEM at Palermo in June 2008; Prato in autumn 2007)
- Possible hosting of the annual meeting of the Medieval Academy of America outside North America (MAA).

6. Next meeting(s)

The following meetings were planned:

- a. A round-table at the Leeds IMC on 12 July 2007 (14.15 to 16.00) to attract new participants.
- b. A meeting during the XXXVIII^e congrès de la SHMESP (at Cergy, Évry, Marne-la-Vallée, Versailles-Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines), 31 May to 3 June 2007, to consider structural aspects of collaboration, and in particular how national associations can work more closely with each other through CARMEN

And the possibility of the following meetings would be further explored:

- c. Autumn 2007 to evaluate progress during 2007 and to plan for 2008 (date and venue to be announced, but possibly in Prato)
- d. Palermo, June 2008, as a meeting within the FIDEM congress (to be confirmed).

The meeting closed on Saturday at 12.30, and was followed by an optional tour of historic Buda.

Simon Forde and Dick de Boer
16 March 2007