

**CARMEN Annual Meeting, 8-11 September 2016**

University of Duisburg-Essen

**Workshops for prospective or ongoing projects – brief outlines**

At its annual meeting at Essen, CARMEN will continue the successful format of holding Workshops for prospective or ongoing projects. Everybody will have free access to them – the idea is to give information or to discuss possibilities, and attendants will be asked to contribute, possibly participate in further steps, as well as spread the word at home or, even better, help to make contacts with people who may not be present at Essen but would be interested in an international cooperation.

For these workshops we have asked those in charge for a very brief outline that could help attendants of the CARMEN meeting to decide which one to choose for participation, prepare, but also possibly already bring names and contacts of possible cooperators who cannot come to Essen.

**DFG-Network “Zeitenwelten”** (Miriam Czock, UDE / Anja Rathmann-Lutz, Univ. of Basel)

Time is a fundamental condition of our existence. Different perceptions of time have always been of scientific as well as social interest. As scholars have placed increasing emphasis on time as an important subjective category formulated under individual social contexts, scholars have simultaneously questioned the logical and objective measurability of time. Prompted by new ideas about time and temporality, the present publication illuminates medieval models of time. It deals with abstract conceptions of time influenced by biblical and exegetical thought patterns. These temporal systems of thought were transferred into political and social action as well as captured systems of time. We want to chart a medieval model of time which is shaped by an interplay of cyclic, linear, and layered time. We would like to invite everyone to discuss our ideas and hope to establish new collaborations.

**Troubling Europe: Connecting Contested Pasts from ‘Rome’ to ‘Europa’** (Felicitas Schmieder, Univ. of Hagen/ Elizabeth Tyler, Univ. of York)

Cultural memory, including memories of the medieval past, has been important for creating national identities for at least two hundred years. This project shifts the focus to Europe to pursue the subject of medieval narratives of community which extend beyond peoples, kingdoms and nations (such as being descendants of the Trojans) and how we study those narratives in the context of contemporary Europe. The aim is to contribute to research on European identity in the Middle Ages, while also interrogating the contemporary politics which drives an interest in a specifically European past. We are interested in interrogating the tension between a small, exclusive Europe and a wide, hegemonic one, in confronting issues of

Eurocentrism and in opening up the complexities and contradictions involved in the misfit between medieval and modern ideas of Europe. We encourage research on modern narratives of Europe and on medieval narratives of communities; already established research on national narratives will provide us with methodology and possible starting points but will not be in the core of our interest. This project will involve an integration of basic research with public outreach and impact. We also aim to apply for a COST action on the subject of medieval Europe. At the CARMEN meeting in Essen, we are looking for partners who have projects focused on medieval Europe to become part of that COST action.

### **Essen Graduate School: Precaution, prevision, prediction: managing contingency**

(Benjamin Scheller, UDE)

How can contingency be managed through action, and what do people think about the relationship between present thought and action and their uncertain (or believed to be certain) future? The historical dimension of these highly topical questions is one of the subjects under research by the historians at the University of Duisburg-Essen and especially a DFG funded doctoral-program. The approach followed in Essen is novel in that it shifts the level of analysis away from the beliefs about the future to the level of the active attitudes of actors towards the future and of the options for action these active attitudes make possible. The aim is to explore the plurality of social horizons of possibility in order to make a meaningful contribution to contemporary discourse on modernity, by comparing different cultures and different periods. Therefore the doctoral projects deal with the cultures of Greco-Roman antiquity, medieval and early modern Europe, and the globalized world since the 18th century.

### **Uses of the Past** (Simon Forde; Christian Krötzl, Univ. of Tampere)

CARMEN submitted a project on "Conflict Resolution" within the HERA Uses of the Past call in 2015. The project reached the final cut, scored very highly, but just missed out on funding. This informal meeting will explore whether some or all of the original participants wish to continue with this project, whether "Conflict Resolution" should remain the Leitmotif bringing together research on the power of collective memory of the premodern past today, and whether there is enough momentum to seek funding as a COST Action or another funding route.

### **Coping and adapting: The role of climate and famine in the medieval eastward expansion** (Andreas Rüter, UDE)

Often famine and climate anomaly have been thought to be the main motives for the coming of settlers into the centre and the east of Europe since the twelfth century. Based on the reports of the Annals of Egmont, the continuator of Sigebert de Gembloux or Helmold von Bosau's chronicle of the Slavs, research up to now linked the eastward settlements to a population increase and a following starvation crisis. The causes for the movement of people being hard winters, intense rain and heavy storms, which had damaged the forests and houses. Those, who lived near the ocean's coasts, had been suffering most of all under the violence of the sea. Bad harvests and crop failures, deficiency of grain and shortage of corn meant hunger, and so humans left their homelands. From these rare and selective references of the sources research determined, that there was a lack of land due to overpopulation in Western Europe particularly

in France – an explanatory model also given for the crusades of the High Middle Ages. But these reasons given for the Mediterranean feudal expansion to *Outremer* as well as the drive for the east could not be proved, as testimonies from these regions are simply missing. In general, the dilemma, to extrapolate the intentions of human deeds and plausible evidence is not easily solved. Therefore we have to address the socio-natural entanglements of historical societies with a broader approach, especially discussing the theory of migration and the colonization concept.

Wuppertal graduate school: **Document – Text – Editing. Conditions and Forms of Transformation and Modeling: a Transdisciplinary Perspective** (Jochen Johrendt, Univ. of Wuppertal)

The object of the Graduate School „Document – Text – Editing. Conditions and Forms of Transformation and Modeling: a Transdisciplinary Perspective“ is the editing of texts. In pursuit of this goal it exploits the double aspect of editorial studies as both theoretical discipline and scientific practice. Immersion in editorial theory on the one hand, and work on relevant documents on the other, ensures adequate coverage of the field, with a clear orientation on the practical use of its product in the participating disciplines. Empirically based, methodologically as well as theoretically staked out, and enriched with key transdisciplinary inputs, the project can be seen as a re-charting of editorial studies on a broad scale.

**MECERN – Medieval Central Europe Research Network** (Nada Zečević, CEU/ Univ. of Eastern Sarajevo)

The purpose of this interdisciplinary network is to keep scholars and students working on any aspect of the history and culture of medieval Central Europe informed on research projects, publications, meetings, and resources. Membership is free (donations gratefully accepted) and is open to researchers from both the region and beyond. Members are welcome to post information on scholarly events, to open discussions or queries on the bulletin board, inform colleagues about research resources and propose or join joint research projects as well as to comment on proposals. The Network is member of CARMEN and thus in contact with medievalists worldwide.

**Modern Popular Culture and the Middle Ages: Constructions and Continuities** (Frank Pointner/ Martin Schubert, UDE)

Never before have the middle ages played such an important role in contemporary popular culture as they do today: books, films and computer games indulge in medieval settings. Reenactors try to imitate archetypical ways of medieval life; many live action role plays (LARP) make use of a medieval or semi-medieval scenery. These and other cultural formations construct and re-construct a medievalism entirely of its own, not infrequently tainted by all kinds of romantifications and disneyfications. In addition, there is reason to believe that medieval topoi and commonplaces have enjoyed a continual existence still to be felt in a whole variety of popular cultural manifestations. The workshop will start with a general outline of aspects relevant for our topic, before we delineate and analyse medieval traits to be found in contemporary media such as film, computer games, and LARP, thus hopefully paving the way for a broader discussion of the phenomena at hand.

**Battlefields project** (Cristina Pimenta/ Fundação Aljubarrota <http://www.fundacao-aljubarrota.pt/?idc=15>)

The Battle of Aljubarrota Foundation is keen to work alongside CARMEN to organize a scholarly publishing programme on European Medieval Battles and Battlefields.

This workshop aims to present the successes of the Battle of Aljubarrota Interpretation Centre as well as an outline publishing plan involving similar battlefield sites, with ARC Humanities Press. We will outline and examine the aims and potential of this project, both from the scholarly as well as editorial points of view.

These themes will be introduced by Luís Adão da Fonseca (Aljubarrota Trust) and Simon Forde (Arc Humanities Press and the CARMEN Executive Committee) and moderated by Cristina Pimenta (CARMEN Executive Committee).

**Futures: Preparing for Change** (Anke Holdenried, Univ. of Bristol)

This workshop is devoted to a parallel exploration of medieval and modern ideas and practices connected to change. For example, for the medieval period ideas about free will, contingency, time, divine agency, futurity of social action may all come into play. How far is it possible to extend this range of concepts? Are concepts from modern "Futures- thinking" relevant to the study of the medieval past (such concepts might include, for example, ideas about sustainability; strategic planning; resilience; systems thinking; complex global issues).

**Project on Queens, Countesses and Female Rulership** (Amalie Föbel, UDE)

Female rulership in the Middle Ages has emerged rapidly as a field of international research over the past thirty years. This workshop will consider the methods, theories, and sources, which illuminate new perspectives and discourses on individual ruling women and the ideological conceptualization of female rulership throughout the Middle Ages. This workshop will discuss the relevance of comparative studies to this burgeoning study as well as emerging theoretical and interdisciplinary approaches that incorporate pictorial with written sources. We would like to invite all scholars who are interested in this topic to submit proposals that will explore new research avenues. Together, we aim to further investigate topics, ideas, and projects involved in the investigation of female rulership and rulers as well as to brainstorm the possibility of future collaborations.