Medieval Masculinities in Crisis



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Was masculinity in crisis in the Middle Ages?

This panel seeks to explore questions about masculinity in crisis in the Middle Ages. Was masculinity fragile? Anxiety-inducing? Concerning? Or was it, in fact, rarely or never in crisis? What does crisis mean when connected with gender identities and expressions?

Submissions

Please send an abstract (max. 250 words) for a 20-minute paper by 6 September 2023.

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We invite submissions concerning the following topics:

- Various periods when masculinity was in crisis, or not
- The meanings of masculinity, manhood, manliness, and/or crisis in the Middle Ages
- Social relationships, 'male bonding', hierarchies, and hegemony
- Inclusion/exclusion: the intersection of crisis and marginalized masculinities
- Development and circulation of gendered knowledge, e.g., texts and rhetoric concerning manhood, masculinity, manliness, and gender expectations
- How did crisis, like war or plague, shape or reshape normative masculinities? What manifestations of internal crisis are available to us as medievalists?
- Masculine expressions and definitions of crisis emotions