

14-15 April 2023

IDENTITIES, COMMUNITIES AND 'IMAGINED COMMUNITIES'

POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE 2023

After the success of the 2022 'Transitions' Conference, we invite you to the next instalment of the longest-standing medievalist PGR conference series. This year's theme of **Identities, Communities, and 'Imagined Communities'** marks the 40-year anniversary of the publication of Benedict Anderson's book on national identity. Observing all the uses medievalists have made of his theories in subsequent years, the conference celebrates the interdisciplinary currents that have benefitted academia in recent decades – Anderson, after all, did not initially believe his theories were suitable for the medieval world.

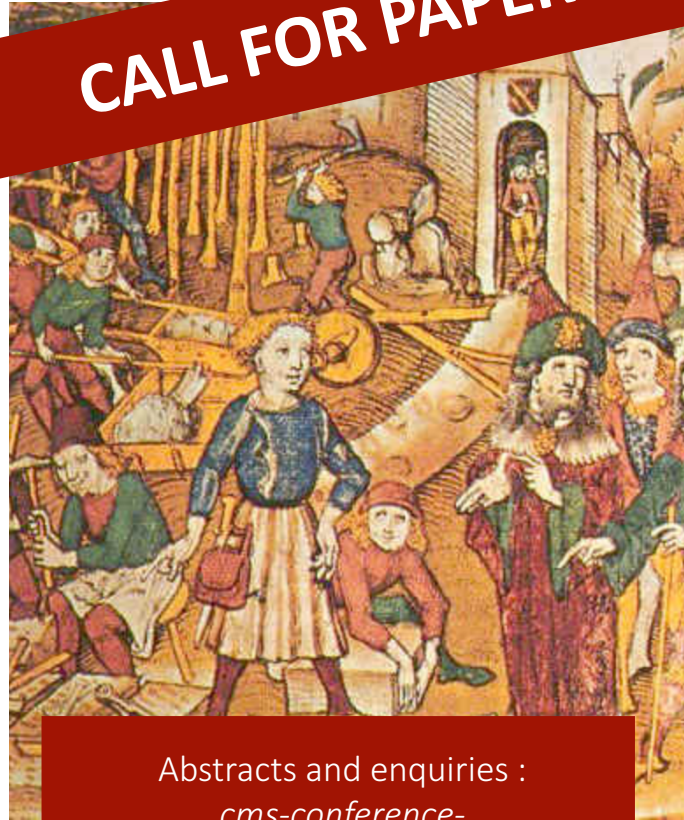
We welcome respondents and delegates to reflect on how we use concepts of identity and community more broadly across medieval history. Society's interest in its identities is arguably more topical today than it was in 1983 when *Imagined Communities* was first published. How did medieval communities see and perform their identities, how did this change over time, and why? What role did identities play – be they political, linguistic, or religious – in the consolidation of some communities and the subjugation of others?

Suggested topics include, but are not limited to:

- National Identities
- Religious Identities
- Sexuality and Gender Identities
- Ethnoreligious Communities
- Marcher Identities
- Urban Communities
- County Communities
- Frontiers, Conquest, and Expansion
- Law and Custom
- Migration and Xenophobia
- Ethnic Origins and Contemporary Myths
- Art and Architecture
- Seals and Heraldry
- Patronage and Memory
- Sovereignty
- Local Autonomy
- Archaeology
- Nationalism
- Concepts in History-writing

We welcome abstracts from postgraduates and early-career researchers, exploring all the aspects and approaches to concepts of identity and communities, in all relevant disciplines pertaining to the medieval period, broadly construed c.500-c.1500. Abstracts are **300 words for 20-minute papers**. This year's conference will be a **hybrid event** online and on the campus of the **University of Bristol**.

CALL FOR PAPERS



Abstracts and enquiries :
[cms-conference-
enquiries@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:cms-conference-enquiries@bristol.ac.uk)

DEADLINE: 10 February 2023