

CALL FOR PAPERS
Tenth Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies

June 12-14, 2023
Saint Louis University
St. Louis, Missouri

*** SPECIFIC TOPICS ***

1. The Inheritance Given by Early Christianity to the Middle Ages

The [Tenth Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies](#) (June 12-14, 2023) is a convenient summer venue in North America for scholars to present papers, organize sessions, participate in roundtables, and engage in interdisciplinary discussion. The Symposium is held annually on the beautiful midtown St. Louis campus of Saint Louis University.

This year, the SMRS warmly invites members of the North American Patristics Society (and other scholars) to propose papers, organize individual sessions, or organize coordinated sessions under the broad theme, "The Inheritance Given by Early Christianity to the Middle Ages." Papers and sessions may focus on influential figures, theological ideas, and religious movements in their own context, especially from the fourth century onward, or in terms of their later reception in the Latin Middle Ages, Byzantium, or other African and eastern Christian traditions of the 6th - 17th centuries.

While attending the Symposium, participants are free to use the [Vatican Film Library](#), the [Rare Books Division](#), and the general collection at Saint Louis University's [Pius XII Memorial Library](#). These collections offer access to tens of thousands of medieval and early modern manuscripts on microfilm in Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Syriac, Armenian, and Arabic.

If a sizeable number of NAPS members attend the Symposium, the SMRS organizers are happy to arrange a NAPS luncheon or other social gathering to help facilitate scholarly exchanges among early Christian scholars. Proposals are due December 31, 2022. Please submit via the online submission portal, at <https://www.smrs-slu.org/submit.html>.

Questions may be directed to Atria Larson, Associate Professor of Medieval Christianity (atria.larson@slu.edu) or Andrew Tucker, PhD student in Christianity in Antiquity (andrew.tucker@slu.edu).

2. Remaking the Middle Ages: How We Portray the Past

We invite papers and sessions that analyze how the Middle Ages are explained, portrayed, remade and/or unmade in specific contexts such as the media, historiography, museums, contemporary fiction, etc. Research approaches may come from disciplines as diverse as history, literature, media studies, politics, ethnic studies, art history, creative writing, reception studies, museum studies, pedagogy, tourism studies, etc. Submissions might focus on the following areas of inquiry (but do not need to be limited to):

- How narratives of the past (in the media, fiction, historiography, politics, etc.) may reinforce, distort, and/or challenge a consensual understanding of the past.
- Facts, inventions, corrections, and/or clichés in the representation(s) of the past.
- The place of the historical novel in the classroom: what can we (un)learn through historical fictions?
- Categories of historical narratives.
- Biases and challenges in the remaking of the past.

Please direct questions to: **Ana M. Montero** (ana.montero@slu.edu).

To submit your proposal, please go to the main SMRS submission portal and note the specific topic “Remaking the Middle Ages: How We Portray the Past” in your abstract, or organize a full session (3 papers) and use this topic as the title of your session. The portal may be found at:

<https://www.smrs-slu.org/submit.html>

3. The Prologue Prior to Cervantes

The prologue—that liminary piece that establishes the relationship between the reader, text, narrator, editor, and/or patron—often provides a wealth of information regarding book traditions, translation practices, modes of enlightenment, power strategies, forms of exemplarity, institutional contexts for learning, author and authority, etc. It can also help establish subjectivity and perspective—hallmarks of the novel. Submissions of papers and sessions might focus on the following areas of inquiry (but do not need to be limited to):

- Methodological approaches for interpreting prologues.
- Medieval and Early Modern Iberian traditions; other traditions.
- Prologues according to disciplines such as: scientific books, sentimental fictions, chivalric books, legal codices, etc.
- Turning points in the configuration and function(s) of the prologue (change, preservation, and/or loss of elements and/or functions)

Please direct questions to:

Helen Tarp (panel organizer): helentarp@isu.edu

Ana M. Montero (symposium organizer): ana.montero@slu.edu

To submit your proposal, please go to the main SMRS submission portal and note the specific topic “The Prologue Prior to Cervantes” in your paper abstract, or organize a full session (3 papers) and use this topic as the title of your session. The portal may be found at:

<https://www.smrs-slu.org/submit.html>

4. Medieval and/or Early Modern Iberian Studies

We invite papers, roundtables, and sessions that investigate any aspect of medieval or early modern Iberia. All disciplinary as well as interdisciplinary approaches are welcome.

Please direct questions to: **Ana M. Montero** (ana.montero@slu.edu).

To submit your proposal, please go to the main SMRS submission portal and note the specific topic “Medieval and/or Early Modern Iberian Studies” in your abstract, or organize a full session (3 papers) and use this topic as the main or sub-title of your session. The portal may be found at:

<https://www.smrs-slu.org/submit.html>