

Call for Papers
BRUSSELS MEDIEVAL CULTURE AND WAR CONFERENCE:
POWER, AUTHORITY, AND NORMATIVITY



Université Saint-Louis – Bruxelles, 24–26 May 2018

An omnipresent phenomenon, war was a dominant social fact that impacted every aspect of society in the Middle Ages. Moving away from so-called '*histoire-bataille*' that studied war on its own as an isolated succession of battles, studies have moved towards investigation of the reciprocal relationships between military conflicts and the economic, legal, political, religious, and social spheres in the Middle Ages.

After previous meetings held at the University of Leeds in 2016 and the University of Lisbon in 2017, the 2018 edition of the 'Medieval Culture and War Conference' will take place at the Saint-Louis University, Brussels, and will focus on the theme of 'Power, Authority, and Normativity'. We particularly welcome papers that discuss how medieval warfare, through the organisation, the techniques, and the discourses it mobilised, contributed to the shaping of power and power relationships, and how these power relations, in turn, could influence the adoption of certain forms of military organisation and techniques of warfare; how it related to the concept of authority; and how it was regulated by changing sets of rules over the period. How did power relationships, ideas about authority, and evolving norms have an impact on medieval warfare in theory and in practice? Interdisciplinary approaches from various theoretical backgrounds (e.g. archaeological, art historical, historical, literary, or sociological perspectives) are encouraged.

Subjects may include, but are not limited to:

- Theory, doctrine, and ideology of war
- War, propaganda, and rulership
- Law and legislation on warfare
- Literature on war and chivalry
- Chivalric ethos and military discipline
- Military justice and violence
- Military organisation and logistics
- Warfare and religion
- Gender and war
- Fortifications, weaponry, and technology
- Real and imagined relations between combatants and non-combatants
- Ideas of 'Others' and 'Otherness' in warfare
- Funding of warfare

The conference, organised by the Research Centre for the History of Law and Institutions ([CRHiDI](#)), will include keynote presentations by Justine Firnhaber-Baker (University of St Andrews) and Bertrand Schnerb (Université Lille 3). The working language for the conference is English. Please submit an abstract of 250–300 words for a twenty-minute paper, or a proposal for a thematic session of three twenty-minute papers, with a short biography of 150 words, to brusselscultureandwar@gmail.com by **31 January 2018**. Contributions from postgraduates and early career researchers are encouraged. A publication of selected proceedings is planned.

For more information visit our website: cultureandwarconference.wordpress.com/.

Brussels Organisation Committee: Eric Bousmar (Université Saint-Louis – Bruxelles), Michael Depreter (Université libre de Bruxelles/Université Saint-Louis – Bruxelles), Philippe Desmette (Université Saint-Louis – Bruxelles), Gilles Lecuppre (Université catholique de Louvain), and Quentin Verreycken (Université catholique de Louvain/Université Saint-Louis – Bruxelles).

In conjunction with the Leeds Executive Organisation Committee and the Lisbon Organisation Committee.