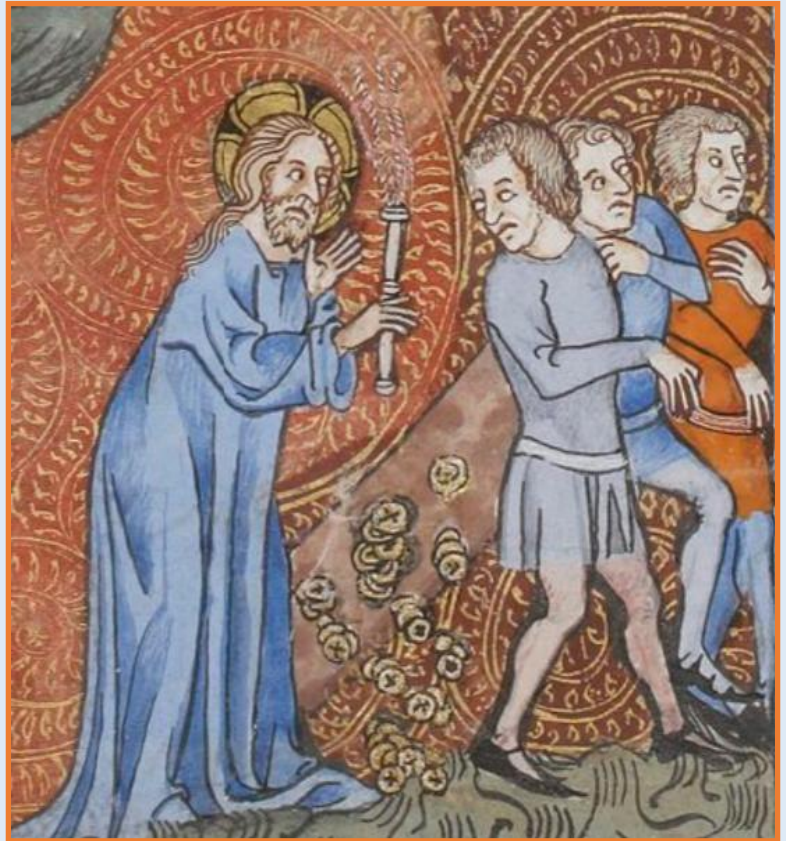


The Social Effect of the Bible in Medieval Christendom (Latin, Byzantine, Coptic and Ethiopian Communities)

Call for Papers International Medieval Congress, Leeds 2026 Deadline 22 September 2025



This session aims to consolidate **research perspectives on the role that clergy and lay people assign to the Bible within the repertoires of practices that organise and structure societies** (management of goods and persons, craft production, governance, etc.), as well as **within normative systems**, across the broad span of the Middle Ages (4th–16th centuries). Despite the considerable contributions of studies on “the use of the Bible” in the Middle Ages, this role remains far better documented in the history of religious beliefs and within cultural or cognitive systems. The scope of the studies is that of **medieval Western,**

Byzantine, Coptic, and Ethiopian Christian communities. Fostering dialogue between studies focused on these different societies – which are too compartementalized at this stage – should make it possible to highlight more effectively how the Bible was appropriated not only in social models but also in political, economic, and communal practices throughout the medieval world.

We welcome proposals for **15–20 minute papers in English** from a wide range of fields (history, legal history, archaeology, art history, philology, etc.). Particular attention will be given to proposals that seek to identify and/or analyse textual, material, and iconographic **interfaces between the Bible (both as text and as object) and social practices**; as well as to proposals questioning the profile of the **actors** involved in such interfaces. Suggested topics may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The place given to (quotations from) the Holy Scriptures in:
 - legal norms, whether canon or secular law;
 - political treatises;
 - educational treatises;
 - written documents relating to accounting, property administration, or the circulation of persons.
- The relationship between books that present the divine Word (the Bible, but also liturgical, homiletic, and exegetical texts) and social practices such as:
 - oaths;
 - the management of goods and persons.
- The role assigned to the biblical book or to the Holy Scriptures within social models in the broadest sense of the term; for example, in textual or iconographic representations of social categories conceived as such (married couples, children, the poor, the wealthy, etc.).

Please submit an abstract (max. 300 words) and a short biography (max. 150 words) to amelie.delasheras@univ-artois.fr by 22 September. All proposals should include your name, email address,

academic affiliation and preferred presentation format (in-person or virtual). Speakers will be informed by 26 September.

We welcome proposals from postgraduate and early career scholars. If you have questions or speculative ideas for papers, please contact the organiser (at the earliest possible opportunity).

We are unfortunately unable to provide bursaries directly. If you would like to apply to the IMC separately for financial assistance, see the advice on their website (DL: 15.10.25 <https://www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/about/bursary/>).

Organiser: Dr. Amélie De Las Heras, University of Artois (France); projet *Bible and Heritage Management in Christendom from the 4th to the 16th century*, sponsor: Maison Européenne des Sciences de l'Homme et de la Société | MESHS (Lille).