**12th** **European Social Science History Conference 2018**

**Belfast** 4**-7 April 2018 at Queen's University**

**Middle Ages network:**

**Nursery of society: political and socioeconomic developments in the Medieval period**

**Call for Papers and Sessions**

The ESSHC is a biennial International Conference that brings together historians and other scholars from across the world who are interested in studying the past using the methods of the Social Sciences.  The programme is organised around Networks, each of which organises panel sessions (including collaborative sessions with other networks): some of these are period-based, some based on geographical area, and some focused on themes or methods.  You can find further information about the ESSHC on its web <https://esshc.socialhistory.org/esshc-belfast-2018>

The ESSHC has had a Middle Ages network, which has become the main regular forum for discussions of Medieval Social History, an opportunity to meet scholars from other countries, as well as to see what’s happening in other periods and other fields. The network is currently co-chaired by Jelle Haemers (University of Leuven) and Jesús Ángel Solorzano-Telechea (University of Cantabria)

Our network studies the social fabric of medieval societies (c. 1000-1500). Scholars are invited to submit sessions on the social history of politics, economy, cultural phenomena, ideas, and discourses. Subjects to be dealt with include: networking at courts, gender issues in urban or rural societies, conflict studies, factions and nobility, the history of commoners, trust and social capital, new methodologies etc. Other topics are very welcome! The particular focus of our network is comparative: first, it brings together medievalists working on the crossroads of cultural, political and economic history; second, it looks at different areas across Europe and the wider Mediterranean world. Nevertherless, we will be happy to discuss any ideas you wish to put forward. We are particularly interested in proposals for inter-disciplinary and comparative panels. The earlier you contact us, the more advice we’ll be able to offer.

There is also scope for proposing an individual paper, of roughly 20 minutes, if you do not wish to organise a whole panel; if your proposal is accepted, we may put you in touch with the organiser of a relevant session, to see if your paper could be accommodated there, or we may seek to put together a composite panel of individual submissions.  Again, the sooner you contact us to discuss your ideas or submit your proposal, the better.

We invite proposals for panel sessions and individual papers for the next meeting of the ESSHC in Belfast in 2018.  Panel sessions last two hours, and generally involve four or three papers on a specific theme, with or without a discussant, and with a chair.  Ideally, panel contributors should come from a mix of countries, and certainly a mix of universities.

**Important note:** Proposals for panel sessions or individual papers need to be submitted via the ESSHC website using their online pre-registration form by **1st of May 2017** in order to be considered, even if you have been discussing the idea with us. Panel organisers need to ensure that all participants in their panels have sent in their abstracts and pre-registered by the deadline, with an indication of the name of the session to which their paper belongs.

Please, do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss proposing a paper or a panel.

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