

## **The Languages of Medieval Europe: Interactions Across the Spoken and Written Word**

This meeting aims to stimulate discussion among CARMEN members about the interactions, translations and conflicts between languages in the Middle Ages. This wide topic ranges across and connects issues such as the nature of sacred and vernacular languages, interactions among Europeans and between Europeans and neighboring peoples, the languages of trade, literacy and orality, the emergence of written vernaculars and the intellectual and literary consequences of multilingualism.

The topic provides a context in which the disciplines of philology, linguistics, literary study, history and theology (to name a few) can work together both to access the past and to reassess and reshape their own methodologies, objects of study and aims.

Regardless of whether our field of study is poetics, the language of devotion or the sociolinguistics of trade (for examples), approaching the languages of medieval Europe demands that we engage with the continued impact of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century nationalism on our own linguistic experiences and identities and thus on our study of the Middle Ages. In this context, the nature of Europe must never be taken for granted.

CARMEN, with its worldwide membership, stands to make distinctive contributions, at once international and interdisciplinary, to our understanding of language in the Middle Ages.

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