

SESSIONS for 'ANGLO-SAXON LIFE CYCLES' IMC Leeds, 2-6 July 2017

Anglo-Saxon Life Cycles, I: Medical Perspectives on Ageing, Gender and Physical Change

Organisers: Thijs Porck (Leiden University) and Harriet Soper (University of Cambridge)

Chair: Gale R. Owen-Crocker (School of Arts, Languages & Cultures, University of Manchester)

- a) Thijs Porck (Leiden University): Young Dancers, Old Spinsters: The Ages of Man and the Ages of Woman in Early Medieval England
- b) Jacqueline Fay (University of Texas at Arlington): Treating Age in Anglo-Saxon Medical Texts
- c) Caroline R. Batten (University of Oxford): *Se wifmon se hyre bearn afedan ne mæge*: Pregnancy and Birth in the Anglo-Saxon Female Life Cycle

Session abstract:

This session is the first of three sessions that focus on the role of 'age' in relation to this year's IMC theme 'Otherness'. Paper a) provides an overview of the Ages of Man tradition in the writings and art of Anglo-Saxon England, before calling attention to a unique depiction of a fourfold division of life featuring women. Paper b) addresses the degree to which age is a factor in Anglo-Saxon medical texts. Paper c) analyzes Anglo-Saxon charms that treat pregnancy and motherhood specifically as stages in the female life cycle, occasionally overlapping but often treated as distinct.

Anglo-Saxon Life Cycles, II: The Life Course as Narrative in Old English Literature

Organisers: Thijs Porck (Leiden University) and Harriet Soper (University of Cambridge)

Chair: Jennifer Neville (Department of English, Royal Holloway, University of London)

- a) Harriet Soper (University of Cambridge): Continuities and Disconnections within the Life Course in Old English Poetry
- b) Francis Leneghan (University of Oxford): Youth, Age and Dynastic History in *Beowulf*
- c) Inna Matyushina (Russian State University for the Humanities/University of Exeter): The Two Ages of Saint Edward the Confessor

Session abstract:

This session is the second of three sessions that focus on the role of 'age' in relation to this year's IMC theme 'Otherness'. Paper a) discusses continuities and disconnections within representations of the life course in Old English poetry. Paper b) looks at the theme of youth and age in relation to dynastic power in *Beowulf*. Paper c) treats the representation of two life phases of Edward the Confessor: his youth in various literary and historiographical texts, and his old age in one of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle poems.

Anglo-Saxon Life Cycles, III: Shameless Students and Invisible Bastards: Cross-Generational Dynamics of Pedagogy and Inheritance

Organisers: Thijs Porck (Leiden University) and Harriet Soper (University of Cambridge)

Chair: Francis Leneghan (Faculty of English Language & Literature, University of Oxford)

a) Darren Barber (University of Leeds): Alcuin and the Student Life Cycle

b) Stephen Barker (Ohio State University): Teaching Shame and Discernment in Ælfric Bata's Riotous Classroom.

c) Mary Blanchard (Ave Maria University): 'Where Have All the Bastards Gone?: The Lack of Recorded Illegitimacy among the Late Anglo-Saxon Aristocracy'

Session abstract:

This session is the third of three sessions that focus on the role of 'age' in relation to this year's IMC theme 'Otherness'. Paper a) discusses the treatment of *adulescentia* and *juventus*, as two distinct phases of the student life cycles, in the works of Alcuin. Paper b) looks at the role of shame in the relationship between younger students and more senior masters in Ælfric Bata's Colloquies. Paper c) reconstructs the life cycle of bastard children born into late Anglo-Saxon aristocratic families and seeks to explore why these bastards are only rarely recorded.