Research

The Centre has a background in research excellence, demonstrated by the various research projects, journals and monographs that CeSMA is associated with. CeSMA staff are currently working on or associated with the following research areas:

Research projects

Simeon manuscript project (/schools/edacs/departments/english/research/projects/simeon-manuscript.aspx)

The Simeon manuscript is one of the most exceptional books of English literature ever made. Containing songs, prayers, homilies, legends, and classic works of spiritual guidance, it is a massive compendium of literature for pious readers. Even more remarkable is that, unlike most books that survive from this period, it is written in English. The manuscript has many secrets to disclose about how it was made, who for, and why. Simeon also has much to tell us about how books were made in later medieval England and about the scribes and audiences who used the scribe's dialect of the West Midlands. The Simeon Manuscript Project team at the University of Birmingham are investigating these questions.

Understanding cities in the pre-modern history of Northeast Asia, c. 200-1200 (/schools/historycultures/departments/history/research/projects/northeast-asian-cities.aspx)

This project will provide the clearest picture yet of everyday life in urban centres outside the Chinese heartlands. This sharper view will challenge the dominant image of the superiority of Chinese culture in this region, will require us to think again about socio-political organisation and interactions of all kinds between groups in Northeast Asia, and will locate both China and the grasslands within a wider world.

Previous projects

Vernon manuscript project (/schools/edacs/departments/english/research/projects/vernon/index.aspx)

The Vernon Manuscript (Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Eng. poet.a.1) is the biggest and most important surviving late medieval English manuscript. The Vernon Manuscript Project will create a Digital Edition of the manuscript published on DVD in the Bodleian Digital Texts series. The project is based in the Department of English and is funded for three years and one month from 1 July 2006 by the Arts and Humanities Research Council Resource Enhancement Scheme.

Viking identity project

This project aims to stimulate both academic and popular discussions about the creation of 'Viking', 'Norse' and 'hybrid' identities in the Viking Age, and their 21st-century legacy. It is a collaborative project run by scholars from the Universities of Nottingham, Leicester and Birmingham.

Life, work and death in Birmingham city centre 1100-1900 AD

The Life, Work and Death project sought to synthesise all the unpublished grey literature reports from PPG 16 work, in conjunction with recently published material and the Birmingham GIS project, and integrated more in depth analysis of artefacts, town plan analysis and environmental evidence. Funded by English Heritage and Birmingham City Council, the project produced a monograph collating all of the PPG 16 generated data, alongside more focused publication of the story of the city centre from AD 1100-1900.

Journals

CeSMA staff are associated with the following academic journals:

Midland History (http://www.maney.co.uk/index.php/journals/mdh%20/)

Since 1971 Midland History has been the premier peer-reviewed academic journal for all aspects of the history of the Midland counties of England, from the early Middle Ages to the present day. Its research articles and book reviews examine local subjects within their wider contexts.

Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies (http://maney.co.uk/index.php/journals/byz/)

Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies is an internationally recognised, peer-reviewed journal and one of the leading publications in its field. It is viewed as an important outlet for current research. Published twice a year in spring and autumn, its remit has always been to facilitate the publication of high-quality research and discussion in all aspects of Byzantine and Modern Greek scholarship, whether historical, literary or social-anthropological. It welcomes research, criticism, contributions on theory and method in the form of articles, critical studies and short notes.

Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies (http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~db=all~content=t783064118)

The Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies (JMIS) is a new interdisciplinary journal for innovative scholarship on the multiple languages, cultures, and historical processes of the Iberian Peninsula, and the zones with which it was in contact. Recognizing the vitality of debates about change in the fourth and fifth centuries, and conscious of the artificiality of the boundaries associated with 1492, we encourage submission of all innovative scholarship of interest to the community of medievalists and Iberianists.

Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations (http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~db=all~content=t713424660)

Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations (ICMR) provides a forum for the academic exploration and discussion of the religious tradition of Islam, and of relations between Islam and other religions. It is edited by members of the Department of Theology and Religion, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom. The editors

welcome articles on all aspects of Islam, and particularly on:

- The religion and culture of Islam, historical and contemporary
- Islam and its relations with other faiths and ideologies
- Christian-Muslim relations.

Crusades (http://www.ashgate.com/default.aspx?page=2686)

Crusades covers seven hundred years from the First Crusade (1095-1102) to the fall of Malta (1798) and draws together scholars working on theatres of war, their home fronts and settlements from the Baltic to Africa and from Spain to the Near East and on theology, law, literature, art, numismatics and economic, social, political and military history.

Monographs

CeSMA staff are associated with the **Birmingham Byzantine and Ottoman Monographs (/research/activity/bomgs/research/index.aspx)**, which is devoted to the history, culture and archaeology of the Byzantine and Ottoman worlds of the East Mediterranean region from the fifth to the twentieth century. It provides a forum for the publication of research completed by scholars from the Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies at the University of Birmingham, and those with similar research interests.

Research seminars

- **CeSMA interdisciplinary research seminar (/schools/historycultures/departments/history/research/seminars/medieval-history.aspx)**

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