CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

September School in Medieval Studies (Prague – Leipzig)

Crisis & Transition in Late Medieval Central Europe: Politics, Religion, Environment

12-16 September 2022

Organizers:
Dr. Martin Bauch (GWZO Leipzig)
Dr. Pavel Soukup (CMS Prague)
Dr. Václav Žůrek (CMS Prague)

Deadline for applications: 30 April 2022
September School in Medieval Studies

(Prague – Leipzig)

Crisis & Transition in Late Medieval Central Europe:

Politics – Religion – Environment

12–16 September 2022

Venues: Centre for Medieval Studies, Prague; Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO), Leipzig

The organizers invite Ph.D. students to apply for a five-day September School in Medieval Studies that will explore the phenomenon of the so-called “Crisis of the Late Middle Ages” in a Central European context from the perspective of political, environmental, and religious history.

Society tends to be sensitive to indications of crisis at a time when the political situation is shaken and a general sense of insecurity spreads. This is also true for the so-called crisis of the Late Middle Ages. The September School on “Crisis & Transition in Late Medieval Central Europe” suggests analysing the correlation between the perception of crisis by individuals and social groups, objective economic (crop failures, dearth, famine), biological (epidemics), and environmental indicators (extreme weather events, climatic change), and the ‘public’ discourse in which the situation is reflected. In this way, the Summer School attempts to replace a separate consideration of these aspects, which has long characterized Central European research on the crisis of the late Middle Ages, with an integrative approach that assumes an interlocking of political, religious, and economic spheres and their interaction with natural conditions.

This intensive five-day course for Ph.D. students in medieval studies will introduce the participants to the topic through working with sources and discussing the relevant historiography from all three mentioned fields of research on politics, religious and environmental phenomena. Our participants will learn about the existing approaches to the late medieval crisis. Based on their own reading and interpretation of the sources, followed by joint discussion, they will gain a deeper understanding of the methodological possibilities of investigating socio-political, cultural, and environmental phenomena of the Late Middle Ages.

ELIGIBILITY

The participants should be Ph.D. students working on the Middle Ages or interested in topics and methods of medieval studies.

The language of the school is English (knowledge of Latin, German and Czech is welcome but not necessary).

PROGRAMME

The 5-day programme includes three input lectures from the organizers, collaborative work with primary sources, discussions based on reading of research literature, a medieval walking tour in Prague, and a one-day field trip to Erfurt.

COSTS

The school is free of charge. The organising institutions will cover accommodation in Prague and Leipzig and the transfer in between. We are aiming for a moderate reimbursement of travel expenses to Prague and from Leipzig.

Applicants should send an abstract of their thesis and a short CV to

martin.bauch@leibniz-gwzo.de and soukup@flu.cas.cz

The deadline for applications is 30 April 2022. Selection and response before 1 June 2022.

Image: Death and Famine. Biblia pauperum, Erfurt c. 1350. Weimar, HAAB, Fol max 4, f. 15v, Wikimedia Commons