



The Society for Queer Medieval Studies  
(formerly the Society for the Study of Homosexuality in the Middle Ages)  
invites submissions (250 words) to the following ICMS 2023 panel sessions:

### **Asexual Possibilities in the Middle Ages**

Asexuality is often conflated with abstinence or chastity by modern readers of medieval literature and historical record. However, when engaging with medieval persons who we might label as ‘chaste,’ be they fictional characters or historical figures, there is an opportunity to investigate how they interact with their society and its sexual norms; could they be rejecting these norms? subverting them? creating a new sexual moral of their own? This session endeavors to draw attention to accounts of asexual medieval people, examine how we—as modern scholars—can interpret these accounts, and foster conversation about asexuality in the Middle Ages.

### **BDSM in the Middle Ages and Medievalisms**

The last two decades have seen a revival in queer readings of medieval and medieval-inspired texts, but an underexposed theme is BDSM. As BDSM aesthetics and jargon are heavily influenced by modern ideas about the medieval, this panel seeks to explore notions of fetish and kink in the Middle Ages and its *Nachleben*. We invite scholars to reflect on depictions of interpersonal relationships with a non-normative streak. Please note that we adhere to contemporary definitions that consider SSC (safe, sane and consensual) as the fundamental principle for the exercise of BDSM and require informed consent of all parties involved.

### **Encounters in Medieval Trans Studies**

Medieval trans studies has emerged as a developing field that complicates modern assumptions about binary gender, gender nonconformity, and trans subjectivity in medieval literary, artistic, and historical documents. Medieval people employed a range of terms to denote various aspects of gender presentation, performance, and embodiment in medieval Europe, including nonbinary genders, in ways that do not neatly map onto modern trans or queer theory. As such, this session seeks papers that engage in questions and/or broach solutions to the theoretical and methodological challenges found within medieval trans studies.

### **Queer Medieval Linguistics: Papers in Honor of Ellen Lorraine Friedrich (1950–2021)**

In her important research in historical linguistics, Ellen Lorraine Friedrich devoted herself to in-depth linguistic analysis of medieval French texts, particularly the Guillaume de Lorris *Romance of the Rose* and the fabliaux. In her meticulous analyses, she teased out the queerness of these texts, often in the form of innuendo and double-entendre. For these sessions we invite papers that use a linguistic or other interpretative approach to queer the Rose or other medieval texts.

### **Intersectional Reflections on Tamora Pierce (A Roundtable)**

YA fantasy author Tamora Pierce is well-known for her world-building based on extensive medieval research. Over the course of her thirty-year, forty-book career, Pierce's medievalism has evolved alongside our scholarly understandings of the racial, gendered, and sexual diversity of the Global Middle Ages. Taking feminism as its central ethos, Pierce's oeuvre moves between reifying whiteness and providing visions of a medieval world unrestrained by cis hetero patriarchy. This roundtable, co-sponsored by the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship, welcomes respondents' critiques on the relationship between Pierce and medievalism, reflections on Pierce's work in relationship to speakers' own experience as medievalists, and proposals beyond these suggestions.

Please submit abstracts by **Sept 15th** to the ICMS Confex Portal