International Medieval Congress 2018

Call for Papers

Conquests are traditionally seen as some of the great turning points of history: paradigm shifts in which one regime is swept away by another, after which the course of history is forever altered for both subject and conquering peoples. However, conquests are frequently defined as much by their continuities as their changes. Memory plays a key role both in legitimisation and in resisting conquest, but also in the reconciliation and acceptance of new regimes. This role of memory is also frequently precipitated by, and reflected in, change and continuity in social practices, across diverse social strata and ethnic identities. For example, it is evident in political, legal, and religious practices, but also in wider social trends such as marriage and naming practices. Moreover, changing memories of conquest can be detected in their presentation in narrative sources, with differing perceptions of the past being articulated to rationalise, decry, or legitimise the present.

These sessions will cover the role of social practices in the memory of conquest in the Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Norman worlds. We hope to challenge the problematic historiographically-embedded divides caused by traditional periodisation by examining the eleventh to thirteenth centuries as a whole. The sessions will explore the effects of conquest and both the continuity and change in social practices and processes of memorialisation which occurred in their wake. The three sessions will begin in the eleventh century (1016 and 1066), then cover the later effects of conquest in the twelfth century, before ending with the loss of Normandy in the early-thirteenth century (1204).

Proposed papers should be 20 minutes in length, on topics including (but not limited to):

- Formation and re-formation of ethnic and social identities.
- Appropriation (and forgetting) of the pre-conquest past.
- Change and continuity in religious, legal, and political practices.
- Differing perceptions of the past among differing social strata.
- Assimilation/acculturation of conquered and conquerors.

Please send abstracts of no more than 250-300 words, and a short bio, by 31 August to: continuityandconquest@gmail.com.