

## SAVE THE DATE / INVITATION FOR ABSTRACTS



**21ST BIENNIAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL MEDIEVAL SERMON STUDIES SOCIETY (IMSSS)  
BRISTOL, UNITED KINGDOM / SUNDAY 15 JULY – FRIDAY 20 JULY 2018**

## **MEDIEVAL MONKS, NUNS & MONASTIC LIFE**

**Organizer: Professor Carolyn Muessig  
Head of the University of Bristol's Department of Religion and Theology  
and Co-Director of the Centre for Medieval Studies**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS INCLUDE  
CLAUDIA RAPP (AUSTRIA) AND BRIAN PATRICK McGUIRE (DENMARK)**

The 2018 IMSSS symposium will explore the breadth and depth of sermon literature and preaching activity relating to monks, nuns, and monastic life, and serve as a microcosm of the religious and cultural landscape of the Middle Ages.

The symposium will be based in the beautiful grounds of the University of Bristol's Wills Hall, and will include a workshop at historic Downside Abbey, with its medieval manuscripts, incunables, and Centre for Monastic Heritage. We will also visit Wells Cathedral, as well as the medieval sites of Bristol.

**Celebrate 2018 — the first-ever European Year of Cultural Heritage —  
by delivering a paper or presenting a poster dealing with an aspect of  
one of the bedrocks of European culture: monasticism.**

**Topics for posters and papers may include:**

the form or content that could distinguish a monastic sermon from others

monks, nuns, and monasticism in Byzantine  
or other forms of medieval Eastern and African Christianity

the *Rule of Benedict* and preaching

preaching in monastic churches and chapter houses

monastic figures preaching in public forums (churches, crusades)

monastic preaching in or regarding schools and universities

preaching by and about nuns

*de sanctis* sermons on holy monks and nuns

monasticism as treated in sermons

sermons and the reformed monastic life  
(e.g., Camaldolese, Carthusian, Celestinian, Cistercian, Cluniac, *et alii*)

preaching by and about hermits

monastic rules in and about preaching

monastic communities in conflict or in harmony

monastic rejection/appropriation of mendicant sermons/preaching/identity

monks as characters in sermons, *exempla* and religious literature

gender in monastic preaching

monks/nuns in *ad status* sermon literature

monastic preaching in art

monks, nuns, and monasticism in pre-modern sermons of religious traditions  
other than Christianity (e.g., Islam, Buddhism, Taoism)

the influence of Christian monks, nuns, & monastic sermons on preaching in  
other religions

*and more!*

Registration will commence in September 2017,  
but we are accepting abstracts for papers and posters (150 words) **now**.  
Please send your abstracts before 30 September 2017 (and any queries) to:  
**imsss-2018@bristol.ac.uk**