International Congress on Medieval Studies

WMU

Social Media Guidelines

Since 2010, the International Congress on Medieval Studies (@KzooICMS) has maintained a presence on Twitter. The account is used to make announcements, post reminders, and answer questions. We establish an official hashtag for the conference, unique each year, so activity of the current Congress can be easily followed and activity for previous years can be found in search by their respective hashtags. The hashtag for the 53rd International Congress on Medieval Studies is #Kzoo2018.

Why participate in the conference Twitter backchannel by using the official hashtag?

Real-time online interaction both opens conversations at the Congress to colleagues unable to attend and extends conference spaces for attendees. It can expand opportunities for networking and engaging wider academic communities within medieval studies and, more broadly, the humanities and beyond. Activity on both the Congress Twitter feed and backchannel emphasizes the importance of public scholarship and makes accessible the conversations occurring in public space. At the same time that our profession is experiencing considerable pressure from outside academia, particularly at the level of national politics, social media applications offer spaces that can be rich resources to strengthen intellectual communities, connections, and communications both during and after conferences.

Whether on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, or another social media application, we ask that ICMS attendees keep three fundamental principles in mind at all times:

Consent

All speakers have both the right to request that their work, images, and/or any related material presented in their presentations not be live-tweeted, live-blogged, or otherwise publicly posted *and* the right to expect that their requests will be respected.

Audio or video recordings of sessions should not be made or posted without express permission of all of the session's participants (ideally, these permissions should be secured in advance through the session organizer or presider).

Photographs should not be posted without the consent of the subjects therein (and do not tag them without their express permission).

Respect

The Congress hashtag is a representation of the conference online as much as it is a representation of those using it. Please remember that your comments are public and should be made in the same tone you would use in face-to-face communication. The medium in which professional activity is communicated doesn't change its professional nature and will be as important to scholars' professional reputation as their academic work.

Because live-tweeting can have the appearance of a direct transcript of spoken words, it's important to remember the potential for misappropriation (please attribute), misrepresentation (make sure your commentary is clearly identified as such), and misunderstanding (borne of removal of context); because Twitter is immediate and personal, it's important to remember the potential for even the most general comments to feel personally directed and tone to be inaccurately communicated (or read). All powerful tools have the capability to injure, if mishandled.

Collegiality

Expressing appreciation and sharing links to useful/related information contribute to the conversation and strengthen academic connections.

Disagreements and difficult topics are as integral to an intellectual community as scholarly generosity and personal appreciation, and should be handled with the same professionalism, care, and respect online as face-to-face discussion.

Twitter tips:

If you tweet @username without a period immediate preceding (e.g., .@username) only the followers that you and the user you have tagged/mentioned will be able to see that tweet. Use the period to engage in a larger conversation that includes all of your followers.

Sending a DM, or direct message, allows you to take a discussion (or ask a question) out of public space, but only if that user follows you.

You can acknowledge that another user contributed content or an idea without a direct retweet (RT) or quote by using *HT* ('hat tip') or *via* before the @username.

If agreeing to disagree simply isn't possible, you can mute individuals (they won't know that you've muted them and you can unmute them at any time, a good choice if you'd just like a break), unfollow them (if they are people you've followed), or outright block their accounts (they won't be able to see your tweets on their timelines, nor will you be able to see theirs).