



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Medieval Institute

**International Congress
on Medieval Studies**

Session Proposal Guide

Session Format Selection

Choose the format of your session to begin your submission.

- **Sessions of papers** consist of at least two and no more than five papers relating to a given topic or theme. The papers themselves are to occupy no more than 60 minutes of the 90-minute session. If a session of papers is accepted, potential authors will submit separate proposals for their individual papers via Confex.
- **Roundtables** include at least two and no more than seven discussants. They are usually less formal than sessions of papers and may be scheduled more loosely. They may resemble a conversation more than a series of talks. If a roundtable is accepted, potential discussants will submit separate proposals to participate via Confex. Contributions to roundtables are not titled.
- **Poster sessions** showcase the work of at least two and no more than ten poster authors. Poster authors do not deliver formal presentations, but they are expected to be present to answer questions from attendees viewing their work during the 90-minute session. If a poster session is accepted, potential poster authors will submit separate proposals for their work via Confex.
- **Workshops** are typically interactive, with some expectation of audience participation. If a workshop is accepted, the session organizer(s) will assign personnel to it; no separate proposals are required from workshop leaders.
- **Demonstrations** generally involve some kind of live exhibition or practical presentation with commentary, along with a discussion. If a demonstration is accepted, the session organizer(s) will assign personnel to it; no separate proposals are required from demonstrators.
- **Performances** may involve music, drama, dance, spoken word, and other media, in any combination. If a performance is accepted, the session organizer(s) will assign personnel to it; no separate proposals are required from performers.

Session Type Selection

The Congress is made up of three types of sessions.

- **Sponsored sessions** are organized by learned societies, associations, institutions, and research groups. The organizers set predetermined topics that reflect the aim and interests of the sponsoring group.
- **Special sessions** are organized by individual scholars and ad hoc groups. The organizers set predetermined topics, which are often narrowly focused.
- **General sessions** are organized by the Program Committee at the Medieval Institute. Topics include all areas of medieval studies, with individual session topics determined by the range of proposals submitted and accepted.

You may propose either a sponsored or a special session, but not a general session.

Title and Session Information

After choosing the format and type of your session, you will be asked to provide your email address and information about your proposed session. This information includes:

- Session title (required)
- A description of the importance and/or timeliness of the session (required; 100 words)
- A description of the methodology encouraged for contributions (optional; 100 words)
- Plans for outreach (optional; 100 words)
- Delivery mode (traditional in-person or virtual online) for the session (required)
- Application for a blended-format session (optional; 100 words)
- A public description of the session, to be included in the call for papers (optional; 100 words). Only sessions of papers, roundtables, and poster sessions are included in the call for papers; session organizers are expected to assign personnel to workshops, demonstrations, and performances.

Keywords (optional)

You may enter a maximum of 6 keywords describing your session. Conference attendees will have the option to browse sessions by keyword.

Principal Sponsoring Organization (if applicable)

For sponsored sessions only, select the principal sponsoring organization from the list provided. If your organization is not listed, select **Other** (at the end of the list) and enter its name.

Co-Sponsoring Organizations (optional)

If another organization has agreed to co-sponsor your session, select its name from the list. If a co-sponsoring organization is not listed, select **Other** (at the end of the list) and enter its name.

Organizer Information

Enter the session organizer's name, affiliation, and contact information.

- Organizers of accepted sessions of papers, roundtables, and poster sessions will be named in the call for papers. They will be responsible for accepting and rejecting proposals to their sessions, naming a presider for each session, and (optionally) naming respondent(s).
- Organizers of accepted workshops, demonstrations, and performances will be responsible for assigning presiders and other personnel to their sessions. They will need the names and contact information for all participants in order to add them to their sessions.

You may also add up to two additional organizers to assist the primary organizer (optional).

Confirmation

You will be able to review your session proposal to make sure it is complete and print a copy for your records.

Each session should be proposed only once. After submitting your proposal, you will be automatically informed of the unique ID number and password assigned to your proposal. Sessions may be viewed and modified at any time between submission and the deadline using the assigned ID number and password.

The Program Committee considers the proposals in June, and proposed session contact people are informed of the committee's acceptance or rejection of sessions in July, when the call for papers is posted on the Congress website and the Confex call for papers opens.