

CALL FOR PAPERS

62nd International Congress on Medieval Studies (May 13 - 15, 2027)
(Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, USA)

Session 8520:

Centring the "Periphery": New Perspectives on Agency and Women Religious in Iberia

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Sponsored by the Institute for Medieval Studies, Nova University of Lisbon

We are inviting papers for a **virtual session** to be held at the ICMS 2027.

It is now widely acknowledged that women religious played active roles in medieval society. Recent scholarship has demonstrated not only that these women were far from passive actors, but also that agency was not limited to exceptional individuals or isolated cases. Nevertheless, regions traditionally considered peripheral, such as Iberia, remain underrepresented in the historiography, despite the emergence of important new studies on the subject. By foregrounding current research in this area, this session seeks to contribute to addressing this imbalance. We invite papers that explore the various ways in which Iberian women religious exercised agency, drawing on a range of disciplinary perspectives — including history, art history, musicology, literary studies, and related fields — as well as diverse methodologies.

The session adopts the broader category of *women religious* in order to address the plurality of female religious experiences and forms of participation in medieval Iberian society. Its interdisciplinary scope encourages dialogue across fields highlighting the diverse methodologies through which women's religious experiences and forms of agency can be examined.

Proposals of no more than 250 words, along with a short biography, must be submitted via the official Confex Portal (<https://icms.confex.com/>) no later than **15 September 2026** (locate the session on the Confex Portal and click 'Begin a Submission'). If you have any questions, please contact: pcardoso@fcs.unl.pt.