

Identity Abroad in Central and Late Medieval Europe and the Mediterranean

7-8 January 2022, Cambridge (venue TBC)*

Keynote Speakers: Prof. Miri Rubin (Queen Mary University, London); Prof. Roser Salicrú i Lluçh (Institució Milà i Fontanals, CSIC, Barcelona); Prof. Teresa Shawcross (Princeton University)

Life in the central and late Middle Ages was characterised by high levels of mobility and migration. Shifts in political, economic, cultural and religious life encouraged and sometimes forced individuals and groups to move 'abroad' permanently or temporarily, to places nearby or further afield.

The position and impact of these 'foreigners' in societies has been widely discussed. However, what is less considered is how they understood and (re)presented themselves. Our conference aims to explore the construction, expression, and practical significance of different forms of social identity among individuals and groups living 'abroad' in Europe and the Mediterranean in the period from the eleventh to the fifteenth century.



Detail from Bibliothèque nationale de France, MS. Espagnol 30, Abraham Cresques, Atlas de cartes marines (c.1375)

We invite proposals for 20-minute papers from graduate and early career researchers working across all relevant disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences. By bringing together a variety of different perspectives, the conference not only aims to consider how 'identity abroad' functioned in specific contexts, but also to emphasise developments, patterns, and divergences. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Individuals and groups living 'abroad', such as merchants, artisans, pilgrims, scholars, diplomats, soldiers, exiles, ethnic and religious minorities, and captives and enslaved people
- Voluntary or forced, temporary or permanent migration
- Importance of political allegiance, language, cultural heritage, and faith in identity construction
- Means of identity expression, such as written production and material culture
- Relations between different 'foreign' individuals and groups
- Interaction and assimilation/resistance to assimilation with 'local' populations, institutions, and rulers
- Impact of gender, socio-economic background, and other types of differences
- Theoretical treatments of the concepts of 'identity', 'foreignness', and 'abroad' in the Middle Ages

Abstracts of 250 words and a short biographical note should be sent to identityabroad22@gmail.com by **12 September 2021**. For more information, visit <https://identityabroad22.crassh.cam.ac.uk/> and follow [@identityabroad](https://twitter.com/identityabroad) on Twitter.



*The conference is currently planned as an in-person event; this may change according to developments in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.