



Flinders University (Adelaide, Australia) 21 June



Within the overarching theme of [ISSEME 2021 'Contributions'](#), the Adelaide venue particularly welcomes papers that fall under the following four themes:

1. Interpretation, transmission, adaptation and reception

Early medieval England was a nexus of influences expressed in every aspect of culture: literary, linguistic, religious, scientific, and technological. Moreover, new evidence is being uncovered by new methods; digital humanities allow diverse sources to be accessed more widely. New knowledge of the pre-modern world suggests that it was more interconnected than previously thought. Although the early medieval period continues to exist in the popular imagination as backward and insular, in many ways it is a period marked by a keen interest in foreign cultures and places. This session invites papers on the broad theme of cultural exchange in early medieval England from across disciplines.

2. Emotions

Early English culture is extraordinary for its interest in emotion and, perhaps even more surprisingly, in the emotions of others. This is seen clearly in the remarkable emotional portraits of the elegies, in texts such as the riddles which attempt to imagine the world as it appears to animals and objects, or in *Deor* which tells the story of Wayland's persecution and then the same story from the perspective of Beadohild whom he persecutes. It is also intriguing for the depiction of emotions and emotional responses that now seem impossible, such as Igraine's response to discovering she has been tricked and raped by the man responsible for her husband's death, and for those which we are suddenly experiencing again, such as the loneliness and isolation caused by COVID-19. While this isolation has been a new experience for many in our increasingly connected world, it was common in the early middle ages due to low population density, exile, religious retreat, travel and disease. We welcome contributions from a range of disciplines on any aspect of early medieval emotion.

3. Trade, travel, maritime power and the sea

The sea played an important role, both practically and symbolically, in early Medieval England, from the practice of ship burials, to trade networks reaching as far as Scandinavia, Africa, and China, to travel literature. This session will focus on all aspects of the movement of people, goods and ideas, as well as developments in maritime technology. It will also consider the cultural significance of the sea, including, but not limited to, its symbolic significance in religious, royal, and military contexts. It will also consider the role of the sea in literature and in early medieval English constructions of identity.

4. Science and Medicine

This session focuses on the growing body of scholarship on all aspects of early medieval science and medicine, including but not limited to, the transmission of knowledge between England and the world, scientific and intellectual communities, computus, medicine and medical practices. Given that we too are living in an age of pandemic, we also welcome papers on illness and plague.

Abstract instructions

We invite abstracts for full papers (20 + 10 mins discussion), to be submitted through this [GoogleForm](#) before January 15, 2021. Abstracts for papers should be no longer than a single page A4 (font size 12, line space 1, submitted as a PDF document), including title and references.

Abstracts are subject to blind peer review. Please make sure that the document you submit is entirely anonymous. You will be able to submit a revised, de-anonymised abstract, including your full name, contact details and affiliation (if any), after reviews and notifications of acceptance have been sent out. Notifications of acceptance will be sent out in February 2021.

For any queries, please contact the local organisers at isseme2021adelaide@gmail.com

Organized by Matthew Firth, Cassandra Schilling and Erin Sebo (all Flinders University).