

Marginalities in the Insular Worlds of North-Western Europe (8th–13th c.)

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FRIDAY, 12 JUNE 2026
UNIVERSITY OF CAEN / CRAHAM (FRANCE)
Organisers : Sarah Vincent, Jocelyn Coulon

centre
Michel
de
Bouard
CRAHAM



The CRAHAM invite proposals for papers for a conference exploring the theme of **marginalities in the insular worlds of North-Western Europe from the 8th to 13th centuries**. This event aims to foster critical analysis of the processes, identities and representations that may have contributed to defining, structuring or even blurring the boundaries of inclusion and exclusion in medieval insular societies, with a particular emphasis on Britain and Ireland.

We are seeking contributions grounded in **historical, literary, archaeological** and/or **interdisciplinary** approaches that interrogate the experiences and perceptions of those situated at the margins of medieval society, whether socially, culturally, ideologically, or economically. We strongly encourage analyses that approach marginality through the lens of intersectionality, recognising how multiple, overlapping identities shaped unique experiences at the margins. Contributors may also wish to question both the degree of marginalisation, exploring the spectrum from partial exclusion to profound social isolation. They may also consider the necessity or function of marginalised people within medieval societies.

Subjects may include (but are not limited to):

- Gendered and sexual marginalities
- Religious minorities, non-conformist spiritualities
- Migrants, exiles
- Individuals marginalized by the law
- Disabilities (physical, mental, cognitive, psychological, sensory)
- Marginal voices in legal, literary, or documentary sources
- Representations of difference and exclusion
- Networks and strategies of adaptation among marginal groups

Proposals (200 words maximum) as well as a short CV and a biography should be sent to sarah.vincent@unicaen.fr and to jocelyn.coulon@unicaen.fr before **7 November 2025**. Informal inquiries are also welcome. Please note that the presentations will last 30 minutes and will be followed by a 15-minutes time for questions. We are aiming for publishing the papers in a French medieval studies journal. Priority will be given to in-person presentations. Accommodation and meals will be provided for confirmed speakers, but travel costs should be covered by your own institution.

We invite scholars at all stages, particularly **early career researchers** and **PhD students**, to contribute to a dynamic dialogue that will expand, challenge, and enrich current perspectives on marginalities in medieval insular worlds. We look forward to receiving innovative proposals and to fostering meaningful intellectual exchanges in Caen.