

CALL FOR PAPERS
International Conference

**Perceptions of Justice in the Christian and Islamic
Mediterranean (500-1200)**

Awarded with the Simon Barton Conference Prize – Society for the Medieval Mediterranean



Casa Árabe, Madrid, 14-15 March 2024

CFP
International Conference:
Perceptions of Justice in the Christian and Islamic Mediterranean (500-1200)

Organizers:

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It may seem obvious to state that religion had a central impact on the articulation of medieval societies in all their dimensions. However, we sometimes underestimate or overlook the impact it had in some fields, such as justice. Christianity and Islam, but also Judaism, gave their own particularities to the different notions of justice that arose in the different political realities of the Mediterranean during the Middle Ages. If we add to this the cultural differences inherent to each geographical and chronological horizon, we are faced with an enormously diverse and stimulating panorama for analysis, especially from a cross-cultural perspective. The interest in this problem increases if we focus on the first centuries of the Middle Ages, particularly when the variables of continuity, rupture, transformation and adaptation to a changing reality are introduced. In this regard, it becomes especially important to ask ourselves about the survival, alteration or even rejection of the notions of justice that existed in classical and late antiquity. It is also worth asking about the impact of different religious traditions, particularly theological questions, on the different concepts of justice that emerged in the medieval horizons; or the other way around, that is, the influence of secular ideals of justice on Christian or Islamic theology.

When studying justice in the first centuries of the Middle Ages, there is a tendency to analyze the more practical aspects, leaving aside or even giving less importance to questions of theoretical perception. Of course, the late Middle Ages are an exception. Equally scarce are intercultural works or those that introduce the religious variable, which makes a monographic approach to this question even more necessary. In this respect, the Mediterranean context constitutes the most suitable horizon as a melting pot and interactive scenario of a diversity of religious traditions.

The main aim of the conference will be to analyse the different theoretical perceptions that developed around the notion of justice in the Mediterranean between 500-1200. To this end, a number of case studies will be selected from diverse thematic, chronological, geographical and cultural backgrounds, while making a general distinction between Christian and Islamic horizons. In this way, we aim to bring together senior scholars and early career scholars on the same platform for discussion and dialogue. A comparative and intercultural analysis of justice in the first centuries of the Middle Ages will also allow us to see the margins of transculturality, i.e. of mutual influence, between cultural spheres that are, a priori, very different. Particularly interesting in this respect will be the case studies in contexts where there was interaction and coexistence between Christians and Muslims, as in the case of the Iberian Peninsula or Sicily, but also in those where Islam imposed itself on a previously Christian cultural climate, as in the case of the Byzantine East or North Africa. In order to complete the comparative panorama, we will also offer genuinely Christian case studies, such as the Carolingian case. We will also differentiate between the secular and ecclesiastical/religious fields, thus offering a more complete overview of the unequal –or perhaps not so unequal– incidence that religion could have in each sphere of action.

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From the organization, Early Career Researchers (pre or post-doctoral scholars) are invited to submit paper proposals. Submissions that address issues surrounding the various theoretical notions of justice that occurred in any geographical scenario in the Christian and Islamic Mediterranean between 500-1200 will be considered. Some of the specific issues welcomed are:

- Religion, theology and justice.
- Justice and political culture.
- Discourses and literature on justice.
- Cross-cultural influences on justice.

Proposals should include a title, an abstract (maximum 350 words) and an abbreviated CV. They should also be sent exclusively in English to any of the following e-mail addresses: javier.albarran@uam.es or pablo.poveda@uva.es. The scientific committee of the conference will select a maximum of 6 proposals according to the relevance of the topic and the profile of the candidates. The deadline for receipt of proposals will be **November 15, 2023**. Acceptance of papers will be notified around November 30. Selected candidates will be given the option to participate in virtual modality, although priority will be given to in-person participation. We encourage you to send your proposals!

Scientific Coordination and Contact: Javier Albarrán (javier.albarran@uam.es) | Pablo Poveda Arias (pablo.poveda@uva.es).

Scientific Board: Amira Bennison | Santiago Castellanos | Michael Cook | Pablo C. Díaz | Bruno Dumézil | Alejandro García Sanjuan | Nikolas Jaspert | Eduardo Manzano Moreno | Céline Martin | Iñaki Martín Viso | Margarita Vallejo Girvés.

Organizing institutions: Society for the Medieval Mediterranean | Universidad de Valladolid | Universidad Autónoma de Madrid | Casa Árabe.

Confirmed collaborating entities: GIR Antigüedad Tardía y Alta Edad Media en Hispania (ATAEMHIS). Universidad de Salamanca | Asociación JIMENA.