



COMMUNITAS

Building Community and Shaping Narratives of Self in Medieval and Early Modern Religious Life

Communitas explores the way in which Christian men and women of the medieval and early modern eras built community and crafted narratives of collective self. This series is a home to studies that aim to understand how such groups navigated their worlds. In particular this means how, in building and maintaining their community, they managed the tension between normative expectations and more grounded realities, whether social, socio-economic, cultural, gendered, or any other. It seeks to answer fundamental questions about how bottom-up dynamics were instrumental in shaping the forms and experiences of religious life in communal settings, how these dynamics changed over time, and how community members tried to influence them. It also aims to understand how such groups sought to establish themselves as distinct from other cohorts in society, including their religious peers, what social, cultural, and other strategies they relied on to communicate that distinctness, and what made some of these strategies work and others not. *Communitas* therefore offers a counterpoint to the top-down perspective and normative focus of older scholarship. The series invites submissions on any form of Christian religious community life from any region of the Latin West. This includes

(but is not exclusive to) groups of vowed monastics, secular or regular clerics or canons, anchorites and hermits living in a community setting, household ascetics, and lay confraternities. More broadly speaking the series also welcomes studies on the origins and development of religious movements, regardless of whether contemporary authorities considered them orthodox or socially acceptable.

Thematically *Communitas* casts its net wide, covering a broad range of methodological and conceptual approaches. This includes research on the formation of religious communities and their subsequent pursuit of religious ideals in light of normative expectations and societal challenges. Another focus is how such expectations and challenges were addressed in literary production, the members' physical appearance, a community's use of space, and in art, music, and (liturgical) performance. And a further key theme is how groups shaped narratives of communal self in order to give their members a sense of shared identity and purpose.

By adopting a diachronically and geographically comparative perspective, this series seeks to cast new light on the place of religion as a communal experience in the Latin West.

Method of peer review

Double-blind undertaken by specialist members of the Board or external specialists

Fields of interest

Medieval and Early Modern Religious History

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Geographical scope

Latin West

Chronological scope

500-1700

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Submissions

The series warmly welcomes volume proposals for both monographs and thematically coherent essay collections, and actively encourages early career researchers to submit a proposal.

The board commits itself to offering future authors personal guidance and support to develop and to give shape to their project.

Submissions should be sent to: steven.vanderputten@ugent.be

Accepted languages: English, French

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