

CIVIC IDENTITY IN LATE MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN EUROPEAN TOWNS

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Section: Main session
Period: Medieval/Early modern

National citizenship has been studied widely from the perspective of democratization and politicization, with a focus on how citizenship has been defined and what factors contributed towards creating citizenship as an idea. To a lesser extent, attention has been directed towards civic identity as a local form of citizenship both pre-existing and co-existing with national citizenship. The session will look at how civic identity was shaped before and along side national citizenship. What kind of identification did people have with their hometown in late medieval and early modern Europe? What were the important factors in civic identity: What role did religion, social and political factors play? How was civic identity gendered? Did men and women have different kinds of civic identity? How did they 'take on' their civic identity, and how was it practiced? Was a special kind of civic identity special prone to developing into a national and political citizenship?

The session aims at a comparative perspective of different regions and states in Europe and paper proposals from all kinds of cities and towns are welcome. Participants are encouraged to discuss theoretical and methodological issues on how local studies could be understood in a wider context.