

M20 THE URBAN PARISH (LATE MIDDLE AGES AND EARLY MODERN PERIOD)

Organisers: Anne-Laure Van Bruaene (Ghent University)
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Period: Early modern

Date: Saturday, 1 September 2012

Time: 09:00-12:30

Room: 16

Description

During the Middle Ages and the early modern period religion played an important role in urban life. Urban historians have shown a growing interest in many aspects of urban or 'civic' religion. Yet, the basic role of the urban parish has been largely neglected. Rural parishes have received much more attention. Obviously, the function of the rural parish cannot be transferred so easily to the urban parish. While in the countryside the village community coincided with the parish, cities often comprised several parishes. In this respect, the regional differences are remarkable: for example, in the Low Countries large cities only enclosed a few parishes, whereas Italian cities had many, but smaller parishes. The importance of the parish lies in the fact that it was much more than just an ecclesiastical division. It was a micro society within the larger urban context. In principle, every citizen was a member of one parish, which had important implications for the organization of the care of souls and of poor relief. To what extent the parish mirrored, complemented or opposed urban politics, or in what way it shaped religious and urban identities, are important questions for urban historians. This session proposes to study the dynamics of the urban parish. The focus lies on daily life and the people who formed the basis of the parish.

We propose three possible angles:

- (1) The parish church as an institution: we invite papers on the parish clergy, the lay parish elite and their relation with the parishioners, and on the parish welfare system.
- (2) The physical space of the parish and parish church: parish churches have already received attention from the viewpoint of the history of architecture and interior design, but recent developments within art history make a more anthropological perspective feasible. We invite papers on the social implications of the physical outline of the parish church, its grave yard and the parish as a whole.
- (3) The parish as a social space: we invite papers on the question of parish identity as opposing or reinforcing urban identity. Papers on how religious and political transformations affected parish solidarities are also welcomed. We strongly encourage a comparative approach by inviting papers on different European regions.

Scientific Programme

- 1005 'PRAGMATIC' RELIGION? PUBLIC DEVOTION IN 14TH AND 15TH CENTURY MECHELEN**
Bram Caers (Antwerp University, Department of Literature, Antwerp, Belgium); *Pieter Verhoeven* (Antwerp University, Department of History, Antwerp, Belgium)
- 260 MONUMENTS, MAYORS AND MEMORIALISATION: STRATEGIES FOR CIVIC COMMEMORATION IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND**
Paul Cockerham (Independent scholar, Sharwood, Helston, U.K.)
- 870 PARISHES AS INSTITUTIONS AND CONTEXTS FOR URBAN MUSIC MAKING (ANTWERP, C.1585-1794)**
Stefanie Beghein (University of Antwerp, Department of History, Antwerp, Belgium)
- 1518 CITIES AND HEALTHCARE IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE: CONTRASTING PARIS, LONDON AND MARSEILLE BETWEEN 1550 AND 1750**
Christelle Rabier (The London School of Economics, Economic History, London, U.K.)
- 821 FROM THE SEARCH OF A SPACE TO (THE) DEFINITIVE ESTABLISHMENT: URBAN PARISHES OF OVIEDO IN XIVTH CENTURY**
Olaya Rodríguez Fueyo; Rubén Magadán Cosío (Universidad de Oviedo, Medieval History, Oviedo, Spain)
- 931 VERS UNE REDÉFINITION DE L'INSTITUTION PAROISSIALE URBAINE À LA FIN DU MOYEN ÂGE? L'EXEMPLE DE VENISE**
Pascal Vuillemin (Paris IV Sorbonne, Besancon, France)
- 322 THE SAINT JAMES PARISH IN GHENT: SOCIAL VARIETY AND RELIGIOUS UNITY**
Michal Bauwens (University Ghent, Department of History, Ghent, Belgium)
- 476 PARISH, CHAPTER AND URBAN ELITE TO A BACKGROUND OF COMMOTION: THE CASE OF THE HIGHER CLERGY OF ST. NICHOLAS AND ST. PHARAHILD IN GHENT (1520-1577)**
Annelies Somers (Ghent University / State Archives Ghent, Department of History, Ghent, Belgium)
- 943 WOMEN AND THE URBAN PARISH: WESTMINSTER AND LONDON**
Katherine French (University of Michigan, Department of History-1029 Tisch Hall, Ann Arbor, USA)