The Society for the Study of Medieval Emotions (SSME) is organising a series of in-person sessions for Leeds International Medieval Congress 2024 (1–4 July 2024). In line with the IMC's special thematic strand of ‘crisis’, we are seeking proposals for 20-minute papers which consider the emotional aspects of medieval crises, broadly conceived. Papers could consider medieval emotional responses to and/or representations of political, social, environmental, or religious crises in any geographic setting, from personal crises (such as the death of a friend or relative), to spiritual crises (such as the prospect of the impending Apocalypse), to major societal crises (such as the Black Death). The history of emotions has an important part to play in discussions of medieval crisis and vice versa, not least because any consideration of emotional change over time – which has emerged as a rich vein of research in recent years – must navigate, and understand the impact of, the major crises of the medieval world. As such, we particularly welcome proposals that engage with continuity and change over time, for example by exploring whether or how major medieval crises, like the Black Death or the Hundred Years’ War, altered (or failed to alter) the emotional evaluations of medieval societies.

Please send paper proposals, including a title, abstract of c.150 words, and a short bio, to socmedievalemotions@gmail.com by 4 September 2023.

Organisers: Hailey O'Harrow (St Andrews), Stephen Spencer (Northeastern University London), Ana del Campo (St Andrews)

Membership of SSME is free. To join, please visit https://www.socmedievalemotions.com/

Image: Fifteenth-century depiction of the Last Judgement from the Lady Chapel, Waltham Abbey, Essex