

Call for Expressions of Interest: ARC Network for Early European Research-sponsored
Postgraduate Advanced Training Seminar

Closing date for expression of interest: **1 August 2008**

Medievalism in Contemporary Media: Theoretical and Methodological Approaches to
Film Television, Computer Games, and Internet Studies

Organiser: Louise D'Arcens, University of Wollongong

Date: October 1-2, 2008

Venue: University of Wollongong, NSW

Rationale and Aims:

The study of medievalism – that is, post-medieval receptions and constructions of the Middle Ages - is a growing area that has come in recent years to occupy a vital place within the discipline of medieval studies. As a result of this, traditionally-trained medievalists are increasingly moving to expand their research interests to encompass contemporary representations of medieval culture in electronic media, such as film and television, and in new media such as computer games and the internet. While this is an exciting disciplinary development, medievalists who venture into this area are met with a daunting array of unfamiliar interdisciplinary challenges. In order to produce research on medievalism that is of value within and beyond medieval studies, medievalists need to wed their disciplinary skills and knowledge to a sophisticated command of the theoretical approaches, methodologies, and technological considerations that are familiar to media- and cultural studies scholars.

This two-day seminar is designed to enhance students' grasp of the interdisciplinary challenges of writing on medievalism in contemporary electronic media, and to give them a confident sense of how to bring these interdisciplinary skills into dialogue with their medievalist training. It will also offer expert guidance directed at developing specific writing projects to be undertaken by the students attending the Seminar.

Format:

It will feature master-class style presentations from four established scholars of electronic and new media, who are not medievalists. These presentations will introduce students to the main theoretical and methodological considerations of their fields, and to the particular research challenges presented by working on these media. The insights and information offered in these presentations will be further developed in targeted workshops. In these workshops, the postgraduate participants, led by Louise D'Arcens and the expert presenters, will

- discuss the ways in which the approaches intersect with, and can be adapted to, the concerns of scholarship on medievalism, and conversely, what the study of medievalism can bring to the study of electronic and new media

- workshop specific writing projects to be undertaken by the students. Participants will have submitted abstracts of these projects prior to the seminar, which will have been posted on a Confluence workspace for the other participants to read.

Expert Presenters:

Film: Professor Adrian Martin, Monash University

Television: Associate Professor Chris Barker, University of Wollongong

Computer Gaming: Dr Katie Cavanagh, Flinders University

New Media: Professor David Marshall, University of Wollongong

Other Guests and Facilitators:

Professor Stephanie Trigg, University of Melbourne

Associate Professor Andrew Lynch, University of Western Australia

Intellectual Outcomes:

Participants will have an enhanced understanding of, and confidence in using, theories and research methodologies central to the areas to be discussed, and a grasp of the possibilities (and the liabilities) offered by the adaptation of these theories and methods to analyses of medievalism in contemporary media. In order to ensure that the student participants' confidence and knowledge are sustained beyond the limited period of the seminar, an interdisciplinary research bibliography will be developed over the course of the seminar and distributed to participants at the conclusion of the second day.

Concrete Outcomes:

Because this seminar will have directed writing and development workshops, it has the concrete objective of ultimately generating article-length publications for all student and ECR participants. Early development of these articles will take place in the workshops, but will then continue after the seminar via a dedicated Confluence collaborative workspace, where participants will post subsequent drafts for commentary from the other participants, the expert speakers and guests, and Louise D'Arcens. This workspace will provide valuable continued support for the student participants in the form of peer-review and mentoring from more senior scholars.

Information for Applicants:

Postgraduates registered with NEER and ECR NEER participants accepted to attend the seminar may be eligible to receive financial assistance from NEER of up to \$500 to attend the seminar.

Applications to attend should be sent directly to Louise D'Arcens (louised@uow.edu.au), and should include:

- (i) details of the degree in which you are enrolled (PGs) or the title of your current research project (ECRs).
- (ii) a c.300-word abstract outlining the publication you wish to develop, plus a paragraph explaining how the proposed project corresponds with the aims of this PATS

- (iii) a c.300 word statement outlining how the event will benefit your research.
- (iv) demonstrated necessity of financial assistance (if applicable)