



AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL
NETWORK FOR EARLY
EUROPEAN RESEARCH

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Dear Members of NEER,

Congratulations to the eight NEER members who have achieved ARC success in the latest round of DP grants. Writing grant applications is always a big enterprise, and while it is disappointing for those who do not succeed, we know that Humanities attracts only a small proportion of grant money, and the relatively small number of successes does not reflect the high calibre of humanities submissions. I include a draft list, and the full list of successful NEER members will be posted on the website shortly.

International links.

Over the past 18 months some important links have been set up through NEER with international centres, in some cases building on relationships already forged by individual members, in others, breaking new ground.

They come under two headings: Links through CARMEN and links through individual institutions.

CARMEN <http://www.carmen-medieval.eu/>

NEER is a founding member of CARMEN, the Cooperative for the Advancement of Research through a Medieval European Network. This network extends beyond Europe to Australasia, Canada and the USA, and moves are being made to include Asia-Pacific centres. I am the Australasia-Pacific representative, and Claire McIlroy is on the executive committee as the Conference Manager. The benefits of CARMEN are many; there is an Advocacy Group which exists to promote Pre-Modern studies and to assist people or departments which come under threat. An international online Graduate School is being developed, which will supplement existing PhD courses, providing expertise that is not available in individual institutions. A group led by the *Viator* team at UCLA) is studying the possibility of forming a Clearing-House for the submission of articles to medieval journals. For the Europeans, the ability to collaborate on EU grant applications is a huge benefit, and non-Europeans can participate on these grants even when they cannot be directly funded. For non-Europeans, the organisation provides ready-made opportunities for scholarly collaborations to develop.

It is in the area of Advocacy that I want to enlist your support. In order effectively to represent the interests of scholars working in Pre-Modern studies, hard data is required. To this end, the CARMEN Advocacy group, under the chairmanship of Bob Bjork of the Arizona Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, will shortly be asking for information from scholars to demonstrate the strength of the field world-wide. The ensuing database is expected to have at least three benefits: a) to alert Pre-modern scholars to work being done in their own specialities and thereby help generate more



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ideas for research; b) to help Pre-modern scholars avoid duplicating projects; and c) to demonstrate to non-medievalists the vibrancy and richness of work being done in our field. When the requirements have been finalised, I will circulate a form for you to fill in.

INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTIONS

In my last newsletter, June 2008, I mentioned certain links that were in the process of development. Many are still being worked out, but the following can now be taken up by NEER members:

UK

1. CMS York: non-stipendiary fellowships are available and Australasians are encouraged to apply. <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/cms/> York scholars are keen to collaborate with NEER members. Contacts are Linne Mooney, Sara Rees Jones and Elizabeth Tyler.
2. IMEMS Wales: <http://www.imems.ac.uk/> NEER has granted access to Confluence for IMEMS members. This research network has some similarities with NEER and will welcome approaches from Australasian scholars who wish to develop collaborations.

USA

1. UCLA Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies <http://www.cmrs.ucla.edu/> will welcome Australasian scholars who use LA for their entry point to the USA, give them a forum for presenting papers, and allow library facilities for the duration of their visit. This is conditional on at least four weeks notice being given.

NEER and CMRS will have reciprocal links on websites.

NEER will help publicise CMRS's publications *Viator*, *Comitatus*, the Brepols series *Cursor Mundi* and the *International Encyclopaedia for the Middle Ages - Online*.

2. James Murray, Director of the Medieval Institute, Western Michigan University, has agreed that Australasian postgraduates and ECRs may qualify for the Otto Gründler Travel Awards which are designated on the website as being for emerging scholars from Central European countries. The deadline for grant applications for next year's Congress at Kalamazoo is 1 November 2008. Mention NEER. <http://www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress/awards.html#Grundler>

Claire McIlroy, Toby Burrows and I will be at ANZAMEMS in Hobart where we will give a short presentation on NEER and its future. If you are unable to get to Hobart, you can still gain a clear insight into NEER's philosophy and activities by looking at the Annual Report 2007 on the website.

All the very best,

Anne

Dr Anne M. Scott, Convenor, ARC Network for Early European Research



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