

## Mendicants on the Margins



Murrisk Augustinian friary, Co. Mayo (<http://www.monastic.ie/history/murrisk-augustinian-friary/>)

We are seeking contributions to a one-day symposium which will take place on 27 June 2018 at University College Cork, on the theme of 'Mendicants on the Margins', organised as part of an IRC-funded project 'Spiritual Infrastructure, Space and Society: The Augustinian Friars in Late Medieval Ireland'. The Irish Augustinian and Carmelite friars, in comparison to their Franciscan and Dominican counterparts, have been rather neglected by scholarship, finding themselves on the 'margins' of mendicant studies in Ireland. In mendicant studies across Europe a similar pattern of marginality is evident, placed opposite to the perceived existence of core centres. These include geographical centres of mendicancy (i.e. countries where the orders first appeared); topographical centres with the 'typical' model of mendicant foundations located in urban areas with non-urban foundations regarded as peripheral; or the historiographical centrality given to the Franciscan and Dominican male orders rather than other mendicant orders and female branches; and a greater historiographical emphasis on royal and aristocratic patronage versus focus on support from local communities and the friars' impact on the wider society.

In recent years, a number of publications, research projects and conferences have tackled aspects of mendicant studies on the margins of these various core centres, but there still remains a need for a discussion on whether there is a recognisable mendicant model, on potential differences and similarities between various models, the extent of divergence or adaptation, and on the links and contrasts between geographical areas.

This one-day symposium seeks to address these issues by bringing together researchers working on aspects of mendicant orders traditionally considered as 'marginal', be it geographical, topographical, gendered or historical. The aim is to go beyond the artificial construct of centrality and marginality in order to get a fuller understanding of the impact of the mendicants on all levels of medieval society across Europe.

Contributions, no more than 25 minutes long, might address the following issues:

- Mendicant orders in geographical margins;
- Lesser-known orders of the Augustinian friars, Carmelites and female communities;
- Mendicant communities in the margins of the traditional model of urban mendicancy, such as foundations in non-urban environments;
- Margins of social hierarchies such as patronage and benefactors from all elements of society, the impact of the friars on local communities, especially in foundations outside of urban centres and in geographically or socially marginal communities;
- Aspects of mendicant studies challenging the traditional historiography of mendicant orders.

Priority will be given to papers that use a comparative approach, between the margins in question and what is considered the centre or a model, and to papers adopting a multi-disciplinary approach.

**Proposals of no more than 300 words should be sent to Dr Anne-Julie Lafaye, IRC postdoctoral researcher ([annejulie.lafaye@ucc.ie](mailto:annejulie.lafaye@ucc.ie)), before 1 February 2018.**

The symposium will coincide with the Irish Conference of Medievalists, scheduled to take place at UCC, 28-30 June 2018 (<http://www.irishmedievalists.com/>).