

Research Support Fund Report: International Medieval Congress 2026

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Thanks to the generous support of the Viking Society for Northern Research, I was able to attend the International Medieval Congress (IMC) 2026 at the University of Leeds, where I presented my paper, *Transient Footprints: Norse Temporalities in Medieval Iberia*, as part of the Viking Society for Northern Research-sponsored session 'Mobility, Migration, and Transience in the Norse Diaspora'.



Figure 1: A Leeds International Medieval Congress tote bag is shown alongside my conference name badge, programme book, and presentation displayed on my iPad. To the left is a set of bone dice purchased at the conference from Ragnar's Market. It has become something of a personal tradition to acquire or receive a tote bag at each conference and to photograph it alongside my presentation materials as a means of commemorating both my participation in and contribution to the event.

My paper examined the transient yet sustained nature of Norse presence in medieval Iberia between the ninth and twelfth centuries and challenged the ways in which scholars look for permanence in the archaeological record, when perhaps transience and mobility were the entire point. My paper drew on Arabic and Old Norse sources to argue that the absence of permanent Scandinavian settlement should not be interpreted as evidence of limited Norse activity. Instead, I suggested that temporary settlements, mobility (and consequently motility), and interaction with local communities enabled Norse groups to maintain a long-term presence in the peninsula, developing relationships that extended beyond the sporadic raiding narrative that has dominated prior scholarship.

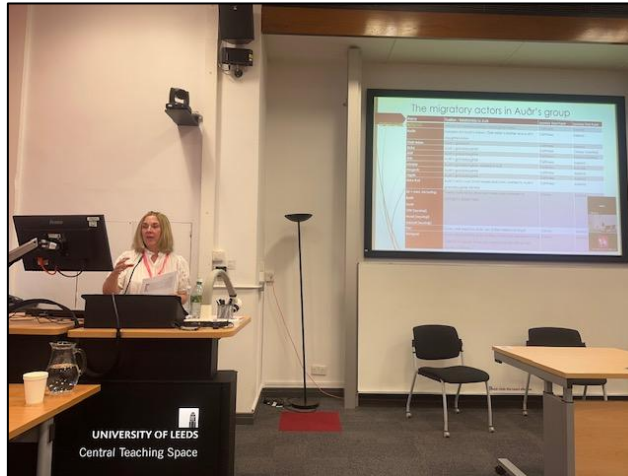


Figure II: A photograph of my colleague and friend, Tara Athanasiou, delivering her presentation, *Ephemeral Communities, Enduring Ties: Non-Kin Social Formation in Viking-Age Maritime Migration*, during our panel.

Presenting this research generated valuable discussion with scholars working across Viking Age and medieval studies. The questions and conversations following the session encouraged me to think further about the role of motility as a framework for understanding Norse movement and temporary occupation, and these discussions will help to shape the continued development of this chapter of my thesis.

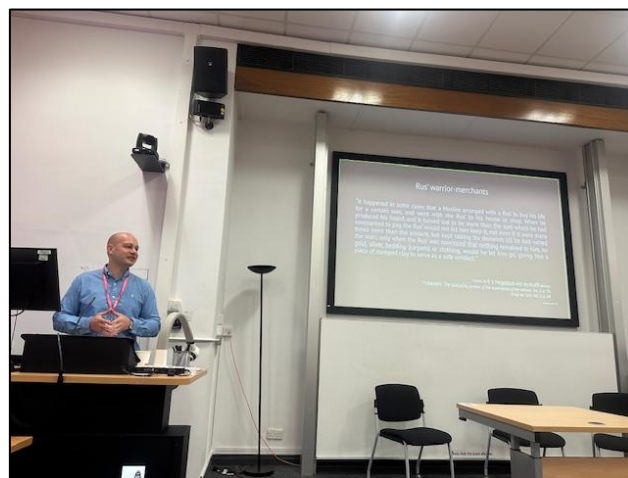


Figure III: A photograph of Dr Csete Katona, a fellow member of the panel, presenting his paper, *Where Are the Warrior-Merchants?: Elusive Identities in Viking-Age Eastern Scandinavia and Rus'*. It was a valuable opportunity to meet Dr Katona in person, having previously engaged with his research and read his book *Vikings of the Steppe: Scandinavians, Rus', and the Turkic World (c. 750–1050)*. We were able to discuss shared research interests and exchange perspectives on related areas of Viking-Age studies.

The IMC provided an excellent opportunity to engage with current research across medieval studies. It was a pleasure to reconnect with colleagues, strengthen existing academic relationships, and expand my professional network by meeting researchers working on related topics. As a second-year PhD candidate, these conversations and exchanges of ideas are invaluable and will undoubtedly shape future collaborations and the development of my research.

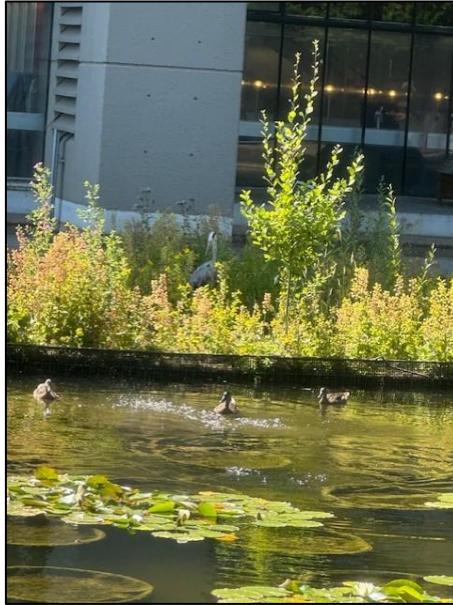


Figure IV: A welcome opportunity to pause and reflect: the serene Roger Stevens Pond at the University of Leeds, where water lilies, ducks, and surrounding greenery offered a tranquil retreat amidst the vibrant, bustling conference and campus environment.

I am extremely grateful to the Viking Society for Northern Research for its support. The Research Support Fund enabled me to attend IMC 2026 and present my research in an international academic setting, where I received valuable feedback that will strengthen both my doctoral research and its future publication.

All photographs are my own.

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