

Lauren Cole

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Research Interests

- Proactive MA graduate with six years' experience researching and studying 12th century visionary Hildegard of Bingen and an excellent grade record.
- Now interested in pursuing a PhD project exploring Hildegard's theology and medicine, and the converging influences of intellectual culture, medical cultures, and the lived experience of medical practice. I am also interested in gender and sexuality, the natural world and cosmology, and embodiment.
- Alongside full-time professional work as university staff I speak at conferences, participate in research projects, established and run an ecclesiastical Latin club, and regularly attend academic medieval events.

Education

History (MA), University of Bristol – Distinction 2016 - 2018

- Dissertation (87) on 'The Body of Salvation: The Material Presentation of Salvation in Hildegard of Bingen's *Ordo virtutum*', supervised by Dr Ian Wei
- Essays included 'The Cosmos, the Human, and the Heavenly Jerusalem: A Study in Hildegard of Bingen's Phenomenology' (90); 'An Exploration of Hildegard of Bingen's Symbolism in her Apocalyptic Woman' (85)
- Audited Latin A1 and A2
- Active member of the Centre for Medieval Studies, including organising annual conference

History (BA), University of Bristol – 2:1 (68) 2012 – 2016

- Dissertation (69) 'Hildegard of Bingen's Use of the Adam and Eve Motif in *Scivias* and *Causae et curae*: A Case Study in the Integration of her Spiritual and Temporal Thought', supervised by Dr Anke Holdenried
- Mytton scholarship recipient, awarded for academic excellence

Conference Papers

International Medieval Congress, Leeds July 2020

- Funded – one of only 98 papers funded out of over 2000 total papers
- 20-minute paper: 'Who Is She?: Hildegard of Bingen's Apocalyptic Woman and the Crossed Boundaries of Women's Bodies' delivered virtually due to Covid-19

Centre for Medieval Studies Conference, University of Bristol Feb 2020

- 20-minute paper: 'The Many Voices of Hildegard' comparing her construction of authority in theological work *Scivias* and the medical works *Causae et curae* and *Physica*

Centre for Medieval Studies Conference, University of Bristol Feb 2019

- 20-minute paper on 'The Religious Significance of Food to Hildegard of Bingen' using medical work *Causae et curae*

Foreign Knowledge Conference, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany June 2018

- Fully funded to present at international workshop conference
- 90-minute workshop on 'The Female Orgasm as Foreign Knowledge: Hildegard of Bingen's Medical Theories' using theological work *Scivias* and medical works *Causae et curae* and *Physica*
- Summary published on [H-Soz-Kult](https://www.h-soz-kult.de), German news platform in the academic history community

Conferences Organised

International Medieval Sermon Studies Symposium May – Jul 2018

- Paid organiser with local organisers Carolyn Muessig and George Ferzoco, organised bilingual (English/French) symposium with 100 international delegates

Centre for Medieval Studies Conference, University of Bristol Jun 2017 – Feb 2018

- Developed a theme reflecting current interests within and outside of scholarship with appeal to a broad range of humanities subjects and international audiences: 'Hype, Transmission, and Truth in the Middle Ages'
- Personally bid successfully for over £1000 of funding from several departments and alumni

Research and Engagement Experience

Researcher, Churches Conservation Trust Jan 2020 – present

- [‘Tackling Uncertainty across the Centuries: Medievals and Moderns in Conversation’](#)
- Brigstow Institute funded project co-producing knowledge with local communities, with the aim of tackling social isolation in rural Somerset communities through redundant medieval churches
- Independent original research online during Covid-19, presenting the history of a medieval church in an engaging way through short audio clips

[‘Medieval Religious Women’](#) article for Introducing Medieval Christianity July 2020

Researcher and Presenter, Downside Abbey 2018 - 2019

- Researched the transmission history and investigated palaeography of a 13th century copy of the *Glossa ordinaria* (Books of Solomon only) at Downside Abbey
- Presented research to 100 delegates during an exhibition of medieval artefacts
- Created public-facing codicological description for public exhibitions [Voices from the Cloister](#) and [The Bibles of Downside Abbey](#), presenting elements with public appeal such as marginalia

Curating the Campus Internship, University of Bristol Special Collections Jul – Sept 2016

- Experienced using archives, including card catalogue system and handling documents
- Research used to create guide for [Vote 100 portraits project](#) celebrating centenary of women’s right to vote

Skills

- **Latin:** experienced working with primary sources in Latin. Established a Latin Club using Collins’ *Ecclesiastical Latin* 2019/20 and attended CMS Latin reading group 2018/19.
- **French:** academic working proficiency in reading and writing.
- **German:** beginner.
- **Palaeography:** experienced accurately transcribing Latin documents 12th – 15th centuries.

Funding Summary

- **IMC Leeds 2020:** one of only 98 speakers to receive funding out of over 2000
- **Foreign Knowledge conference, Ruhr-University Bochum 2018:** full funding
- **CMS postgraduate conference 2018:** personally raised £1000 from departments and alumni
- **Mytton scholarship 2016:** awarded for academic excellence in the Department of History

Memberships

- **Mysticism and Lived Experience Network:** attend fortnightly mysticism reading group
- **University of Bristol Centre for Medieval Studies:** attend fortnightly seminars and research conversations, and weekly social events
- **Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship**

Current Employment

University of Bristol Careers Service Sept 2018 – present

- Started full time work immediately after handing in MA dissertation
- Awarded two promotions in under 18 months whilst maintaining language and palaeography skills, subject knowledge through attending seminars, and speaking at conferences
- Experienced teaching careers topics to students in lecture and seminar format and advising 1:1
- Responsible for student employability in the Faculty of Health Sciences (Medics, Dentists, Vets, Vet Nurses, Anatomists) and the School of Modern Languages