

Special Issue

Saintly Voices: Sounding the Supernatural in Medieval Hagiography

Message from the Guest Editor

The sensory dimension of saints' legends has stimulated longstanding interdisciplinary inquiry, with particular attention to vision and scent (Albert, *Odeurs de sainteté*, 1990; Classen, *The Color of Angels*, 1998; Hahn, *Portrayed on the Heart*, 2001; and others, cited under references). Yet, compared to the ubiquitous sweet smell of sanctity, its sonic counterpart was notably more diverse. From the melodious harmony of angelic singing to the terror of thunderous noise to the mystery of unintelligible speech, sanctity was signaled in the Middle Ages through a broad spectrum of sounds that merit interpretation. This Special Issue aims to foreground the agency of sound in medieval perceptions of sanctity and the supernatural through interdisciplinary discourse. Hagiographic analysis might engage with any number of other methodologies drawing from, but not limited to, the following: -The study of religious texts, images, and music; -Liturgy/ritual; -Sound and performance studies; -Environmental studies; -Disability studies; -Theories of race and/or gender; -History of emotions; -Sensory perception.

Guest Editor

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

1 September 2025



Religions

an Open Access Journal
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Impact Factor 0.6
CiteScore 1.3



mdpi.com/si/214324

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Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community – disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

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