

Special Issue

Between Man and Nature: The Making of Benedictine Settlements in Medieval Iceland

Message from the Guest Editor

This Special Issue aims to publish results from ongoing research on two Benedictine communities in Iceland: the male monastery at Þingeyrar (1133–1551) and the female monastery of Kirkjubær (1186–1543). The overarching aim of the research is to elucidate the ways in which these religious houses and their natural environments concurrently shaped each other. The articles will focus on topics such as 1) the role of bishops in the governance of monasteries in Iceland; 2) the extensive production of ecclesiastical textiles and settlements requiring ample natural resources; 3) the role of the landscape in everyday life and in engagement with monastic liturgy and prayer; and 4) the diet of the religious and lay inhabitants in the monastic houses and their associated land use. Some recurring themes in the articles will allude to the diverse ways in which the religious houses in question become synchronized with their surrounding environment, while faithfully keeping their dedication to the Benedictine customs.

Guest Editor

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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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