

# *Somewhere beyond the sea...*

## Belgo-British Research Encounters in Medieval Urban History

### Open Digital Debates & Lectures

An initiative of Queen Mary University London & Henri Pirenne Institute for Medieval Studies at Ghent University



### First session:

Friday, 3 July 2020, 4pm BST  
(5pm CET)

**Duncan Hardy, University of  
Central Florida**

*Imperial Cities and Imperial Reform  
in Germany's Long Fifteenth Century*

Friday, 17 July 2020, 3pm BST (4pm CET)

**Anna Boeles Rowland, University of Leuven**

*'Marry thee, a doche whore, nay'*

*Marriage, sex and the 'douche' in Late Medieval London*

Friday, 21 August 2020, 3pm BST (4pm CET)

**Elisa Bonduel, Ghent University**

*Overseas trade during the twelfth and thirteenth century. The  
value of the oldest Flemish toll tariffs*

#### Organisation & access:

Miri Rubin (Queen Mary University London), Marc Boone  
(Ghent University), Jan Dumolyn (Ghent University)

Friday, 28 August 2020, 3pm BST (4pm CET)

**Jaime Page, Independent Scholar**

*Miserable, Shameful Lives?*

*Prostitution in Late Medieval German Cities*

Friday, 11 September 2020, 3pm BST (4pm CET)

**Leen Bervoets, Ghent University**

*'Ch'est de le bourgeoisie': Acquiring burghership in the thirteenth-century  
towns of Flanders and Northern France*

#### Information :

[www.ugent.be/pirenne](http://www.ugent.be/pirenne)

# Purpose & theme

The COVID-19 pandemic has shaken our world and academia is no stranger to its effects. Our sector thrives on international contacts and exchange, and has grown accustomed to much travel in pursuit of research and collaborations. **Medieval urban history** is a particularly 'mobile' research field, with its scholars visiting scattered archives, tracing ancient city networks and attending conferences all over the world. Many plans and events have recently been cancelled, many collaborations made more difficult. Prominent among these, the longstanding contacts between British and Belgian medievalists, and more specifically between **Queen Mary University** and **Ghent University**, have consequently been postponed.

Yet fascinating new research in medieval urban history continues to emerge even during the crisis. Alongside the many disruptions, we have become used to work with sustainable digital conferencing. Hence we are able to meet again!

Sharing ideas with colleagues at welcoming, peer-to-peer conferences is especially important for early career scholars. These events offer them the opportunity to meet new people, learn about new research, receive input of various kinds, and sharpen their presentation skills. Medievalists at Queen Mary University London and Ghent University are now able to offer PhD-students and postdoctoral scholars the opportunity to do exactly that. Therefore, leading researchers in medieval urban history from both institutions have organised '*Somewhere beyond the sea. Belgo-British Research Encounters*', a digital series that will focus on the latest (PhD) research in medieval urban history.

You will find below a programme of exciting new and innovative research, which is open to all. The organising committee will consider proposals from other Belgian or British research institutions as of the start of next academic year (2<sup>nd</sup> half September 2020).

Find more information on the papers and speakers on <http://www.ugent.be/pirenne> or via Twitter: [@MedievalUGent](https://twitter.com/MedievalUGent). If you wish to know more about the institute or subscribe to our newsletter, email the coordinator: [Stefan.Meysman@UGent.be](mailto:Stefan.Meysman@UGent.be).

**Debates & lectures will take place in an MS TEAMS environment. You do not (necessarily) need an account to get access. The organisers do need to send you an invitation and web-link for easy access, so if you are interested, make yourself known!**