



Mare 2

Interreg



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Mecklenburg-Vorpommern / Brandenburg / Polska

Call for papers

International Conference
‘The post-mortem life of military orders in Central Europe’

3-5 December 2025

International Centre for Interdisciplinary Research at the University of Szczecin in Kulice

The Middle Ages were not only a crucial period in the formation of the European states of today, but also a mythical era, in which a number of ideas and topoi developed that we still referring to today. Although subsequent centuries added negative, calling it the Dark Ages and naming the dominant style of art as (barbaric) Gothic, the Middle Ages is nevertheless an extraordinary era in which (besides antiquity) the foundations of European identity were laid and the states, universities, cultural universalism, concepts and ideas, and literary topoi emerged, we often refer to today, as the famous myths of the Holy Grail and Robin Hood. In order to analyse in greater depth the use of narratives, topoi, myths and medieval symbols in the 20th and 21st centuries, a series of annual conferences entitled ‘Żywe średniowiecze / Living Medievalism’ will be launched. These motifs are still around us, they are given specific meanings depending on the prevailing social and political moods, and it seems that we are experiencing a certain renaissance. Many of them are founding myths for many nations, social groups or states, but their origins are critically examined by contemporary historical and archaeological research. However, since many narratives in the public sphere (e.g. in museum exhibitions, publications, films, reconstructions and re-enactments, or through monuments) directly refer to the Middle Ages, the following questions arise:

- How can we talk and educate people about these medieval narratives that are living among us without undermining historical foundations of collective identity?
- Can myths based on medieval narratives be attractive to contemporary tourists?
- How can they be presented in a way that does not offend those who, contrary to recent research, believe in them?
- How can one cope with overtly politicized narratives?

These questions will be addressed at two conferences. The first entitled ‘The Afterlife of Knightly Orders in Central Europe’, will be devoted to knightly orders (including the Templars, the Knights Hospitaller and the Teutonic Knights), around which many myths have accumulated over the centuries, and which often constitute an important element in the promotion of many tourist destinations in Europe and beyond. In a theoretical part aim such places in Central Europe will be identified and presented, based on latest medieval studies, and, in a practical part, it will be discussed drawing on experiences from across Central

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Europe, how to include them in activities to increase the attractiveness of the Euroregion Pomerania.

Please apply for participation in this conference with unpublished papers presenting detailed, synthetic and comparative approaches to knightly orders in Central Europe and the practical use of knowledge about them and their demythologisation in everyday life – in the fields of cultural heritage management and protection, tourism, regional development, regional policy, creation of tourist products, museums, education.

The conference will take place at the International Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Kulice on 3-5 December 2025.

Please submit your presentation title with a short abstract (up to 200 words) and short CV (up to 200 words), in one of the following languages: English, German, or Polish to pawel.migdalski@usz.edu.pl by 30 September 2025.

Conference languages will be Polish and English with simultaneous translation. A publication is planned after the conference.

The organisers will provide bus transport from Szczecin to the venue in Kulice and back, accommodation and meals in Kulice.

The conference series is organized in cooperation with:

- Centrum för medeltidsstudier – Historiska institutionen – Stockholm University, Sweden
- RESEARCH GROUP: Medieval History – religion and everyday life – Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion, University of Bergen, Norway

For further questions, please contact Dr. Paweł Migdalski, pawel.migdalski@usz.edu.pl

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Applications for participation as an expert – speaker

International Conference: ‘The post-mortem life of military orders in Central Europe’ (International Centre for Interdisciplinary Research at the University of Szczecin in Kulice) 3-5 December 2025	
Name and surname	
Institution	
Title of presentation	
Abstract (up to 200 words)	
Short CV (up to 200 words)	

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