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Albrecht Diem

Associate Professor, History

Degree

Ph.D., University of Utrecht, 2000

Specialties

History of Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages, early Medieval monasticism, hagiography, gender and sexuality

Personal Website

<http://syr.academia.edu/AlbrechtDiem>

Courses

HST 201: The Fall of the Roman Empire
 HST 210: The Ancient World
 HST 300: Death in the Middle Ages
 HST 301: Practicum in History
 HST 310: The Early Middle Ages
 HST/QSX 348: Queering the Middle Ages
 HST 398: Saints and Sinners in the Middle Ages
 HST 399: Early Monasticism
 HST 600: Utopian Communities and Total Institutions
 HST 803: Historical Methodology



Contact Information

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538 Eggers Hall
 (315) 443-0785

Office Hours:

Tuesday
 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Biography

Albrecht Diem is a historian of Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages. His research focuses on the history of Western monasticism from its beginnings to the period of the Carolingian monastic reforms. He approaches the history of monasticism as a long-term experiment in creating perfect communities, to overcome the effects of human sinfulness and to achieve institutional continuity. This "monastic experiment" produced a wide variety of theological frameworks and institutional models that had a lasting impact not only on monastic institutions but also on medieval society at large. Prof. Diem considers himself a historian of ideas and an archaeologist of concepts who contributes, for example, to the history of sex and love, silence, confession, discipline and control, bodies, space and boundaries. Prof. Diem's various projects in digital humanities can be found on earlymedievalmonasticism.org. He is an Associate Project Investigator of the Project [Visions of Community: Comparative Approaches to Ethnicity, Region and Empire in Christianity, Islam and Buddhism \(400-1600 CE\)](#) of the [Institute for Medieval Research](#) of the Austrian Academy of Science, Vienna.

Publications

Monographs

With Matthieu van der Meer: [*Columbanische Klosterregeln: Regula cuiusdam patris, Regula cuiusdam ad virgines, Regelfragment De accedendo*](#), St. Ottilien: EOS-editions 2016.

[*Das Monastische Experiment. Die Rolle der Keuschheit bei der Entstehung des westlichen Klosterwesens*](#), Vita Regularis, vol. 24, Münster: LIT-Verlag 2005.

Articles and Book Chapters

'Exclusion and the Rhetoric of Accessibility in the Late Antique and Early Medieval Monasticism', in: Sylvie Joye, Cristina la Rocca and Stephane Gioanny (eds.), [*La construction sociale du sujet exclu \(IVe-XIe siècle\) Discours, lieux et individus*](#), Turnhout: Brepols 2018.

Sept. 6, 2012: 'Die Regula Columbani', Conference *Gallus und seine Zeit. Leben, Wirken, Nachwirken*, organized by the Stiftsarchiv and Stiftsbibliothek St. Gallen, Switzerland (invited lecture).

July 11, 2012: 'Nuns Don't Carry Knives: Discipline and Theology in Columbanian Monasticism', *International Medieval Congress*, Leeds UK 2012.

July 3, 2012: 'Reform and Conflict in Early Medieval Monasticism', Conference *Compétition et sacré au haut Moyen Âge: entre médiation et exclusion*, University of Limoges (invited lecture).

June 19, 2012: 'Views from outside. Conflict and Identity in Early Medieval Monasticism', Conference *Ethnicity and Christian Discourse in the Early Middle Ages*, organized by the Institut für Mittelalterforschung, Austrian Academy of Sciences (invited lecture).

May 12, 2012: 'Monks and Nuns from Afar: Outsiders' Perspectives on Early Medieval Monasticism', *International Medieval Conference*, Kalamazoo MI.

February 2, 2012: 'Early Monastic Rules in the West', seminar of the Center for the Study of Early Christianity, Catholic University, Washington DC.

October 5, 2011: 'Die Wüste im Kopf: Askese und Sexualität im spätantiken Christentum', conference Let's think about sex, Frankfurt, organized in collaboration with the Frankfurter Rudschau (invited lecture).

September 30, 2011: 'Emotion management in early monastic rules', conference Self among Selves, Emotions and the Common Life, Maxwell School of Citizenship, Syracuse University (invited lecture).

July 12, 2011: 'Monks writing (their) history: techniques of constructing a suitable past', International Medieval Congress, Leeds.

May 12, 2011: 'Negotiating the Past: Reform and Conflict in Early Medieval Monasticism', International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo MI.

April 14, 2011: 'Gregory's Chessboard: Asceticism and Monastic Life in the Works of Gregory of Tours', Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, Scottsdale (Phoenix), AZ.

March 29, 2011: 'Radegund and the singing barbarian. Christian amateurism in the 6th century', Center for Medieval Studies, University of Minnesota (invited lecture).

Feb. 28, 2011, 'Nuns don't carry knives. Everyday monastic life in the seventh century', Brown bag lecture, Medieval Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (invited lecture).

Dec. 9, 2010: 'Monastic identities - ethnic identities: competitive concepts of the past', Conference Ethnic Identities in Early Medieval Europe, Institute for Medieval Research. Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna (invited lecture).

Oct. 25, 2010: 'The Invention of Monasticism', Seminar of the Institute for Research in the Humanities, University of Wisconsin-Madison (invited lecture).

March 15, 2010: 'Who is allowed to pray for the king? Monasticism and ethnical boundaries in the Early Middle Ages', Center for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto.