PRESENTATION

The Research Institute in Medieval Cultures (http://www.ircvm.ub.edu/) was born in 2008 within the University of Barcelona, aiming to carry out high-level research on the medieval period. The Institute gathers and coordinates all those researchers that tackle the Middle Ages across a wide range of disciplines at the UB.

As a research institute devoted to the humanities it is crucial to relay on a strong analysis background in order to provide different perspectives on a same subject, or to attain similar research targets from related disciplines. This necessary interdisciplinary approach prompted the creation of the Institute, and remains until now a key strategy in its structure and functioning. Currently IRCVM is the most powerful Research Institute in Europe specialized in the medieval period, as regards to the number of its members (ninety: eighty-two from the UB and 8 from the associated institution Milà i Fontanals-CSIC), and as regards to the diversity of the fields it gathers, among many others: Philology, Literature, Archival Science, Paleography, Diplomacy, Philosophy, Music, History, History of Art, Archaeology, Law and Economics.

Some of IRCVM’s priority management targets are creating the necessary facilities to ensure the internationalization of its research teams, the commitment to a quality education through its master and PhD programs, and a firm commitment to the dissemination and transfer of knowledge.

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Institute Board:
- Director: Dr. Meritxell Simó.
- Deputy Director: Dr. Antoni Conejo.
- Secretary: Dr. Marta Sancho.
- Coordinator of the Doctorate in Medieval Cultures: Dr. Blanca Garí.
- Coordinator of the Master in Medieval Cultures: Dr. Mercè Puig.
- Representative of the Association Ardit

Research Board
Experts Board
Plenary

RESEARCH GROUPS

The Research Institute gathers five consolidated research groups (SGR), formed by researchers from the University of Barcelona and other universities. Each SGR leads one or more projects that can be of a European, National or regional scope. Each
project develops high-level investigations and theses, publishing papers in international journals and books, and participating in congresses.

**PUBLICATIONS POLICY**

The Research Institute combines the necessary internationalisation of its research with the vindication of the non-Anglosaxon languages as a cultural heritage, editing all of its publications in the author's original language and their English translation.

The Institute's publications policy revolves around three consolidated structures. *Irvm Medieval Cultures* and the journal *SVemma* translate the Institute's aim to majorly disseminate results within a short-time period; while the collection *Lliçons/Lessons*, originated from the one-day seminars *Jornades de Cultures Medievals*, symbolizes the Institute's firm commitment to a quality dissemination.

**IRCVm- Medieval Cultures**: collection published by the editorial Viella (Rome) mainly electronically, yet also on paper under demand. The results of individual or collective researches are published within this collection. The international prestige of Viella is a solid guarantee of the quality of the published works, carried out by a rigorous text selection process performed by the editorial board and subsequently submitted to a blind peer review process.


**Col·lecció Lliçons/Lessons**, published by Publicacions UB: it gathers the lessons or lectures that have taken place within the one-day seminars *Jornades de Cultures Medievals* held twice a year by the Institute, in spring and fall. *Lessons* has a remarkably informative character, in order to approach the investigations carried out by the members of the Institute to the general audience.

**ONGOING EDUCATION**

IRCVM provides young researchers a training process that bonds the undergraduate studies with the *Master in Medieval Cultures* and the *Doctorate in Medieval Cultures*, which are taught from a distinctly interdisciplinary and transversal perspective. During the process the students are involved in the different investigations carried by the several research groups having a wide range of available scholars who can advise them during their education. From 2016 the Research Institute has additionally created the *IRCVM International School*, a framework that provides institutional coverage to teach activities aimed at foreign students.
COMMITMENT TO YOUNG RESEARCHERS

As a result of the existence of the Institute and its link with the Master in Medieval Cultures and the Doctorate in Medieval Cultures, the number of young medievalists has recently increased. Some years ago an extremely active group of organized young students created the association Ardit, which organizes several dissemination and research activities. Among others must be highlighted the Ardit International Congress of Medievalists, held every two years, the Ardit Networking, the Tandem Seminars, or the creation of the MOOC Magic in the Middle Ages. http://arditculturesmedievals.weebly.com/.

Due to the quality of their research and the contributions made to the achievement and objectives that prompted the creation of IRCVM, the Ardit association has become a cornerstone of the Institute.

Additionally, in order to promote the scientific works of young researchers the Institute created in 2017 the “research award Dr. Saladié Roig”. This annual research award has a prize of 500 euros and offers the possibility of disseminating the winner’s research work through IRCVM's several publishing platforms.

DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

IRCVM's aim is to disseminate the medieval period to society by providing an open window to the past based on quality and scientific studies, differentiating itself from other institutes that usually focus their dissemination within the university's internal circuits. This knowledge exchange vocation is born from the Institute's conviction that the University's role must be attracting society towards the scientific activity, as also the conviction of the Middle Ages' relevance, a period bonded to the idea of Europe's birth, offering many key-facts that allow us to better understand our global and complex present. In fact, the reflection on the relevance of Middle Ages (which is shown by the current multiple display of historical novels, movies, video games or the success of medieval fairs), and on the need to study the past in order to understand our present have been since the beginning the backbone of IRCVM's dissemination activities.

IRCVM's will to become a key reference regarding the study of the medieval world in Catalonia has led us to channel the dissemination of all these research and knowledge transfer activities through a policy of planned collaborations and agreements with the leading cultural institutions of the country (among others ICD, Filmoteca de la Generalitat de Catalunya, IEC, MUHBA, MNAC, IMED, Fundació Romea per a les Arts Escèniques, Ateneu Barcelonés...) and to enhance the visualization of our projects by disseminating through the mass media the results of the investigations directed by the Institution.

Some of the various actions that have been taken place following the Institute's policy of dissemination and knowledge transfer are:
Organization of the one-day conference *Jornades de Cultures Medievals*. Since 2008 IRCVM has reached out both to the university community and the Catalan society by organizing scientific conferences, held periodically, every spring and autumn, in order to raise awareness, in terms of dissemination and knowledge transfer, of the accomplished progress and results. These sessions are recorded on video and posted on the website of the Institute.

*Abrils de l’Hospital*. Since 2012 IRCVM organizes every year a scientific conference that revolves around the history of hospitals in the medieval and modern period. The format is versatile. Up to date a round table, an international symposium, a seminar and three scientific conferences have been taken place.

The seminar *Ircvm International* hosts the lectures and courses by renowned international medievalists.

Dissemination through the media and cultural industries. IRCVM has established regular contacts with the non-specialized press (managing the blog “Medievalistes en bloc” by the magazine *Sapiens*, as also being a member of the Scientific Comitee of the journals *Món Medieval* and *Revista Medieval*, etc.) and other media. The Institute also organizes dissemination activities and collaborates with cultural institutions such as *La Filmoteca*, or the *Fundació Romea per a les Arts Escèniques*.

Arrangement and realization of courses, seminars, conferences and educational materials for their dissemination on the network.