

Call for papers

Multilingualism and education en pre-modern Europe

Myths, Monsters, and Catastrophes: Medieval Imagery as an Educational Tool for Social Control.

Throughout the Middle Ages, numerous legends and myths, often drawing from classical traditions, were disseminated with significant moral, instructional and political components. Political propaganda is a communication technique and strategy utilized since antiquity, and during the Middle Ages, it expanded its reach and methods of communication, frequently employing iconographic representations in literature, sculpture, and painting.

Considering the high rate of illiteracy, these communicative methods became favored strategies for the educational policies of premodern society. Through numerous historical examples, it can be observed that the existence and dissemination of mythology could be part of constructing propaganda aimed at persuading individuals in medieval society to develop their collective thought and behavior.

In this study, I will analyze the various communication techniques developed through mythical and legendary elements, which were used to educate a society deeply influenced by Christian values. The methodology employed involves gathering mythological symbology from medieval bestiaries from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>, along with their influences: the *Etymologies* of Isidore of Seville and the *Vulgate* of Saint Jerome. Then, I will analyze it from an educational perspective to relate it to cohesive elements of social life such as Christian virtues or sin. Finally, the aim is to understand how it could be applied to different historical processes.