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Editorial

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A little over a year ago, an initiative was launched with the aim of bringing together all of the IRCVM projects and researchers working on the subject of women in the Middle Ages and establishing synergies between us. Under the name *Women in the Middle Ages: power, creation and territory*, the group was presented at a round table at the 24th IRCVM Conference on Medieval Cultures. The group's first activity was the creation of a permanent seminar to publicise our research and reach out to people with the same research interests.

In recent months, these initiatives have taken the shape, firstly, of joining the Local Time Machine, under the title *Women, Power and Territory in the Middle Ages*. The aim of this platform is to collectively generate “big data” on European history. Our contribution consists of a virtual reconstruction and mapping of spaces of female patronage, of women's networks of monastic and spiritual practice, and of preserved and documented works of art by women from the Middle Ages.

Finally, at the beginning of summer, the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) approved the project titled *Reality and Fiction of Medieval Women* (FCT-21-17194), which aims to carry out a series of activities to raise awareness regarding medieval women. The intention of this project is to make the female medieval past better known to the general, non-specialised public and to secondary school pupils. Support for the project will take the form of the creation of a website that will allow all the planned activities to be visualised in the form of podcasts on different topics related to medieval women, dramatizations on life in the monasteries, audiovisual productions, aimed especially at showing the complex relationship between medieval women and their literary portraits, information capsules on female ageing in the Middle Ages, videos and workshops on Barcelona's female residents in the year 1000 and, finally, a travelling exhibition or didactic toolkit that will bring together all the thematic axes of the project and make them available to the public.

Without a doubt, many challenges - and a lot of work - await us, but behind all these actions lies the will to communicate the reality of medieval women and to deepen our knowledge of the past. If you would like to find out more about what we will be doing, just follow the IRCVM's communication channels.

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