

## Session 19 Main Session

### Cross disciplinary approaches to domestic cultures in premodern cities in Europe and beyond, 13th-17th centuries

#### Organizers

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#### Keywords

premodern domestic cultures, interdisciplinary methodologies, material culture, urban identity, gender and class

#### Synthesis

This session examines premodern urban domestic cultures through interdisciplinary methods, integrating archaeology, historical texts, material culture, iconography, and social history. By combining diverse sources, it reveals the complexities of domestic life and its cultural dynamics in cities across Europe and beyond.

#### Presentation

The study of premodern domestic cultures in urban contexts has often been constrained by traditional disciplinary boundaries and a limited range of sources. This session aims to break new ground by bringing together interdisciplinary methodologies and diverse types of sources to examine domestic cultures in premodern cities. It will explore how recent innovations in historical research, material culture studies, art history, and archaeological analysis can be used to shed new light on the diverse ways in which people who lived in cities engaged with and shaped their environment.

Recent scholarship has increasingly focused on the concept of the “everyday” and how daily practices and material conditions shape cultural identities. This shift reflects a growing interest in understanding the lived experiences of individuals and communities. However, scholars have often struggled with the limitations of available sources and methodologies when it comes to studying these spaces in detail. In this context, the session will draw attention to the rich potential of combining a variety of sources – such as household inventories, legal documents, visual representations, and archaeological remains – alongside innovative methodologies, including digital modelling, spatial analysis, and experimental archaeology. By emphasizing new ways of approaching old questions, this session seeks to offer fresh insights into the cultural, social, and economic dynamics of these domestic environments.

Potential themes that will align with the aims of the session include:

- Interdisciplinary Approaches to Domestic Space: Exploring how different academic fields can be integrated to study domestic environments and urban life in premodern cities.
- Material Culture and Domestic Practices: Investigating how everyday objects, furniture, and domestic artifacts reflect cultural values and social hierarchies within urban homes.
- The Role of Architecture in Shaping Domestic Life: Analysing how the design, layout, and construction of homes influenced the daily lives of premodern city dwellers.
- Gender, Class, and Domestic Space: Exploring how and to what extent domestic spaces were gendered and how different social classes experienced and used domestic environments in varying ways.
- Domestic Space and Urban Identity: Considering the relationship between private domestic spaces and the broader urban environment, including how homes both reflected and contributed to the identity of premodern cities.
- Digital Approaches to Domestic Culture: Showcasing the use of digital technologies to map and analyse domestic spaces in historic cities.
- Representation of Domestic Spaces in Art and Text: Examining how visual and literary representations of domestic interiors and domestic practices inform our understanding of daily life in premodern cities.