

# The Natural and the Supernatural in Medieval and Early Modern Worlds

Perth Medieval and Renaissance Group / UWA Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies  
Annual Conference

WHEN: Saturday 7 October 2017  
WHERE: University Hall, The University of Western Australia  
WEBSITE: <http://conference.pmrg.org.au/>  
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Today, the natural and the supernatural are often viewed in stark opposition. In the medieval and early modern period, however, the supernatural infused every aspect of daily life. Prayers and rites punctuated everyday routines, and natural phenomena – such as earthquakes and eclipses – were often viewed with both suspicion and wonder or as divine portents. Miracle stories, rumours of witchcraft, and accounts of relic veneration all indicate that magic shaped medieval and early modern imaginations. The early modern period was also an era of European exploration, invasion and colonisation, which saw the increase of scientific knowledge through encounters with a number of societies around the

globe. Natural histories, travel narratives, and objects circulated widely, creating new connections and shaping existing belief systems. As these sources demonstrate, however, persecution also abounded, and was often prompted by perceived differences in culture or beliefs about the (super)natural.

This conference will examine the numerous and various intersections of the natural and the supernatural.

#### **Keynote Speakers**

Professor Chris Wortham (Notre Dame)  
Dr Kirk Essary (UWA)

**REGISTRATION:** <https://www.trybooking.com/SCOJ>

Standard \$70; PMRG \$50; Concession \$15

