

Editorial

Walter Pohl and Ingrid Hartl

It is with great pleasure that we introduce a new additional format to our *Medieval Worlds* volumes – the special issue. It will provide a platform for publishing the proceedings of conferences and specially edited collections of studies which not only form a thematic unit but also engage in comparative or interdisciplinary discourse with each other. In this way, these dedicated studies distinctively further the aims of our journal.

This is what our first special issue does with great skill. Seven case studies examine medieval biographical collections from different cultural and religious backgrounds – Buddhist, Christian and Muslim. Their findings form the basis of three comparative chapters, in which the authors of the case studies present aspects of comparison which emerged from in their joint discussions. The introduction and conclusion form an overall framework that provides our readership with a broader comparative overview.

We will publish our special issues in addition to our regular volumes, apart from the usual publication dates of 1 July and 1 December. In order to maintain our policy of open access to research we will ask the guest editors of the special issues either to copy-edit the manuscripts themselves or to pay a modest fee.

We welcome proposals for possible future special editions – and for now we hope that you enjoy our very first special issue.