

During the thirteenth century networks between southern France and the Latin East existed through the movement of objects and people. The waging of religious warfare both in France and abroad enabled the circulation of objects and the interaction of culture, languages, and social practices via the maritime and land routes of pilgrims and holy warriors. Two conferences at Stanford and University of Poitiers on “Crusade, Networks, and Exchanges” will examine how the mobility of objects and people influenced artworks, architecture, and mentalities of crusading. Some questions we look forward to investigating include: How were objects perceived in new contexts and how did they influence cultural production? How do cultural exchanges influence engineering and architectural practices? With presentations by leading experts and rising scholars of different disciplines, the conferences aim to offer an opportunity to broaden our understanding of mercantile, artistic, and ideological exchanges and cultural translations in European and non-European cultures. The principle aim of these conferences is to establish intellectual exchange between Stanford Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (CMEMS) and the Centre d'études supérieures de civilisation médiévale (CESCM) at University of Poitiers. The research presented will lay the foundation for future collaboration between Francophone and American medievalists.