



The Construction of Space(s) and Identity(s) in Medieval Literature: Geoffrey Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales as a Case Study [

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Analítica

This paper examines the engagement of medieval literature in the construction of identities, particularly those of Europe and Muslims. While the former is represented as a unified Christian space, the latter is depicted as an external threat that endangers God's plan and kingdom. Hence, medieval literature distinguished two opposing spatiality's namely Christendom and Heathendom. Such spatial configuration deliberately overlooked internal schisms and antagonisms that characterized medieval Europe and instead opted for an ideal utopian vision, which has its origin in crusading discourses that emphasized unity in the face of "infidels". To examine these issues, the paper takes as an example Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales, which is considered by many as one of the most influential medieval literary works. Medieval ideological othering hasad still- shaped underst ndings and configurations of the various contacts between West and East and between Islam, Christianity and Judaism. The paper further enriches thediscussion by a focus on cross-cultural interchange that informs Chaucer's oeuvre, particularly the influence of Medieval Arabic scientific studies on his conception of lovesickness. Such interchange paradoxically problematizes the western condemnatory attitude towards Islam

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Baratz Innovación Documental

- Gran Vía, 59 28013 Madrid
- (+34) 91 456 03 60
- informa@baratz.es