

# Cambridge Elements

Elements in the Global Middle Ages

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## GLOBAL MEDIEVALISM

*An Introduction*

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# Global Medievalism

## An Introduction

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**Abstract:** The typical vision of the Middle Ages that Western popular culture represents to its global audience is deeply Eurocentric. *The Lord of the Rings* and *Game of Thrones* franchises imagine entire medievalist worlds, but we see only a fraction of them through the stories and travels of the characters. Organised around the theme of mobility, this Element seeks to deconstruct the Eurocentric orientations of Western popular medievalisms, which typically position Europe as either the whole world or the centre of it, by making them visible and offering alternative perspectives. How does popular culture represent medievalist worlds as global – connected by the movement of people and objects? How do imagined mobilities allow us to create counterstories that resist Eurocentric norms? This study represents the start of what will hopefully be a fruitful and inclusive conversation about what the Middle Ages did and should look like.

**Keywords:** medieval, popular culture, medievalism, fantasy, Vikings

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## Contents

Introduction	1
Medieval Mobilities: Vikings	12
Dealing with Dragons: Two Approaches to Global Medievalist Epic	26
A World Elsewhere: Reimagining Global Medievalisms in Fantasy	41
Coda: Global Medievalism Redux	59
Bibliography	62