



ORGANITZA



COL·LABORA



When the sources don't speak. Methodological challenges in the study of medieval Norwegian monasteries

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of medieval Norwegian monasteries

Researching the history of medieval monasteries and religious houses in Norway is a challenge. Not only because of difficulties related to choosing a sensible approach, making reasonable delimitations geographically and temporarily, or because the sources are difficult to interpret. The main challenge is connected to the fact that most of these institutions are barely visible, - both in the preserved source material and in Norwegian historiography. Still, in my PhD-thesis I am trying to investigate the history of these institutions, which are generally regarded as having been important and influential, even though very few traces of their history have survived into modern times. In this paper I will present my research project and address some of the more challenging aspects of this work, along with the consequences these challenges have for the writing of medieval monastic history in Norway.

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