UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

# UvA-DARE (Digital Academic Repository)

## Images of ethnicity in later medieval Europe

Weeda, C.V.

**Publication date**
2012

Link to publication

**Citation for published version (APA):**
Weeda, C. V. (2012). *Images of ethnicity in later medieval Europe*. [Thesis, fully internal, Universiteit van Amsterdam].

**General rights**
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

**Disclaimer/Complaints regulations**
If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, P.O. Box 19185, 1000 GD Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.

*UvA-DARE is a service provided by the library of the University of Amsterdam (https://dare.uva.nl)*

Download date:15 Sept 2026

# Table of Contents

Acknowledgements 7

Introduction 8

Points of departure 11; Debates on national and ethnic identity 16; Development of medieval ethnic groups 20; Medieval categories of ethnicity: *Names*; *Myths of common ancestry*; *Shared historical memories*; *Differentiating elements of common culture*; *Association with a homeland*; *Sense of solidarity*; *Language and law* 22; Ethnic stereotypes and character 29; Factors of ethnic stereotyping 32; Scope of research 38; Summary 40

PART I: LEARNED CONCEPTS OF ETHNICITY 46

1 New Horizons 47

Axes of identity: from East to West 51; Bartholomaeus' entries 53; The fabric of geographical description 57; Etymologies and ethnicity 58; The religious landscape 63; The core of Christendom and civilization 67; The fringes of civilized Christendom 73; Christians in name, pagans in fact 78; Lands of milk and honey 80

2. The Reappraisal of the North 88

The reintroduction of climate theory 90; Ancient climate theory: frigid, temperate and torrid zones 93; Divisions of the earth 94; Ideal temperate climate 95; Humoural theory 97; Applying climate theory in the twelfth century 100; Skin colour and complexion 101; The pursuit of temperance 108; Environment and the translation of knowledge 113

3. The Fixed and the Fluent 118

The racism debate 121; Innate and mutable complexions 124; Parental transmission of complexional types 126; Migration and complexional change 129; Compulsory mutability and Christianity 133; Complexional imbalance and sin 135

PART II: CATALOGUES OF HUMAN DIVERSITY 140

Pragmatic and poetic catalogues 143

4. Moral Catalogues of Mankind 146

Ethnic lists 148; Food for thought 150; Contrasting virtues and vices 154; Peoples in time and space 158; The apostolic mission to the earth's boundaries 162; Apocalyptic visions 165; Chosen peoples and salvation 166; Development of catalogues 167

5. Painting Peoples 169

Moulding stereotyped characters 172; Painting mental pictures 174; Ethnic images as arguments 178; Striking a chord with proverbs 180; Collections of proverbs 182; Territories and peoples 187; The plenitude of diversity 190

6. Ethnic invective and ridicule 195

Categories of ridicule and invective 197; Relational aspects of identity and humour 198; Denigrating humour, rhetoric and social relations 200; Anti-Roman satire and invective 202; Ethnic flytings 206; Name games 210; Tailed Englishmen 212; Dissolving ethnic tensions 217

PART III: CARVING REPUTATIONS IN FRANCE, GERMANY AND ENGLAND 226

7. French Control and German Rage 229

Stereotypes as capital 232; Barbarity 234; Rise of the *preudomme* 237; Raging German minds 239; Mirroring images 241; Noble French knights 244; 'French' crusaders 246; Tensions in the First Crusade 250; Unbearable Germans 251; Knighthood and climate theory 255; France, home of chivalry 257; German reactions 259

8. The Pursuit of Courtliness 264

Identities in twelfth-century England 267; The shame of the English 271; The civilizing process 273; Englishness and ideals of civility 277; Generosity and wealth 279; England a horn of plenty 282; England's marginality 283; The pursuit of temperance 285; Court criticism: luxuriousness 290; Divorcing the Germans 292

9. The Wages of Drinking 296

The battle between wine and beer 299; The sin of binge drinking 302; Heredity of drinking 304; Embracing drinking customs 306; Drunken English knights 309; Images of Anglo-French relations 312; Drunkenness and the migration myth 315; Anglo-Saxon drunkenness and the Battle of Hastings 317; The fate of the people 321

Conclusion 324

Beelden van ethniciteit in laat-middeleeuws Europa 329

Appendixes 336

Bibliography 348