

# Review of: "Blacks in the Middle Ages – What About Racism in the Past? Literary and Art-Historical Reflections"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

While Albrecht Classen has found texts and images that add depth to the discussion of medieval notions of racial Blackness, this is not sufficient to be apply the evidence offer in the text to all racialized groups in the Middle Ages, as Classen does not discuss evidence for other minority (especially religious) groups, such as Jews and Muslims. Nor is it sufficient to dismiss all the scholarship on medieval racial notions. Classen's tone, in the Introduction and Conclusion in particular, is too antagonistic toward scholars of race in the Middle Ages. Classen should note that discussion of race is now apply to Classical Antiquity as well. The analysis of images is brief and flawed. The discussion of the image of the queen Sheba, for example, neglects the accompanying Latin text, where the African queen is a seductive mirror and bellows that blacken European young men. I do not recommend publication of this piece in its current stage because it dismisses as presentist political wokism serious academic discussions about race in the Middle Ages, while engaging in its own political agenda against this scholarship, rather than engaging with it seriously and delving into examples that add depth to the discussion, as the textual examples Classen offer may do. To do the same with images, Classen needs to engage more rigorously with them.