



University  
of Victoria

Centre for Studies in  
Religion and Society

# SCHOLARS IN THE SQUARE



Brian Pollick



## The Shape of the World: Knowledge Visualization in the Medieval Ages

The use of advanced computer graphic capability to represent facts and relationships in visual form—what we call knowledge visualization—has now become a major field of scholarly activity. But the use of complex imagery to transfer knowledge dates back hundreds of years and is global in scope. I examine the use of such imagery in medieval Europe, where the practice was especially well-developed, and spanned the entire range of intellectual, technical, and practical activity.

**Brian Pollick** holds a PhD in art history from UVic. His research examines the visual forms used for knowledge visualization in the global middle ages.

Image: 'Byrhtferth's Diagram' from a copy of Bede of Northumberland's *De Natura Rerum*. England, 1110. Oxford, St. John's College, MS 17, folio 7v.

October 30, 2025  
CLE B017  
5:00–6:00pm PT

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