Stuttgarter Psalter, Württembergische Landesbibliothek Stuttgart, Cod. bibl. fol. 23 (Saint-Germain-des-Prés, c. 801).

MEDIEVAL TEXTS AND THEIR SOCIAL CONTEXTS

Performance, Performativity, Agents and Genres

Thursday and Friday 13–14 November 2025
Sint-Baafshuis, Biezekapelstraat 2, Ghent, Belgium

Day 1

09:00 – 09:30
Opening

SESSION 1
09:30 – 11:00
Moderator: Gowaart Van Den Bossche

Zeynep Aydoğan (Boğaziçi University, Istanbul)
Performance and Transmission in Anatolian Turkish Warrior Epics

Organisers
Jeroen De Gussem, Universiteit Gent
Robert Gallagher, University of Kent
Gowaart Van Den Bossche, Universität Zürich
Dinah Wouters, Universiteit Utrecht & Rijksuniversiteit Groningen
Henri Pirenne Institute for Medieval Studies

Literatures without Borders
RELICS Researchers of European Literary Identities, Cosmopolitanism and the Schools
fwo Research Foundation Flanders Opening new horizons
Ghent University Faculty of Arts and Philosophy
Henri Pirenne Institute for Medieval Studies

Olivia Colquitt (Heinrich Heine University of Düsseldorf)
Textuality, Narrativity, Performativity: Identity Entanglements in the Middle English and Greek Floire et Blancheflor

Stefka G. Eriksen (University of Oslo)
Translating Textuality, Visuality, and Performativity in Medieval Manuscript Culture: A Case-Study of the Story about Yvain, the Knight of the Lion, in Old French and Old Norse Contexts

11:00 – 11:30
Break

SESSION 2
11:30 – 13:00
Moderator: Jeroen De Gussem

Thom Gobbitt (Karl-Franzens University, Graz)
Saying It and Paying It Threefold: Repetition in the Lombard Law on Arson

Inês Olaia (University of Lisbon)
Performance, Space, Lordship: Assuming Control of a Medieval Town in Late Medieval Portugal

Vid Žepič (University of Ljubljana)
Performing Justice: Judicial Gestures, Symbols, and Insignia in Medieval Legal Culture

13:00 – 14:00
Lunch

SESSION 3
14:00 – 15:30
Moderator: Robert Gallagher

Katherine Weikert (University of Winchester)
Dark Objects and Living Books: Agencies of Medieval Insular Cartularies, 1100–1250

Wim Verbaal (Ghent University)
The Performing Book or Why You Do Not Read a Medieval Manuscript

Gowaart Van Den Bossche (University of Zürich)
A Soldier Walks into a Bar: Performative Language Use Between Colloquial and Rhymed Prose in Late Medieval Arabic Historiography

15:30 – 16:00
Break

SESSION 4
16:00 – 17:30
Moderator: Dinah Wouters

Joletta De Smedt (Mozarteum University Salzburg)
The Problem of Text Underlay in Plainchant and Polyphony: The Inherent Quality of the Hexachord Syllables

Robert Flierman (Utrecht University)
Eat, Pray, Love. The (Diverse) Uses of Letters in Post-Roman Europe

Jeroen De Gussem (Ghent University)
Detecting Auditory Features of Prose Style in Anglo-Latin Hagiography (900-1150) with Stylometry: The Case of Folcard of St-Bertin

19:00

Dinner at Knol&Kool, Heilige-Geeststraat 30, 9000 Gent

Day 2

SESSION 5
09:30 – 11:00
Moderator: Jo Van Steenbergen

Suzanne Pinckney Stetkevych (Georgetown University)
Rhetoric and Reliquary: Performance and Reperformance of al-Būṣīrī's Mantle Ode (Burdat al-Būṣīrī) to the Prophet Muḥammad

Lorenzo Maria Ciolfi (Complutense University of Madrid)
Liturgical Performance and the Synaxarium of Constantinople

James Drysdale Miller (University of Oxford / British School, Rome)
Armarii, Communal Reading and Orthodox Interpretation: Celebrating the Feasts of St Benedict at Eleventh-Century Fleury

11:00 – 11:30
Break

SESSION 6
11:30 – 13:00
Moderator: Jeroen Deploige

Heather Taylor (University of Kent)
Flipping the Social Script: Performative Rituals to Assert Social Agency in Late-Medieval England

Pamela King (University of Glasgow)
Respectability Challenged in Late Medieval York: A Play, a Scotsman, and a Pair of Prosthetic Arms

Kristin Hoefener (University Nova of Lisbon)
Processionals and Processions: Cross-Examining Dominican Practices in the 15th Century and Today

13:00 – 14:00
Lunch

14:00 – 15:00
Roundtable with Wim Verbaal (Ghent University) and Alice Hicklin (King's College London).

Venue information

The venue lies right in front of the ibis hotel, on the other side of the Sint-Baafsplein next to the cathedral. You enter the building via Biezekapelstraat 2. The conference will take place in **Room 1.07**.

Bikes can be placed in the side entrance via the Kapittelstraat.