

Annual Highlights

2 successful PhD students: Rasmus Vangshardt & Chiara D'Agostini

In 2021 two PhD students at CML successfully defended their PhD theses. Rasmus Vangshardt's thesis *The Theatrum Mundi of Celebration. Pedro Calderón de la Barca and the World Theatre as Aesthetic Theodicy* uses the absolute metaphor of the theatrum mundi – the world theater – to study a transitional phase in European literature between the Middle Ages and early modernity.

Chiara D'Agostini's thesis, titled *Mapping Empires: Re-appropriations of Ptolemy's Geography from the 12th to the 15th Centuries*, explores the medieval reception of Ptolemy's Geography, considering text and maps from a new angle and focusing on its relevance to the construction of a quintessentially Byzantine 'geographical imagination'.

3 PhD schools

Three PhD schools were held in 2021. The first was *Medieval Literature Across Languages* organized by Christian Høgel and Julian Yolles and this multilingual summer school took place online 17-18 May. The main goal was to enable PhD students - starting from scratch or only very fundamental of a language - to begin reading the Barlaam and Ioasaph story in one of four languages: Arabic, Georgian, Greek or Latin.

The second was *(Un)-Equal Pairs? Comparative Literature, Time and Place from the Middle Ages to the Present Time*. At the one-day PhD school arranged by the Medieval Centre at the University of Fribourg in September, Tyler, Mortensen and Høgel were invited to give lectures on different aspects of CML's work. The PhD school was followed by the biannual international medieval conference in Fribourg.

In October, colleagues from Fordham, York and Ghent came together to lead the Henri Pirenne Institute of Medieval Studies (Ghent) annual autumn school for postgraduate students. At Ghent, students attended in person and online from various places in Europe and we were joined by PhD students from Fordham University. The theme of the workshop was 'Scales of Knowledge: From Cosmos to Book'.

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The 2021 issue of Interfaces offers two thematic clusters and has come about through close collaboration especially with colleagues in Belgium and in Iceland and the UK. One group of articles deals with The Astronomical Imagination in Literature through the Ages and is edited by former CML postdoc Dale Kedwards. With case studies ranging from the Carolingian age to Kepler and beyond, it highlights, among other things, how an imaginary view of the earth from the outside was entirely possible in pre-modern literature. The second group of articles focus on Medieval Authorship and Canonicity in the Digital Age and is edited by Jeroen de Gussem and Jeroen Deploige. Capitalizing on the latest development in digital stylometrics for medieval Latin texts, the cluster breaks new ground in the methodology of author attributions and the problems of multiple authorship.

Monograph by CML postdoc Julian Yolles

Julian Yolles (postdoctoral researcher at CML 2018-2022) had his monograph *Making the East Latin: The Latin Literature of the Levant in the Era of the Crusades* accepted by Dumbarton Oaks Press. The volume will be published in May 2022. In this Yolles examines the hybrid Latin literature – a "Levantine Latinity" – produced in Crusader settlements in the Near East during the twelfth century. This literature was distinct from that in Europe, and this new literary tradition both drew on and resisted Levantine Muslim, Christian, and Jewish cultures in the newly occupied territories. In his book Yolles analyzes the literary and rhetorical techniques used and shows how the Crusader settlers responded to their new environment while maintaining ties with their homelands in western Europe.