



Internationale Gesellschaft für Theologische Mediävistik e.V.
International Society for the Study of Medieval Theology



Universität
Münster

fth
Freie Theologische
Hochschule Gießen

**Annual Conference of the
International Society for the Study of Medieval Theology (IGTM)**
18 June – 20 June 2026, University of Münster (Westfalen, Germany)

**Border Crossings and Interaction: Latin and the Vernacular in Late Medieval
Theology and Piety (1300–1500)**



Pfingsten, Hoya Missale des Meisters Zweder van Culemborg, um 1420
(Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Münster)

Call for Papers

Theme

In recent decades, the study of the relationship between Latin and vernacular languages in the late Middle Ages has grown in importance. For instance, research has examined the relationship between Latin and German in various text genres from 1100 to 1500 (Nigel/Palmer, 1992). Vernacular edification literature and sermons (Schiewer 2000) as well as Bible translations (Sonderegger 1998) have also been researched and edited in the linguistic and literary sub-disciplines of medieval studies. Against this background, the IGTM 2026 conference aims to take **a specifically theological perspective on the relationship between Latin and vernacular languages in the late Middle Ages (1300–1500)**, during which there was a veritable “literary explosion” (Kuhn 1980).

The focus is on scientific and popular theological texts from the 14th and 15th centuries in the interaction between Latin and the vernacular. As part of scholarly discourse, theological texts are generally written in Latin and are produced in both university and monastic contexts. As the non-Latin-writing laity grew in importance and demanded religious participation, theological treatises were translated into the vernacular from the 14th century onwards, and vernacular theological, catechetical, and edifying texts were published for the laity.

The conference would like to take a closer look at Latin and vernacular texts, if possible considering the relationship between the original text and its translation, to shed light on the theology/philosophy and aspects of piety that are tangible and to search for appropriate categorizations.

The variety of unexplored aspects gives rise to the following **topics and questions**:

- Which theological and philosophical topics are addressed in vernacular texts? Are there theological topics that are not found in the vernacular versions, and if so, why? To what extent and how did the vernacular spread in learned theological circles in the late Middle Ages, for example, through the parallel publication of Latin and vernacular texts?
- How do Latin and vernacular versions of texts relate to each other, for instance in sermons and catechesis?
- What is the relationship between Latin and vernacular texts in the devotional and pious literature from the late Middle Ages, e.g., in devotional books or prayer books, legends of saints, and mirror literature? Who receives these texts, and how do Latin and vernacular texts relate to each other in terms of transmission and reception?
- To what extent do extraliterary factors, such as the requirements of liturgical use (Stridde 2011), the reform and observance movements of the 15th century, or the development of national consciousness and national languages (Korenjak 2018), play a role in the emergence of vernacular theological texts?

We invite you **to examine the relationship between Latin and vernacular texts in theology and piety through comparison, overview, or exemplary case studies**. Please submit a contribution for the conference under these questions.

Practical Matters

The organizers welcome paper proposals submitted in German or English. Each paper should last 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes of discussion. Please submit your **proposal with an abstract of no more than 100 words and a brief bio** (including your name, email address, and institutional affiliation, if applicable) **by December 1, 2025**, to

Prof. Dr. Ingo Klitzsch ingo.klitzsch@uni-muenster.de and

Prof. Dr. Ulrike Treusch treusch@fth.de

Please note: The conference will take place in person. As is customary with IGTM conferences, travel and accommodation costs are not eligible for reimbursement.

Conference papers are planned for publication in one of the two IGTM publication series (*Archa Verbi* special issue or *Archa Verbi–Subsidia*).

Literature:

Grenzmann/Stackmann 1984: Ludger Grenzmann/Karl Stackmann (Hg.): Literatur und Laienbildung im Spätmittelalter und in der Reformationszeit. Symposion Wolfenbüttel 1981 (Germanistische Symposien. Berichtsbände 5), Stuttgart 1984.

Henkel/Palmer 2000: Henkel, Nikolaus/ Palmer, Nigel F. (Hg.): Latein und Volkssprache im deutschen Mittelalter 1100–1500. Regensburger Colloquium 1988, Tübingen 1992.

Korenjak 2018: Korenjak, Martin: Latein und die europäischen Volkssprachen in der frühen Neuzeit, in: *Philologia Classica* 2018, 13 (1), 103–115.

Kuhn 1980: Kuhn, Hugo: Versuch über das 15. Jahrhundert in der deutschen Literatur, in: ders.: Entwürfe zu einer Literatursystematik des Spätmittelalters, Tübingen 1980, 77–101.

Schiewer 2000: Schiewer, Regina D.: Predigtforschung im Aufwind, in: *Jahrbuch der Oswald von Wolkenstein-Gesellschaft* 12 (2000), 291–309.

Sonderegger 1998: Stefan Sonderegger: Geschichte deutschsprachiger Bibelübersetzungen in Grundzügen, in: Werner Besch u.a. (Hg.), *Sprachgeschichte. Ein Handbuch zur Geschichte der deutschen Sprache und ihrer Erforschung*, Bd. 1, 2. Aufl. Berlin 1998, 229–284.

Stridde 2011: Stridde, Christine: Text-Symbiosen: Latein und Volkssprache im Spannungsfeld von Gebrauchssituation und Gebrauchsfunktion, in: *Beiträge zur Geschichte der Deutschen Sprache und Literatur* 133 (3–4), 421–442.