



Call for Chapters

Prayer as Practice: Objects, Media, and Networks *in the Late Medieval and Early Modern World*

Edited by Carolin Gluchowski and Seán D. Vrieland



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We invite proposals for an edited volume on prayer and prayer practices in the late medieval and early modern world. The volume grows out of events we have organized, including the ICMS 2025 session “Praying in the Vernacular — a transnational view,” the NHM 2025 session series “Devotion across Borders,” and the COST 2025 lecture series “Praying with Objects.” These events brought together scholars working on devotional texts, objects, media, and religious participation across Europe. We especially welcome submissions from colleagues who have taken part in these earlier events, while also inviting new contributions that speak to the same wider set of questions.

The volume starts from the premise that prayer was not a single, stable, or purely textual phenomenon. It was shaped by books and voices, images and objects, bodies and gestures, domestic interiors and liturgical spaces, individual routines and communal networks. We are interested in prayer as a material, social, sensory, embodied, and multilingual practice, and in the ways it was learned, performed, adapted, visualized, heard, handled, and inhabited.

Possible contributions may address prayer books, books of hours, psalters, and other devotional manuscripts or prints; object-mediated devotion, including rosaries, relics, bindings, fragments, amulets, and ex-votos; prayer and the body, including touch, posture, movement, voice, affect, and discipline; prayer and images, visual programmes, music, or sound; translation, adaptation, and textual reuse; women’s prayer practices and gendered devotion; prayer across regional, linguistic, and political borders; domestic, communal, conventual, and institutional settings; reform and observance; the shifting relations between manuscript and print; spaces of prayer and devotional micro-environments; and methodological or digital approaches that open up broader comparative questions. We are especially keen to receive chapters that do more than present an individual case in isolation. Strong proposals will show how a specific corpus, object, site, or practice can illuminate larger conceptual, methodological, or comparative issues relevant to the study of prayer

Submission information

Proposal should include	A 500-word abstract, 5 keywords, and a short biographical note of approximately 100 words.
Abstract deadline	31 July 2026
Notification of results	Mid-August 2026
Full draft deadline	28 February 2027
Projected publication	2027
Submission and publication	Please send proposals to Seán Vrieland (sean.vrieland@hum.ku.dk) and Carolin Gluchowski (carolin.gluchowski@uni-hamburg.de). We intend to submit the volume to a leading peer-reviewed series, and publication costs, where applicable, are expected to be generously supported by the University of Hamburg.