



Reconsidering the Vocabulary of Prayer Through Objects

International Workshop

WG1 'Materialities', COST Action CA23143 'Prayticipate'

29 May 2026 (online) | 10–12 June 2026 (Hamburg) | autumn 2026 (online)

Dr Sara Carreño, Dr Carolin Gluchowski, PD Dr Stefan Matter, Dr Katrin Janz-Wenig

Welcome

Dear Participants,

We are delighted to welcome you to the workshop
 “Reconsidering the Vocabulary of Prayer Through Objects.”

This workshop is organised within **Working Group 1: Material Realities of Prayer** of the COST Action **CA23143 PRAYTICIPATE**, in collaboration with the **University of Hamburg**, the **State and University Library Hamburg**, the **University of Bern**, the **University Library Bern**, and the **University of Santiago de Compostela**. The programme also includes excursions to the **Hamburger Kunsthalle** and the **Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe Hamburg**.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the COST Association for generously supporting this event, and to all partner institutions for their collaboration in making the workshop possible.

Bringing together scholars and professionals from different disciplines and institutions, the workshop aims to reconsider the vocabulary of prayer through close engagement with objects, collections, and spaces. We hope that these days in Hamburg will foster international and interdisciplinary collaboration in the field of prayer studies, open new perspectives on material and devotional practices, and generate fresh research insights for future work.

With warm wishes,



Sara Carreño



Carolin Gluchowski



Stefan Matter



Katrin Janz-Wenig

(image: Easter Tapestry, Kloster Lüne, Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Acc. No. 1949.73)



Concept

This workshop is conceived as a collaborative, object-based exploration of the vocabulary of prayer. Rather than presenting finished papers, participants engage in a shared process of reflection, testing how established terms and categories function when applied to specific objects, materials, and practices.

Structure

The workshop is organised in three complementary stages:

- **Online Session (29 May 2026),**
- **In-Person Workshop (10-12 June 2026, Hamburg),**
- **Follow-up Phase (tba).**

Aims

- Rethink and refine the terminology used in prayer studies,
- Foster interdisciplinary and international collaboration,
- Develop object-based approaches to devotional practices,
- Bridge perspectives from scholarship and heritage institutions,
- Generate new research questions and collaborative outputs.

Venues

Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Hamburg Carl von Ossietzky (SUB Hamburg)

(University Library Hamburg)

Von-Melle-Park 3, 20146 Hamburg

Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe Hamburg

(Hamburg Museum of Arts and Crafts)

Steintorplatz 1, 20099 Hamburg

Hamburger Kunsthalle

(Hamburg Fine Arts Museum)

Glockengießerwall 5, 20095 Hamburg



Programme

FRIDAY, 29 MAY 2026

Online Meeting

The zoom link for this event will be provided shortly before the meeting.

09:00-09:15 **Welcome**

09:15-10:00 **Participants introduction I**

10:00-10:15 **Break**

10:15-11:00 **Participants introduction II**

11:00-11:15 **Break**

11:15-12:00 **Keynote Lecture**

Ingrid Falque, Sarah Borges, Solène Lecuivre, and Mathilde Marès (UCLouvain)
 “More is found in many minds than in one”. Reflections on the working process of the “Essais de terminologie(s): images, textes, spiritualité”

TERMINOLOGY

12:00-12:30 **Discussion**

12:30-14:00 **Break**

14:00-14:20 **Workshop introduction**

14:20-14:40 **Group discussions**

14:40-15:15 **Shared discussions**

15:15-15:30 **Closing remarks**



WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

In-Person Meeting

Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Hamburg Carl von Ossietzky
 Von-Melle-Park 3, 20146 Hamburg
 Conference Room HG 260

16:00-16:30 Coffee

16:30-18:30

Session I

Chair: Carolin Gluchowski (University of Hamburg)

Anna Dlabáčova (Leiden University)

Rethinking the Vocabulary of the Book of Hours: Geert Grote's Hours between Manuscript and Print

Wendy Scase (University of Birmingham)

Prayers and Pen Trials in Manuscript Books

Vittorio Frighetto (University of Padua)

Beyond the Prayer Book: Composite Devotional Manuscripts, Embodied Practice, and Terminological Precision

Hanna Gentili (University of Hamburg)

Prayers in the Jewish Manuscript Tradition: A Comparative Approach

MANUSCRIPTS AND PRINTS

19:00 Dinner



Programme

THURSDAY, 11 JUNE 2026

In-Person Meeting

Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Hamburg Carl von Ossietzky
Von-Melle-Park 3, 20146 Hamburg
Conference Room HG 260

09:00-10:30

Session II

Chair: Ingrid Falque (UCLouvain)

Solene Lecuivre (UCLouvain)

The Scherpenheuvel Retable (1608): Tapestries Between Domestic Devotion and Church Ritual

Anna Seragiotto (University of Padua)

Portable Altars and the Vocabulary of Prayer: Liturgical Function, Mobility, and Terminological Ambiguity

Isa Babur (İğdır University / Sakarya University)

Reconsidering the Vocabulary of Prayer through Objects: Muska and Hamâil in Islamic Contexts

ARTWORKS AND OBJECTS

10:30-11:00 **Coffee**

11:00-12:30

Session III

Chair: Katrin Janz-Wenig (State and University Library Hamburg)

Mercedes Perez Vidal (Autonomous University of Madrid)

Reconsidering the Vocabulary of Prayer through Objects: Prayer Books, Picture Books, and Complex Artefacts in Women's Religious Communities

Lenka Panuškova (Institute of Art History, Czech Academy of Sciences)

Afterlives of Devotion: Medieval Manuscripts in Early Modern Monastic Reflection

Rogier Gerrits (University of Hamburg)

Le Ciel interieur de nostre coeur. Prayer as an (inter)media practice in seventeenth-century French

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

12:30-14:00 **Lunch**

14:00-15:00 **Isabelle Vâth (Brill/DeGruyter)**
Publisher session

15:30-20:00 **Visit to the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe**
Guided exploration, group discussion, individual museum visit

20:30 **Dinner**

FRIDAY, 12 JUNE 2026**In-Person Meeting**

Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Hamburg Carl von Ossietzky
 Von-Melle-Park 3, 20146 Hamburg
 Conference Room HG 260

09:00-09:30 Coffee (Café Carl)**09:30-11:00****Session IV**

Chair: Sara Carreño (University of Santiago de Compostela)

Cynthia Turner Camp (University of Georgia)

Voicing Prayer: Material Cues, Sensory Experience, and Time in Late Medieval Books of Hours

Vassilis Vavoulis (Athens Conservatory)

Beyond Prayer Book: The Multisensory and Affective Life of Books of Hours

Mathilde Mares (UCLouvain)

Reconsidering the Vocabulary of Prayer through Thomistic Devotio

SENSORY EXPERIENCE

11:00-11:30 Coffee**11:30-12:30****Session V**

Chair: Stefan Matter (University Library Bern)

Youri Desplenter (Ghent University)

For Two Tertiaries: Liturgy in the Vernacular and Devotional Practice in MS Utrecht 1039

Dorota Masłej (Adam Mickiewicz University)

Vernacular basic prayers as object of research

VERNACULAR PRAYER

12:30-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:00 Katrin Janz-Wenig, Carolin Gluchowski, Hanna Gentili
 Manuscripts in the Hamburg collections, closing remarks

15:30-18:00 Visit to the Hamburger Kunsthalle

