



Pe(s)ts to Parchment

Multidisciplinary Research on Animals in the Middle Ages

Medieval Studies Day 2024

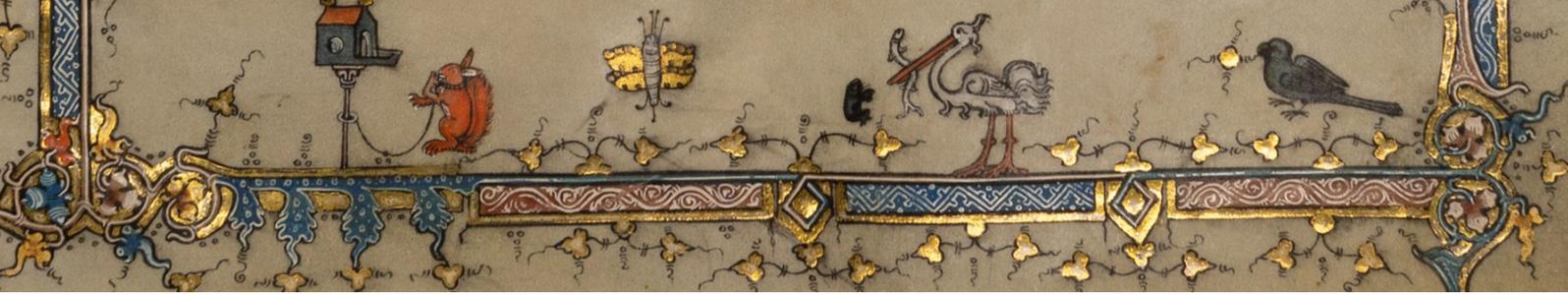
Friday November 8th @ Sint-Baafshuis, Ghent

Theme & concept

The recent breakthrough of 'critical animal studies' emphasizes the fact that the history of the preindustrial world, and the Middle Ages in particular, can hardly be understood without paying specific attention to animals. Indeed, creatures great and small were everywhere and pervaded nearly all aspects of life. They did so as valuable sources of food, material and energy in everyday life and across economic sectors, but also as symbols of power, as dreaded pests or carriers of cataclysmic disease and of course as objects of inspiration and imagination in art and literature. The relation between humans and animals – often exploitative or utilistic – has been broadly studied for some decades, and the same is true for the sociocultural or symbolic significances of certain species in the Middle Ages. On the other hand, the study of animals in the past in their own right, for example as parts of historical ecosystems or as victims of mass anthropogenic or natural extinctions, is only beginning to be developed, albeit with impactful results. It is high time to take stock of this vibrant multidisciplinary field of medieval animal studies! This year's Medieval Studies Day 'Pe(s)ts to Parchment' will bring to the fore perspectives and recent research from ecological and economic history, archaeology, archaeozoology, literary studies, bio-codicology, heraldry and more. The day will consist of a mix of plenary lectures by some of the foremost experts in the field, as well as small-group hands-on workshops to be selected by the participants. The programme will be concluded with parallel sessions in which PhD students from various Flemish and Dutch universities will be offered the opportunity to present their ongoing research, which does not necessarily relate to the central theme of the day.

The Medieval Studies Day 2024 is organized by the [Flemish Medievalist Association](#), in cooperation with the [Henri Pirenne Institute for Medieval Studies at Ghent University](#) and with the support of the [Dutch Research School for Medieval Studies](#).





Detail from an antiphonary, ca. 1350-1375 (Bruges, Public Library, Stichting Jean van Caloen Ms. 10A)

Programme

The Medieval Studies Day 2024 will kick off in the evening of **Thursday November 7th** with an **optional cultural activity** for early arrivals. This will take place at the Saint-Peter's Abbey (Historische Huizen), Sint-Pietersplein 9, Ghent.

20:00: Group visit of the new exhibition '[Judith. A Carolingian Princess in Ghent?](#)'

On **Friday November 8th**, the **Medieval Studies Day** will take place at conference centre Sint-Baafshuis, Biezekapelstraat 2, Ghent.

10:00: Welcome with coffee and tea

10:15: Introduction

10:30: Keynote lecture by prof. dr. Thijs Lambrecht (UGent)

11:30: Lecture by dr. Antonella Sciancalepore (UC Louvain)

12:00: Lecture by dr. Jordan Claridge (London School of Economics and Political Science)

12:30: Discussion

13:00: Lunch

14:00: Workshops (parallel sessions)

Option 1 (at Boekentoren, Rozier 9, Ghent)

Workshop 1: Bio-codicology with dr. Nicolas Ruffini-Ronzani (Université de Namur)

Workshop 2: Manuscripts from the collection of Ghent University with prof. dr. Jeroen Deploige and prof. dr. Wim Verbaal (UGent)

Option 2 (at Sint-Baafshuis)

Workshop 1: Archaeozoology with dr. Anton Eryvynck and dr. An Lentacker (Agentschap Onroerend Erfgoed)

Workshop 2: Heraldic and emblematic animals with dr. Hanno Wijsman (IRHT – CNRS)

15:00: Coffee break

15:30: Presentations of ongoing research by PhD students (parallel sessions)

Session 1 (Dutch): De weerspiegeling van de samenleving in artefacten en geschriften in de middeleeuwen

Cynthia Kromotaroeno (Universiteit Leiden), *De veelzijdige rol van benen artefacten in de vroegmiddeleeuwse riviernederzettingen Oegstgeest en Dorestad*

Marie-Charlotte Dubois (UGent), *Een pragmatische realiteit. De performance en codificatie van collectief handelen tijdens de 'eeuw van de vrijheid' van stedelijke gemeenschappen in de Zuidelijke Nederlanden en Noord-Frankrijk (late 11de - vroege 13de eeuw)*

Sofie Moors (UAntwerpen), *What does the form say? Scribale variatie in Middelnederlandse teksttransmissie: een computationele analyse van de Martijntrilogie*

Session 2 (English): From courts to markets: the roles of animals in medieval society

Angelo Gargiulo (UGent), *Predicting weather, changing weather: animals in Late Antique meteorology*

Tamara de Bruin (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen), *The real and imagined role of birds in Late Medieval Scottish propaganda*

Janny Van Doorn (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), *Institutional dynamics in an urban marketing system for fish (Bruges, 1305-1494)*

Sven Gins (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen), *Beauty and the beast: sovereignty, magnificence and judicial spectacle in Valois-Burgundy*

Session 3 (English): Religious frameworks and their influence on medieval society

Anne Sieberichs (Universiteit Utrecht), *Citizens creating consensus: epistolary performance in Merovingian episcopal successions*

Qianyu Wang (UGent), *The tension between property and poverty in monastic narrative sources: a case study for Orderic Vitalis (1075-c. 1142)*

Robin Moens (RWTH Aachen University / Université de Namur), *Two birds with one stone? The episcopal and 'imperial' cities of Liège and Metz and their interactions with the papacy in the long twelfth century*

Christien Schrover (Universiteit Utrecht), *The (r)evolution of reconstruction: an analysis of digital facsimiles*

17:00: Reception

Participation

The **registration** is open until **Monday October 7th at 12:00**. Participation is free. Register [here](#).

For more information or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via secretariaatvwm@gmail.com.

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