

## Scientific Annual Report 2021 Centre for Medieval Literature (SDU/York)



CML annual gathering 2021, Santiago de Compostela Cathedral

## 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'.

### **Interfaces 8**

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.

## Årets højdepunkter

### 2 ph.d.-studerende: Rasmus Vangshardt & Chiara D'Agostini

I 2021 forsvarede to ph.d.-studerende deres afhandlinger med succes. Rasmus Vangshardts afhandling *The Theatrum Mundi of Celebration. Pedro Calderón de la Barca and the World Theatre as Aesthetic Theodicy* bruger den absolutte metafor *theatrum mundi* – verdensteatret – til at studere en overgangsfase i europæisk litteratur mellem middelalderen og den tidlige moderne periode.

Chiara D'Agostinis afhandling med titlen *Mapping Empires: Re-appropriations of Ptolemy's Geography from the 12th to the 15th Centuries* undersøger receptionen i middelalderen af Ptolemæus' værk *Geographia*, analyserer tekst og kort fra en ny vinkel samt fokuserer på dens relevans for konstruktionen af den særlige byzantinske forestilling om geografi.

### 3 ph.d.-skoler

Tre ph.d.-skoler blev afholdt i 2021. Den første var *Medieval Literature Across Languages* organiseret af Christian Høgel og Julian Yolles. Denne flersprogede sommerskole fandt sted online den 17.-18. maj. Det primære mål var at gøre det muligt for ph.d.-studerende, som enten begyndte fra bunden eller kun med en fundamental viden om et sprog, at læse historien om Barlaam og Ioasaph på et af de fire sprog: arabisk, georgisk, græsk eller latin.

Den anden var *(Un)-Equal Pairs? Comparative Literature, Time and Place from the Middle Ages to the Present Time*. Tyler, Mortensen og Høgel var inviteret til at holde forelæsninger om CML's arbejde ved denne endags ph.d.-skole arrangeret af middelaldercentret ved Fribourg Universitet i september. Ph.d.-skolen blev efterfulgt af den halvårslige internationale middelalderkonference i Fribourg.

I oktober samledes kolleger fra Fordham, York og Gent for at lede den årlige skole for ph.d.-studerende ved Henri Pirenne Institute of Medieval Studies (Gent). I Gent deltog de studerende både fysisk og online fra forskellige steder i Europa, og ligeledes deltog ph.d.-studerende fra Fordham. Temaet for workshoppen var "Scales of Knowledge: From Cosmos to Book".

## Interfaces 8

2021-nummeret af Interfaces byder på to tematiske klynger og blev til gennem et tæt samarbejde med især kolleger fra Belgien, Island og Storbritannien. Den ene gruppe af artikler beskæftiger sig med *The Astronomical Imagination in Literature through the Ages* og er redigeret af tidligere CML postdoc Dale Kedwards. Med casestudier, som strækker sig fra karolingisk tid og frem til Kepler og videre, viser den blandt andet, hvordan en forestilling om jorden set udefra var fuldt ud mulig i førmoderne litteratur. Den anden gruppe af artikler fokuserer på *Medieval Authorship and Canonicity in the Digital Age* og er redigeret af Jeroen de Gussem og Jeroen Deploige. Denne klynge trækker på de nyeste landvindinger inden for digital måling af stil inden for middelalderlige latinske tekster og bringer metodisk nyt om forfattertilskrivning og om problemer vedrørende flere forfattere af én tekst.

## Monografi af CML postdoc Julian Yolles

Julian Yolles (postdoc ved CML 2018-2022) fik sin monografi *Making the East Latin: The Latin Literature of the Levant in the Era of the Crusades* accepteret til udgivelse ved Dumbarton Oaks. Bogen udkommer i maj 2022. I denne undersøger Yolles den latinske hybridlitteratur – en "Leventine Latinity" – som blev produceret i korsfarernes kolonier i Mellemøsten i det 12. årh. Denne litteratur var særskilt fra den i Europa, og denne nye litterære tradition både udnyttede og modarbejdede muslimsk, kristen og jødisk kultur i det nyligt besatte land. Yolles analyserer i sin bog de litterære og retoriske teknikker, som blev brugt, og viser, hvordan korsfarerne reagerede på deres nye miljø, mens de samtidig bibeholdt tilknytningen til deres hjemlande i det vestlige Europa.

## The Organization

In 2021 CML Odense moved to a new, nice location on campus, but slightly further removed from the department. We also welcomed a number of new employees. Henry Bainton, who was previously at CML as a postdoc, returned to us as an associate professor in March on a one year contract. Ph.D. student at Lund University Anne Ladefoged visited us for two months in the autumn. We were also happy to welcome Benjamin Pedersen in September as a visiting researcher funded by Independent Research Fund Denmark. Another visiting researcher at CML, Synnøve Myking, spent the autumn of 2021 in Ghent as part of her project and has since returned to Odense in 2022.

Rasmus Vangshardt and Chiara D'Agostini both finished as Ph.D. students in the first months of the year. Vangshardt subsequently took up a position as postdoc at the Department for the Study of Culture at SDU. D'Agostini started part time as manager of the SDU side of the NetMAR project which was initiated at the very beginning of 2021 and also includes Nils Holger Petersen as one of the permanent members. D'Agostini also took on the role of academic manager at CML when Maiken Villumsen went on parental leave in May and for the rest of the year.

Both Julian Yolles and Divna Manolova were extended as postdocs. Both were originally only employed until August, but had the opportunity to stay until January 2022.


We also said goodbye to a number of people. Maria Dell'Isola and Valeria Lovato both finished as postdocs in August. Rosa María Rodríguez Porto left CML in January to take up her new permanent position at the University of Santiago after receiving the prestigious Ramón y Cajal grant in 2020. The process to make Rodríguez Porto an adjunct associate professor at SDU began and was completed in 2022.

The planning of the form in which the organization of CML will continue after the end of the grant period continued throughout the year. The agreement that CML should continue as a centre at the Department of History at SDU was formalized in 2021. This agreement means that Mortensen will continue as centre leader with some compensation and research will continue both building on and benefitting from the research conducted under CML during our ten years as a centre of excellence.

## Signature

I hereby confirm the correctness of the information concerning annual accounts, including itemizations. Also, I confirm that the compiled annual reporting, including the appendices, is correct, i.e. it is free of material misstatement or omissions, and that the administration of the funds has been secure and sound, and in accordance with the conditions of the center agreement.

Odense, March 31, 2022



Centre leader  
Prof. Lars Boje Mortensen