

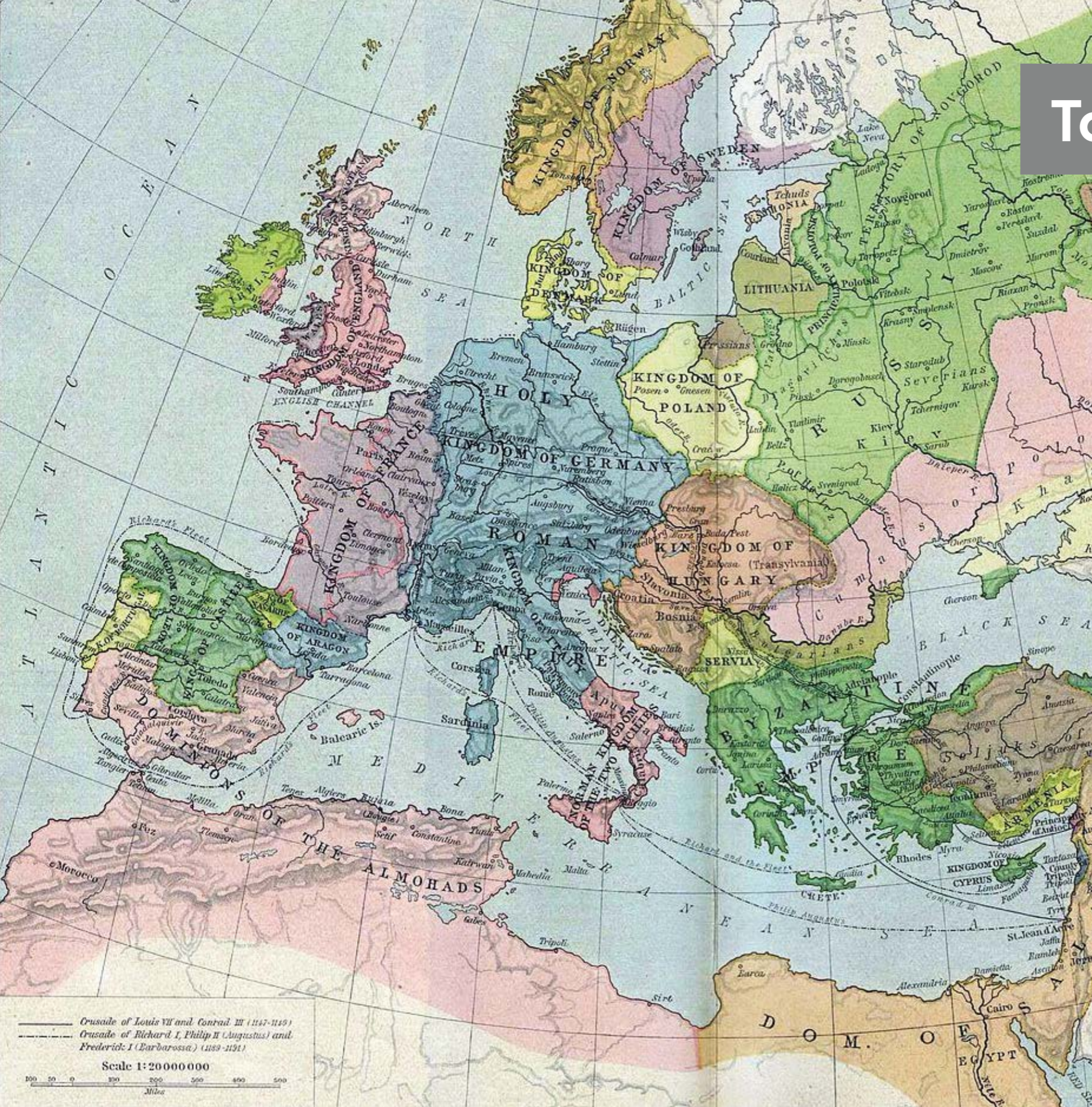
Centre for Medieval Literature

2012-2022



Table of Contents

Introduction.....	4
Research Strands	7
Imperial Languages.....	8
Transformations and Translocations.....	10
Canon and Library	14
A Survey of CML Interdisciplinarity	17
Individual Research Stories	22
Assoc. prof. Aglae Pizzone.....	24
Postdoc Divna Manolova	26
Postdoc Julian Yolles	28
PhD Steffen Hope.....	30
Collaboration with the David Collection.....	33
A Companion to Saxo Grammaticus	37
Interfaces – a Diamond Open Access Journal	41
Major events.....	45
Conferences.....	46
Summer schools.....	48
CML fact sheets	51
CML at SDU.....	52
CML at York	53
Grants.....	54
Staff	56
Key insights and top PI publications	61



Centre for

Medieval Literature

2012-22 (and beyond)

CML was a Danish Centre of Excellence generously funded by the Danish National Research Foundation (DNRF, 60m DKK) and the two hosting institutions, The University of Southern Denmark (SDU) and The University of York in the years 2012-2022. The Centre lives on as a research unit at SDU beyond the grant period and the collaboration with York also continues.

CML was founded on a thought experiment: what would happen to medieval literary history if it were not seen as an accumulated series of national literary histories? Which vantage point should one choose to conduct such an experiment? Does it make sense to use “Europe” in a wide and open sense as the object of study?

It was our ambition to capture a number of significant phenomena that usually fall out of focus in the practice of national literary histories, not least represented by the dominant, but now nationless, literary languages of Latin and Greek (and in Europe also to some extent Arabic) and their interaction with the emerging “vernaculars” (or “national” languages). While we were aware of the key role played by literary languages, we also wanted to draw more attention to the contents of literary texts – “literary” in a very inclusive sense, comprising historiography, hagiography, science and more, and how these contents travelled irrespective of language. Furthermore we sought to break away from the straightjacket of “genres” and opted for a more flexible interest in “forms”. Finally we aspired to put more emphasis on specific literary geographies within Europe (again not pre-defined by modern languages or nations).

This was obviously a tall order, but we felt we were in a position to

cover some key areas of Europe between the three of us, and with the ten-year centre grant to be able to engage in sustained conversations with the postdocs we were hiring and with a number of other specialists, including our advisory board (De Jong, Agapitos, Cullhed, Verkholtantsev). As focal points for developing new insights and new models for medieval European literatures we arranged our research for the first grant period (2012-17) around the themes *Languages, Canon, Fictionalization*. For the second grant period (2018-2022) we changed these to *Imperial Languages, Canon and Library, Transformations and Translocations*.

Our investment in research activities fell in three categories:

— Conducting specific CML research projects / case studies within the three main themes. We achieved geographical, linguistic and disciplinary variety through combining PI, postdoc and PhD projects (which were selected through open calls). Furthermore we integrated more projects through PhDs, guest researchers and postdocs holding other grants (Marie Curie, Carlsberg and more).

— Creating research fora. Most importantly we hosted three large and numerous smaller conferences, and we established a Diamond Open Access Journal, *Interfaces: A Journal of Medieval European Literatures* (both initiatives continuing after 2022).

— Research education. An important way of channeling the CML research agenda to younger scholars was our five summer schools with wide international attendance. Within the CML programme itself, nine PhDs graduated, and more than twenty postdocs and other mid-career researchers were mentored by us. The large majority of these continued in academia with other projects, and eight of the postdocs so far have landed permanent positions (in DK, UK, Spain).

With this report we want to provide an easy guide to CML research in the years we were funded by DNRF. Some of the main themes, results and insights are briefly described and some early and mid-career CML scholars tell their own stories of research experience within the centre. Finally we provide some fact sheets about interdisciplinarity, funding and personnel. It has been a great privilege to run a DNRF centre and with this report we hope to convey how we have explored this important European textual heritage in ways that will continue to be influential.



Lars Boje Mortensen
(head of CML)



Elizabeth Tyler



Christian Høgel



The CML has been an utterly transformative and life-changing experience. It has broadened my horizons immeasurably and reshaped the way I approach all forms of academic enquiry. Every new problem I approach is now always informed by the CML's broad geographical scope (always looking for wider influences) and highly open form of collaboration. It has been an incredible privilege to be mentored by senior scholars in the project and to be exposed to the fantastic minds of junior members of the CML trained in very different systems to my own.

- George Younge (postdoc & assoc. prof. York)

Research Strands



Imperial

Languages

Research strand
led by Høgel and Pizzone

From the very start, the CML focused on the issue of languages, with a research strand dedicated to issues of translation and language status, both from medieval and modern perspectives. After reshuffling of some of the research themes, the languages strand became ‘imperial languages’, aiming at being a model through which to understand issues of language status and development within written languages in the Middle Ages. Medieval high-status languages have often been labelled ‘holy’, and some languages are primarily so. But when talking of e.g. Latin, Greek, or Arabic, we believe that one should rather focus on the enormous importance that these languages acquired by being, or having been, the languages of a running empire.

For this administrative and educational use, imperial languages became highly standardized through grammars and/or literary canons, supported by a school system and institutions of learning. Imperial languages were used across all domains of knowledge (religion, science, literature, government, law) and worked as a

central means for conveying the empire’s representations of itself (laws, laudatory speeches, inscriptions on coins and buildings, etc.). And, most importantly, imperial languages exerted a major influence on the development of literate written traditions in other, local languages, and some of these vernaculars in turn became imperial languages themselves.

The resources available to Latin, Greek and Arabic make them a natural point of departure for studying the whole pattern of European languages that possess a medieval written record. The rich resources of imperial languages underpin a complex dialectic between hegemony and desire: imposed, through conversion, colonization, and bureaucratization, imperial languages also represent a cultural capital which is desired from within and from without an empire.

Languages carry a special weight when it comes to medieval studies. Many written languages employed in the Middle Ages were later shaped into national languages, which has profoundly informed the way that they have been studied. Exploring the use of writing in local languages within the ‘Imperial Languages’ framework circumvents later nationalizing paradigms, opening up space for scholarly debate across the different philological traditions.

The ‘Imperial Languages’ idea was discussed at several CML seminars and was the central idea behind two workshops in 2014 and 2016 (organized by Høgel and Peter Fibiger Bang). It was also presented in an article by Høgel in 2018, giving working definitions of the concept and offering a framework for how to utilize the concept also in modern discussions of world literature. The idea has in a broad sense contributed to the CML’s connective methodologies.

Tyler has studied the use of written Old English as part of the development of an “imperial” English kingdom, and several members of the CML have participated in discussing the wide spread of French as an alternative Latin rather than an identity marker and in developing a model of Byzantine literature as multilingual.

Mortensen has published on the German-Roman Empire and analysed its mainly Latin literature (c. 1050-1200) as an imperial literature. A seminar organized with researchers at Kings College London, SOAS and the Courtauld in 2017 also had the concept of ‘imperial language’ as a core element.

Furthermore, ‘Imperial Languages’ has been a central element of our Afro-Eurasian approach (still retaining a European perspective), which has been pivotal to our collaboration with the David Collection (Copenhagen), where the CML was the organizer of three workshops (in 2017, 2019, and 2022) on material approaches to a literary history of the Silk Road. The concept will also be central to the upcoming 2024 CML conference.



The rich resources of imperial languages underpin a complex dialectic between hegemony and desire.



Transformations and Translocations

The Transformation and Translocations strand was introduced into CML in 2018, after the centre was renewed. Fundamentally, it grew out of the work of all three strands from the first period of funding – ‘Fictionality’, ‘Canon’ and ‘Languages’. It productively integrated CML members from Odense and York with a stable group of external collaborators/co-funders, extending the resources and impact of the strand. These included Jane Gilbert (University College London), Máire Ní Mhaonaigh (Cambridge), Thomas O’Donnell (Fordham, NYC), Wim Verbaal (Ghent) and Hanna Vorholt (York).

The strand worked to develop methodologies which examined form and social networks simultaneously. These methodologies attend to the agency of people (men and women), genres, modes (verse, poetry, prose), styles, texts and manuscripts (book types, layouts, images) in forging literary links across space and time. Building on the practices of both comparative literature and history, our approach focused on the connections between literary cultures often considered as distinct, whether geographically or chronologically. The strand equally attended to the absence of connections and to discontinuities, thus shedding light on the commonalities, diversities and ruptures of medieval literature.

The major lines of our research have included

- Poetic Anthologizing in the Latin West – collaborative project funded by CML, St John’s College Cambridge and Ghent University – which will result in a submission to *Interfaces* entitled, *Affordances of Poetic Anthologizing in the Latin West*, with a number of co-written chapters, each crossing different poetic traditions to address theoretical dimensions of the topic.
- The *Liber Floridus* is an intensely richly illustrated encyclopedia, produced by Lambert, a canon in the Flemish city of St Omer, working in the early decades of the twelfth century. Lambert addressed profound questions about cosmography, nature and environment, the universality of time and history, and the nature of the divine, by extending his book to include many genres, illustrations and diagrams in his book, exploring the limits of verbal and visual thinking in the process. This manuscript held in Ghent University library has been the subject of a **1)** workshop (2019) bringing together researchers at all stages from Ghent and CML and a **2)** PhD Autumn School (2021), run at Ghent, which was built on expertise from CML, Ghent and Fordham with further specialist contributions, addressed the specific topic of ‘Scales of Knowledge: From Cosmos to Book’, exploring Lambert’s integrated vision of knowledge across Arts and Sciences. A team from

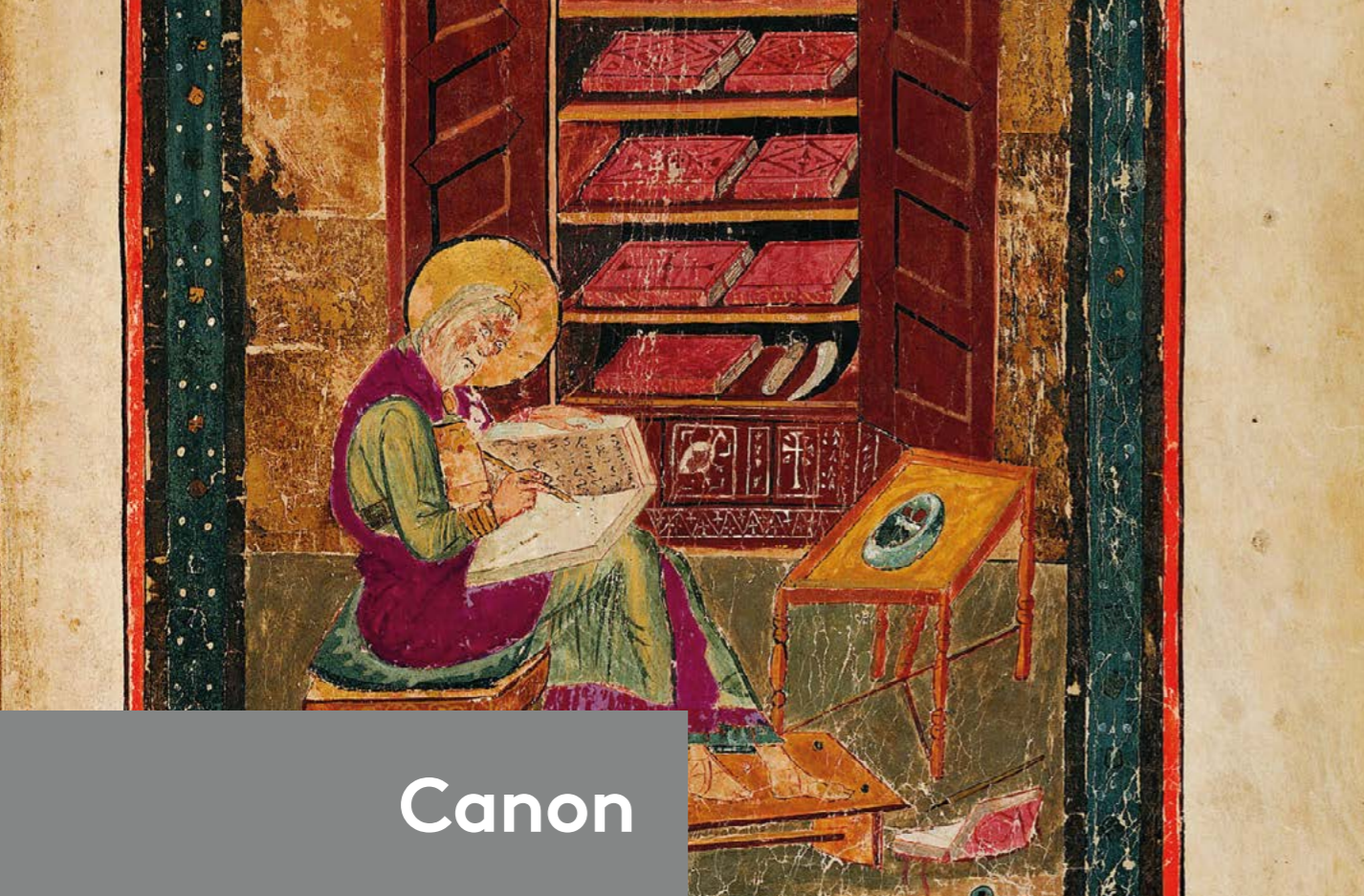
Research strand led by Tyler, Rodriguez Porto and Younge

York and Ghent are now developing **3**) a funding application on the *Liber Floridus* which includes a strong digital humanities dimension.

- The strand generated the frameworks for two major CML conferences. ‘Moving Forms: The Transformations and Translocations of Medieval Literature’ was held in Athens in 2019 and will be published in *Interfaces* in 2022. ‘Scale(s) of Literary History – Europe, c. 500-1500’ (with the Canon and Library Strand) was held in Rome in 2022 and select papers will be published in *Interfaces* in 2024.
- Jagot’s research draws on both English literature and Near and Middle Eastern Studies to explore the connections, both entangled and diffuse, between Western literary culture and the Islamic world during the medieval period. Her research takes a multilingual and interdisciplinary approach, working across late medieval English literature, the history of science, art and religion. Her work extends to consider modern and contemporary literature on Europe and the Muslim world and ways of working across both medieval and modern contexts and critical frameworks on orientalism, postcolonialism and global literature. She has published in *Interfaces* and other venues.
- Manolova’s research was transformational for the strand, bringing both Byzantium and the natural sciences into our thinking in general and central to the *Liber Floridus* activities. Her focus on space and dimensionality in medieval manuscripts preserving scientific works, has been published in numerous book chapters and articles.
- Rodríguez Porto’s research in the strand pursued has been exploring an alternative, decentralized, complex narrative with regard to the consolidation of Romance languages and the development of book illustration including but decentering the tradition focus on France by widening the frame to include Iberia, Italy, the Levant. It has led to a series of publications.
- Tyler’s main research focus drawing on and shaping the methodologies of this strand has been the development of ‘Entanglements: Vernacular Literary Cultures in Latin Europe, 350-1150’ which in the longer term aims to be a funded project. Within this framework she has published ‘The Language of History-Writing in the Ninth Century: An Entangled Approach’, co-written with Ní Mhaonaigh, in the *Journal of Medieval History* and made numerous presentations as she develops and refines the project.

- Tyler and Younge jointly wrote a piece on the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle entitled, ‘Moving People, Moving Forms: Narrating Migration in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles’. This chapter, which drew on the methods of the research strand. It appeared in a volume highly germane to the strand - *Migrants in Medieval England, c. 500 – c. 1500* (British Academy, Oxford University Press) – which was co-edited by Tyler with W. Mark Ormrod and Joanna Story.
- Younge, working with Sarah Bowden (Kings College London) and Leah Braun (Humboldt), ran a series of workshops on ‘Narrating Time in the Twelfth Century’. Essays from the project which cover issues from the technology of monastic clocks to philosophical notions such as ‘folded time’ is under review for *Interfaces* for publication in 2023.





Canon

and Library

Research strand led by
Forrai and Mortensen

Throughout the funded period of CML, canonization has been a key concept, bringing, on its own, a problem to be faced for any overall thinking about medieval European literature. This has especially been the case since CML has taken ‘literature’ in a broad sense, reflecting better the medieval conceptualization rather than just the modern focus on the vernacular, mainly poetic, and fictional works that are usually selected as the beginnings of each national literature (e.g. Beowulf, the Edda, Niebelungen, El Cid, Roland etc.).

The centre has hosted many projects and case studies that have had canonization as a main focus or have touched on it more tangentially; through reading groups, workshops, informal meetings etc we have facilitated the conversation about canonization – including the pedagogical and political aspects of canons. In the second part of CML funding (2018-22), we refocused the research strand into “Canon and Library” as a result of taking a more book-historical turn.

The basic question of how and why canons of literature were formed was thus narrowed down to an interest in the specific conditions of the hand-copied books and their safekeeping in, and retrieval from medieval book collections – whether this was in the Middle Ages themselves or with a focus on the pre-modern and modern conditions for the survival and selection of medieval texts. The more detailed account of our activities and results in this strand can be found in our annual reports and our bibliography, but seven main lines of research can be singled out:

- **The nature of bibliography and publishing in the medieval environment of unique hand-copied books.** CML hosted conferences and workshops on the modern finding of new medieval texts (2013), on publication and “copyright” practices (with Niskanen 2019, Pizzone 2021), and on chasing and accessing rare texts c. 800-1500 (2022) in a world of books with no standard references. This topic is also addressed in two publications by Mortensen, on the rise of prose (2018), and on “librarization” of new book languages (2018)
- **The Greek canon in the West, c. 800-1300.** Forrai’s research has highlighted the institutional frameworks for selecting Greek texts to translate into Latin (Forrai 2016, 2021).
- **Self-canonization through self-commentary.** The practice of literary self-commenting has been explored by Pizzone (see Pizzone’s report below), uncovering important Arabic and Byzantine examples before Dante’s *Nuova vita*.
- **The canon of the Roman classics in the Middle Ages.** CML hosted the conference *Rediscovery and Canonization - The Roman Classics in the Middle Ages* in 2015 with Birger Munk Olsen (KU) and Rita Copeland (University of Pennsylvania) as two of the key speakers. The conference both capitalized on Munk Olsen’s fundamental work on the study of the Roman classics in the eleventh and twelfth centuries and went beyond this period and beyond Latin literature to include the reception of classics in late medieval Castilian, French and more. It was published in *Interfaces* 3 (2016). A further

conference in 2017 focused on the special case of Iberia *Canon Iberico – Classical and Late Antique authors in medieval Iberian literature*. Salvo Garcia and Böckerman opened up new paths in the study of, respectively, the creative adaptation of Ovid in 13-century Spain and in the commentary tradition of the *Metamorphoses*. Mortensen surveyed the reception of the Roman classics in Saxo Grammaticus’ *Gesta Danorum* (see below Saxo).

- **The canonical and the non-canonical in Nordic medieval literature.** This topic was surveyed in different contexts by Mortensen (also with Lehtonen 2012) and ideas of how to write Nordic medieval literary history in non-canonical ways are still being developed for various survey volumes. Hope’s PhD (2017) contributed with a comparative study of English and Nordic saints and their representation in hagiographical and liturgical contexts, with special emphasis on liturgy which is often left out of standard literary history.
- **Anthologizing poetry in the Western Middle Ages: Methods, approaches, comparisons.** A series of workshops, beginning in 2016, was organized by Tyler (with O’Donnell, Verbaal), breaking new ground by studying poetic anthologies in a comparative setting.
- **A model of canons and archives of medieval literatures.** Mortensen published a theoretical article on the medieval canon in 2017. It has gained traction in other publications and projects by offering a fourfold conceptualisation into High Canon/Broad Canon/Open Archive/Closed Archive.



The semester I spent at the CML was one of the best and most productive of my career. Some of this had to do with my living situation, which was wonderful, some of it had to do with the SDU, which I found to be a very good setting, and most of it had to do with the people I met and talked with at the CML. I very much enjoyed finding out about all their different projects and learned a great deal about things I would otherwise never have thought about.

- Jeff Rider (guest prof. SDU)

A Survey of CML

Interdisciplinarity

Interdisciplinarity has been a key part of the CML approach both in the strands and the individual research projects. We have had researchers with a wide range of backgrounds from byzantine literature to history of science and Georgian literature.

The great variety in both main research fields and in geographical areas and periods of expertise has given CML researchers a unique opportunity to expand their scholarly horizons and methods. In a questionnaire we asked them to look back at their time with CML, and they highlight in particular the impact of this interdisciplinarity.

In the day-to-day workings at the centre, we have been committed to involving each other in the research process, exchanging interests and thoughts in both formal as well as informal settings. We have done this by having regular work in progress presentations as well as through informal reading groups and seminars. Many have also co-taught classes and taken the initiative to organize workshops, conferences, talks etc. together.

With the following figures we showcase some facts about the backgrounds of those who have been a part of CML. Secondly, we want to illustrate how the CML setup has exposed its researchers to other areas than their own. It is this exposure to a wide range of fields which have facilitated the interdisciplinary collaborations within CML – many of which has resulted in long-lasting networks and projects. All of the figures are made on the basis of a questionnaire covering the entire ten years and distributed to all who have been a member during that time.

The first three figures show the backgrounds of the members of CML. Fig. 1 one shows the distribution of people's main research fields. It gives a clear impression of which fields have been the best represented (history being the biggest), but it also shows the many other and very varied areas which have been represented at CML. Fig. 2 gives an idea of the main periods of expertise and fig. 3 the geographical areas of expertise. The high Middle Ages has attracted most projects, and our unique combination of scholars of both the Latin and the Greek world is clear from figure 3.

The four figures on page 20-21 show how widely people have collaborated with others outside of their own field of expertise. In the middle of each figure one of the four biggest research fields represented at CML can be seen: history, medieval Latin, Byzantine literature and English literature. Taking fig. 4 as an example, it shows which other research fields those with history as their main field have had substantial exposure to due to CMLs setup. The following three illustrations (fig. 5,6 and 7) displays the same information for those with either medieval Latin, byzantine literature or English literature as their main field.

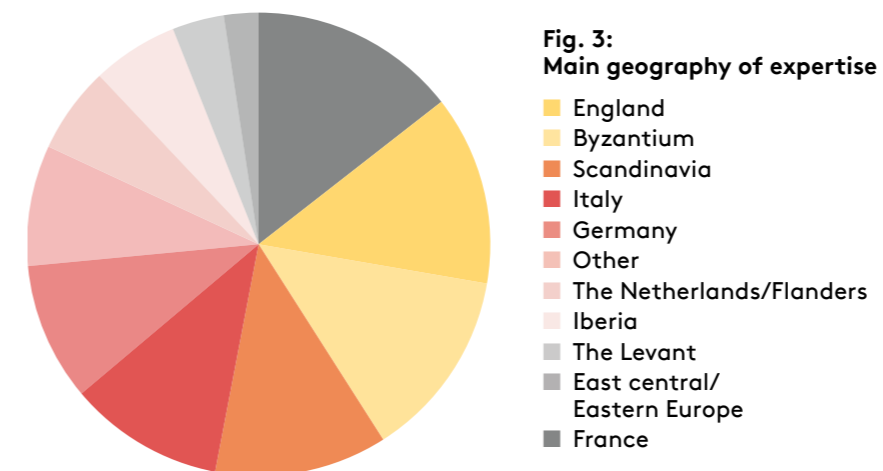
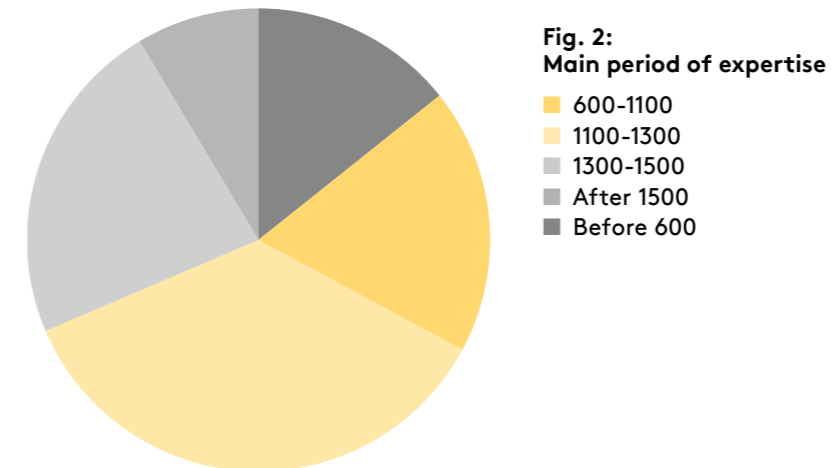
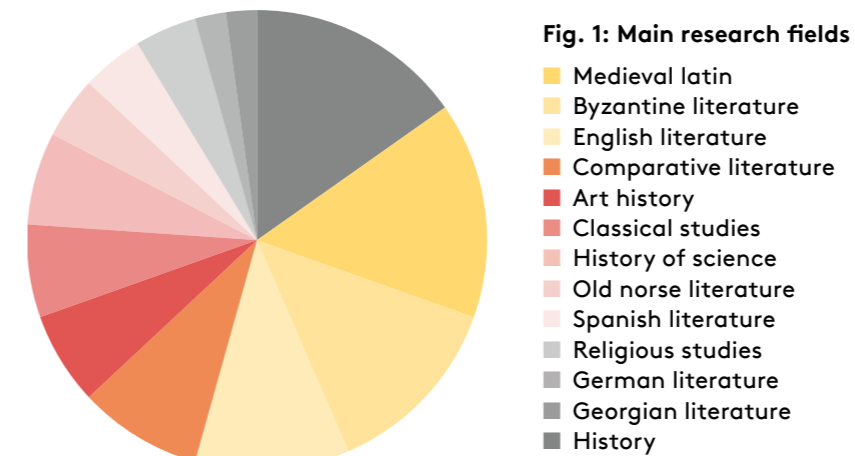


Fig. 4:

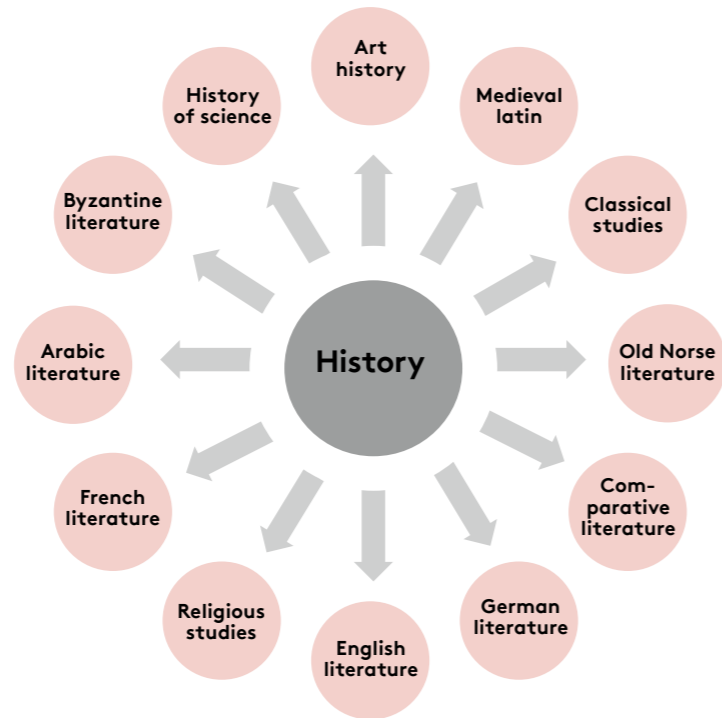


Fig. 6:

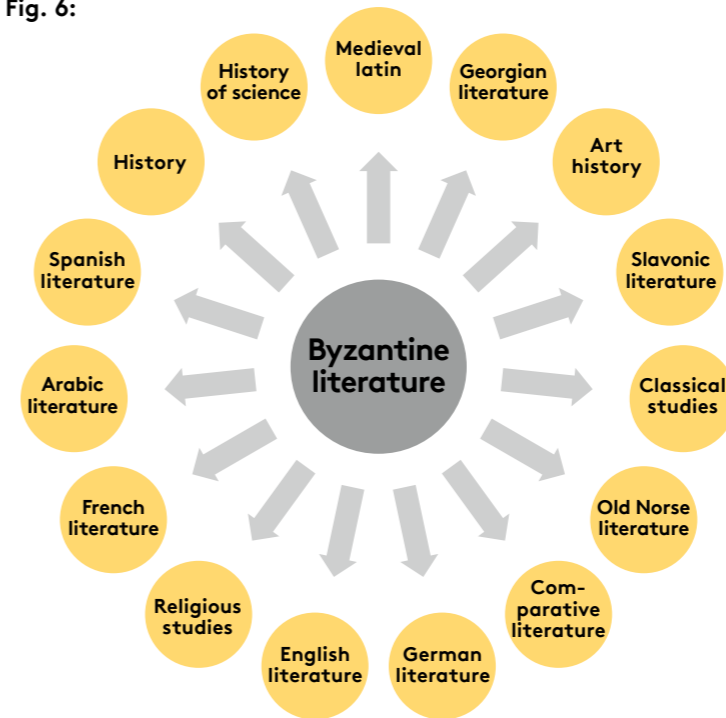


Fig. 5:

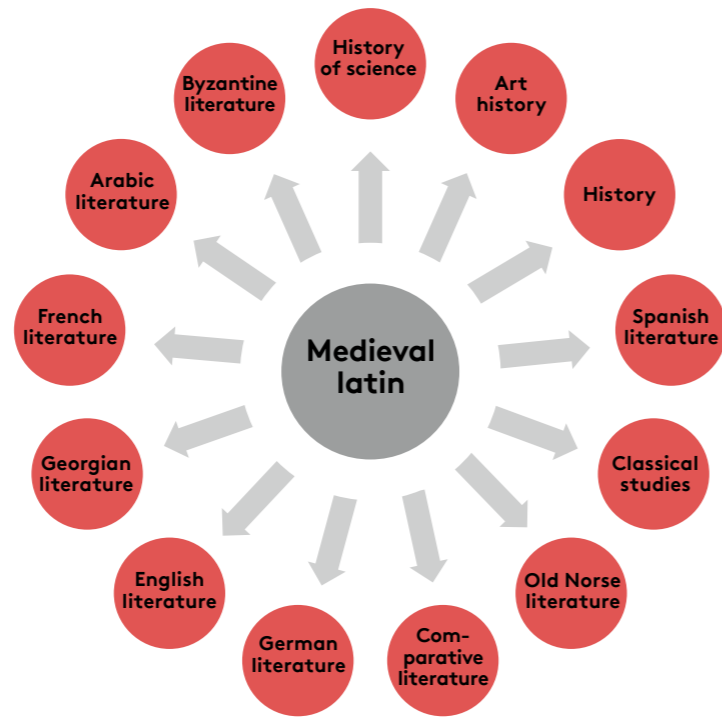
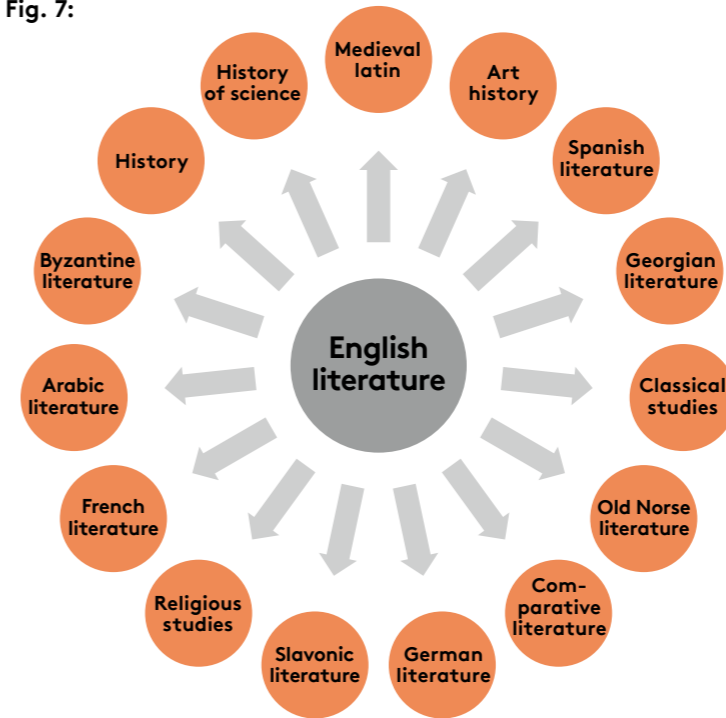


Fig. 7:





It has changed my life, not only in terms of career building but also (and more importantly) at a personal level. It has allowed me to create a solid intellectual and friendly bond with people who have become my best interlocutors and with whom (and thanks to whom) my horizon has expanded as never before. I have also learned how to work in a big team, where people with different backgrounds were able to create a new research environment, at the same time stimulating and supportive.

- Rosa M. Rodríguez Porto
(postdoc York & asst. prof. SDU)

Individual

Research Stories

Associate professor

Aglæe Pizzone



My first memory of CML goes back to the very beginning of 2012. I had just got hold through a friend of a pre-print PDF for *Medieval Narratives between History and Fiction* edited by Mortensen and Agapitos. My interests back then were revolving mostly around authorship and conceptualizations of fiction both in narrative texts and the commentary tradition in Byzantium. It was a thrilling read.

I remember thinking “This is what I want to do”. So, when that Spring CML advertised the first postdoctoral positions, I applied with the strong belief that it was meant to be, this would be my next academic home. I was at a point in my career where I felt increasingly isolated. Although holder of a very hard-to-get fellowship in one of the best UK classics departments, I lacked real interlocutors.

I was a trained classicist with an eccentric career path in and out of academia, working on Byzantine literature with no medievalists around, let alone Byzantinists. I felt straightjacketed by disciplinary and chronological boundaries, which in my view had little to do with the reality of my research. And now finally a Center whose mission was precisely to shatter those boundaries. This was the place to be. Sadly, it did not work out. I would have to wait two more years before becoming part of CML. In those years, packed with life – a new country, a new job, a new child – I fine-tuned my project, which conceptually narrowed down to authorship and self-exegesis while it broadened up geographically to include other medieval literatures.

When I finally reached Denmark in 2015, the scope of my research project expanded further, to include also Arabic literature. I think I can say without fear of contradiction that CML made my project fly. It provided me with the intellectual and material resources – funding, but above all time – to create and discover connections with people, texts, places. It allowed me to play the long game without pressure, pursuing promising but uncertain paths and developing

my own strategy. It all came together in 2019, when a substantial proposal on medieval self-commentaries was eventually funded by the Independent Fund Denmark.

The project kick started with a sensational finding. One of the manuscripts of our corpus, preserved in the Leiden University Library and containing rhetorical works by the 12th-century polymath John Tzetzes, turned out to be an “author copy”, that is a copy curated and edited by the author himself in his own hand. It also preserved portions of a work previously thought to be lost.

This is a unique discovery in the field of Byzantine literature for that period. We do not have other examples that early allowing us to peep into an author’s workshop, showing us first-hand his thinking and revision process. It is truly a game changer. As always luck surely played a part in this discovery. However, I prefer to see it as the end point of a long winding path that took me to Odense and from there to Leiden, right in front of a manuscript that was just waiting for me.



Divna Manolova



When I came to CML, I defined myself as an intellectual historian of Byzantium – I had just finished a project on curiosity and awe and my plan was to continue studying how the Byzantines engaged with and learned about the cosmos, its nature and structure. Joining a centre for medieval *literature* resulted in a synergetic experience I could never have imagined nor planned and that included collaborations with art historians and scientists that I am still involved in to this day.

It is at CML and thanks to its inclusive understanding of the literary that I was given the support, the time and the encouragement to shift and widen my disciplinary focus and to gear my research from the intellectual history of Byzantium towards the history of science and history of knowledge of the broader medieval world.

This shift was marked by the publication of two research pieces. One of them, on Demetrios Triklinios and lunar astronomy, was published in *Interfaces: A Journal of European Medieval Literatures* (2021), whereas the other, on the diagrams Neophytos Prodromenos designed for Cleomedes' *The Heavens*, became a chapter in the Dumbarton Oaks volume *The Diagram as Paradigm: Cross-Cultural Approaches* (2022).

It is thanks to these first explorations of the diagram in the context of a medieval manuscript culture and as a vehicle for the teaching and learning of the sciences, that I was able to determine the thematic scope of my research agenda after the CML postdoctoral fellowship was over. As a result, I continue my work of cosmological and astronomical diagrams, first, as a Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (Berlin, 2022) and, then as a Paris Region Fellow hosted by Systèmes de Référence Temps-Espace (CNRS, Paris, 2023–2024).

The CML example of experimental collaborations and respect of intellectual freedom, coupled with academic bravery and ethical commitment to the field of medieval studies, further motivated me to co-found, together with CML senior researcher Rosa M. Rodríguez Porto and Berlin-based philosopher Alina Vaisfeld, the Академичен театър „Икар“/Teatro Académico Ikaros/Academic Theatre Ikaros (2021). Our first initiative was the establishment of the biannual

History of Science in the Medieval World Summer School whose first edition took place in Veliko Tarnovo in July 2022. Among the instructors and core teaching members were CML's own Chiara D'Agostini and Ikaros' co-founder Rosa M. Rodríguez Porto.

My research activity at CML belonged to the Transformations and Translocations (T&T) research strand and this served as a platform for the exploration of two research themes much greater than my own specialism which I would like to highlight.

The first one concerns the experimental engagement (first in a reading group, and later in a workshop and an autumn school) with the illustrated twelve-century encyclopaedia *Liber Floridus* together with colleagues from York, Odense, Cambridge, Santiago de Compostela, and importantly, Ghent University and its Henri Pirenne Institute for Medieval Studies.

In addition to a number of discipline-specific insights I developed in dialogue with them, the *Liber Floridus* unexpectedly became also the common ground for collaboration with the organizers of the *Labyrinths of Wellbeing* event during the York Festival of Ideas in June 2021. It resulted in a video lecture for broader audience on labyrinths in medieval manuscripts which is available via the Centre for Medieval Studies at York YouTube channel.

The second T&T research team that deserves to be mentioned was born out of conversation on the board of a bus, somewhere in Greece, with CML postdoctoral fellow Julian Yolles. Employing a similar format (a reading group and two-day workshop), Julian and I, together with Elizabeth Tyler and Rosa M. Rodríguez Porto, explored the theme of *Constructive Absences in Medieval Literature* and the very personal question as to what is it that medievalists specifically can contribute to thinking about absence.

Finally, three University of York-based communities deserve a special mention as they played a key role in my CML experience, namely, first, the Centre for Medieval Studies (CMS) which created opportunities for me to teach the history of science; second, the Humanities Research Centre (HRC) where I spent most of my time (outside of lockdowns and quarantines) and where I could show my 'playful' side by designing the game *Lightbulb Jokes and Medieval Diagrams* on the occasion of the HRC's tenth anniversary celebrations; and last but not least, the York Cross-disciplinary Centre for Systems Analysis (YCCSA) Complexity Reading Group, whose members have repeatedly illuminated my thinking.



Julian Yolles



When I came to the Centre for Medieval Literature as a Postdoctoral Fellow, I had previously spent three years as a Teaching Fellow and Lecturer at Harvard University, and had just published my first book: a collection of annotated English translations of medieval Latin texts on the life of Muhammad (Harvard University Press, 2018). While I had begun to lay the groundwork for further research, acquired ample teaching experience, and developed an excellent North American network, the CML enabled me to pursue three aims that I viewed as necessary to advance my career: to push my research in new directions through interdisciplinary collaboration, to grow my scientific publication footprint by publishing a monograph and several peer reviewed articles, and to develop my European academic network. As a member of two research strands at the CML (*Canon & Library and Transformations & Translocations*), I benefited optimally from the interdisciplinarity offered by the members of the CML and its wide research network. Through workshops, symposia and conferences organized within these research frameworks at the University of York and at the University of Southern Denmark (SDU), I developed a multidisciplinary research network across Europe.

During my first year at CML, I presented ongoing research from a monograph on the Latin literature of the crusader settlements in the twelfth-century Levant (published with Dumbarton Oaks Press, 2022) at workshops in York, at SDU, at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds, and in my keynote address at the CMEMS graduate student conference at the University of Groningen (published in *Mittellateinisches Jahrbuch*, 2020). I also presented a paper on the methods employed by two early Latin translations of the Qur'an at a conference held at the Freie Universität of Berlin (published in *Journal of Qur'anic Studies*, 2020).

This last research helped me lay the foundation for a research grant application during my second year at CML, in which I combined my newly gained interest in translation studies with my expertise in the Latin literature of the Levant. In 2020, I received a HUM-SEED grant from the Faculty of the Humanities at SDU for my project *Classical Learning in the Latin East*, which sought to study the nature and impact of classical reception (especially through

translation) in the crusader settlements of the Levant and the Morea on the Peloponnese. This grant enabled me to organize a one-day symposium at SDU and to present an interdisciplinary research paper at the Medieval French Without Borders conference organized by Fordham University, together with art historian Rosa M. Rodriguez Porto (CML/SDU), on a thirteenth-century illustrated French translation of a Roman rhetorical text made in the Levant. On the basis of this research and my new research connections, I applied for three large-scale research grants during my final year at CML, including an ERC Starting Grant application on Translating Authority in the Latin East (*TALE*), a Sapere Aude research grant from the Independent Research Fund Denmark (for which I received a high score), and the Future Challenges in the Nordics grant in collaboration with Christian Høgel (CML/SDU) and Kurt Villads Jensen (Stockholm University).

In addition to these research activities, I organized several major research events that pushed disciplinary and linguistic boundaries and greatly helped to expand my European research network. Together with Divna Manolova (CML/York postdoc), I started the initiative of a reading group on *Constructive Absences in Medieval Literature* together with Elizabeth Tyler (CML/York) and Rosa M. Rodriguez Porto, which culminated in a two-day workshop whose participants included renowned specialists of medieval Arabic, Byzantine, Irish, Latin, English, and French literatures. I also co-organized with Christian Høgel a two-week summer school on Medieval Literature Across Languages. The summer school, co-taught with Aglae Pizzone, Reka Forrai, and Sandro Nikolaishvili, offered graduate students in medieval studies from around the world an innovative path toward learning one of four medieval languages (Georgian, Arabic, Greek, and Latin) by focusing on the narrative of Barlaam and Josaphat as a central text. I designed the course website with interactive digital editions of texts used in teaching and developed introductory course materials for the study of Classical Arabic through video lectures and exercises. Since May 2022, I am a Publishing Manager of Corpus Christianorum at Brepols Publishers, where I continue to draw on the invaluable research experiences and connections I made during my time at CML to promote a diverse and interdisciplinary body of publications.



A total of 21 post-doctoral researchers (and an additional 6 guest post docs) have been a part of CML over the years. Two of these were Julian Yolles and Divna Manolova, who were both at CML from 2018 to 2022. Julian was a part of the team in Odense and Divna in York. Here they have written about their experience at CML and how it has influenced their research and careers.

Steffen Hope



In August 2014 I, a young, arrogant Norwegian, came to Odense to begin my PhD at the Centre for Medieval Literature. I came with a set of research ideas I thought were well developed, I came with a view of my chosen material that was borderline complacent, and I came with the belief that my PhD project would be quite simple and easy to undertake. Life at the CML changed all that – for the better.

During the subsequent five years – three spent on my thesis, one spent as a research assistant and a teaching assistant, and one spent as an unemployed loitering hang-around – I matured as a scholar and was able to pursue new directions in my research. Much of my attitude to scholarship, to collaboration, to academia in general was shaped in those years.

What made my time at the CML so formative was not primarily the institution itself. Naturally, an institutional framework with a well-functioning inter-library loan system, good facilities and a proper salary is worth its weight in gold – I have been without those things often enough to know their value. Neither was it the project itself that made the experience so worthwhile, even though I should not underestimate how the overarching themes pursued within the centre have influenced my own thinking and my own academic tastes.

What was most important to my own development, to my own joy, and what I consider to be the true CML, was the community comprised of its members. During my years at CML, I became acquainted with and befriended colleagues of various fields of expertise, of various backgrounds, and who taken together spoke a broad range of languages. My colleagues opened up new doors to me. They made me aware of fields of research I had not known about, they shared their experiences in academia, and they provided help and feedback for my fledgling work. While I had come to appreciate the importance of interdisciplinary research during my MA, it was at CML I came to understand its broader potential, and it was there I understood that well-functioning interdisciplinarity is dependent not so much on networks as on communities.

My PhD dealt with how churches and monasteries in Northern Europe used royal saints to construct their institutional identities

in the period c.1050-c.1200. This work was a peripheral part of the thematic strand “Canon”, and methodologically speaking it was a continuation of my MA dissertation.

Through the community at CML, however, I was exposed to ideas that deepened my own thinking. Thanks to a dear colleague in art history, I came to use the concept of “textual images” to formulate my hypotheses, something I developed further in the article “The Odense literature and the early liturgy of St Cnut Rex” (2019). The kindness of colleagues has proved invaluable beyond my thesis work. My article “Typologies of the medieval cultural border” (2017), was enriched by one colleague’s knowledge of Arabic and the Quran, making me widen my scope in ways I could not have done on my own. The article “Byzantine history in the legend of Saint Olaf of Norway” (2022) would not have existed without the help of Byzantinists colleagues, both for their outreach and their linguistic expertise. I have tried to repay them all in my footnotes.

My story of CML is not a hagiography. Not everything went well; not everything was done well. But the community, the real, enduring CML, will continue to sustain my work, and I am grateful for that.



A total of 9 PhD students wrote and successfully defended their dissertations at CML over the course of our 10 years. One of these were Steffen Hope, who was a PhD student from 2014 to 2017.



*I cannot overemphasize this:
CML was the most formative period
of my academic career. It was an
intellectually generous and generative
space to grow as an early career
researcher - the three-year time span
not only allowed me to develop colla-
borations and teach, but to learn,
think, and broach subjects, ideas, and
languages beyond my own expertise.
I experienced a deeply welcoming,
friendly, open space that shaped my
understanding of academia in all
the best ways.*

- Shazia Jagot (post doc SDU & assoc. prof. York)

Collaboration
with the
David Collection



The idea of a collaboration with the David Collection began after a tour of the museum, in connection with a CML seminar on imperial languages in 2016. Three members of the CML – Rosa Rodríguez Porto, Shazia Jagot, and Christian Høgel – decided to attempt establishing a contact with the David Collection. It was obvious to all three that the collection offered enormous potentials through its immense richness in works of art that reflected storyworlds, knowledge fields, and textual practices, exchanged throughout a vast cultural area.

We therefore approached the directors of the David Collection to see if we could organise a workshop, or something similar, that showcased their collection to students and scholars working in medieval studies. This initiated a close collaboration with the museum director, Kjeld von Folsach, and curators Peter Wandel and Joachim Meyer in developing, organising and delivering three interdisciplinary workshops thus far.

The first workshop, in March 2017, had Christiane Gruber (Michigan) as keynote speaker and was aimed primarily at PhD students, especially students in and around Scandinavia. The topic of this workshop was ‘Medieval Ascension Narratives’ where we focused on the visual and literary depictions of ascension narratives in both

Muslim and Christian traditions. At this occasion, as at following, the David Collection most generously offered to host the meeting and a public lecture, with further practicalities taken care of by the CML.

After the success of the first workshop, we developed a larger project called Shared Movable Worlds. This ongoing project is focused on bringing wider scholarly attention to the museum collection in order to explore important questions about mobility and movement in material and literary culture across and beyond the ‘medieval’ Islamic world. Our first workshop for this project took place in May 2019 and the second in March 2022 (delayed due to Covid-19). At these workshops, the aim was to foreground the museum’s collection by asking scholars to choose an object in order to explore the movement of an object or a narrative across languages, geographies and cultures.

Our collaboration has allowed us to develop strong institutional links across SDU, York and the David Collection, especially important when Islamic art is little studied at higher education in Denmark. The first workshop allowed us to engage with students and scholars in Denmark, while the Shared Movable Worlds project has allowed us bring scholars working in institutions across the world to the David Collection, including the UK, America, Germany, and Italy. These are scholars who work across different disciplines including art history, literature, and the history of science, and languages including Arabic, Persian, Ottoman Turkish, English and French. We have also organised public lectures attached to the workshops. The first was delivered by Prof Christiane Gruber (Michigan) on 28 March 2017 and the second by Prof Sussan Babaie (Courtauld Institute) on 28 May 2019. These have been fantastic because they have allowed us to draw in a wider local audience to the museum.





It was the most intellectually stimulating and professionally satisfying experience of my academic career to date. I cannot rate it highly enough; everything I've done since has been rooted in the sort of multi-lingual, cross-polity approaches that CML promoted. My first book, written mostly during my CML time, is a product of these approaches, and my second (focusing on periodization) likewise. CML's influence continues to be central to my research and crucially to my teaching philosophy; I teach both undergraduate and MA courses that are directly inspired by these approaches. Thank you all so much for the CML.

- Venetia Bridges (post doc York)

A Companion to Saxo Grammaticus



CML did not set out to make any direct contributions to the history of Danish medieval literature. But several unforeseen factors put us in a position to facilitate research on the most famous Danish medieval author, Saxo Grammaticus, who finished his colossal and enormously complex chronicle, *Gesta Danorum* (GD), around 1208. CML thus contributed with fresh light on a piece of “national literature”, but in a way in which we were able to tell a much more European story about a national monument. In fact Saxo fitted well into the research themes of CML: he had studied in northern France (probably in the 1170s/80s) and picked up the latest trends Latin composition and literary style – a **translocation** that became crucial for his work. He mastered the highest register of Latin, the **imperial language** of most of Europe, a skill that he worked hard to turn against the German Empire, the great enemy in the chronicle. His way of writing was also deeply informed by the **canon** of classical authors that he read during his studies, a

canon that had developed significantly in Latin Europe since the middle of the eleventh century.

The leading Saxo scholar, Karsten Friis-Jensen (KU), who sadly passed away already in 2012, had published a new critical Latin text of GD in 2005 (together with the new Danish translation by Peter Zeeberg) and was preparing an edition for Oxford Medieval Texts (OMT) accompanied by the first complete translation into English by Peter Fisher. Fisher saw to it that the OMT text and translation came out in 2015 (in two volumes), and in June the same year CML invited Fisher and a group of Saxo scholars to Odense for a workshop. Around the same time Mortensen was engaged to write a short Danish introduction to Saxo which came out at Aarhus University Press in the the series *100 Danmarkshistorier* (2018). When Thomas Heebøll-Holm – who had previously worked on a project led by Friis-Jensen at KU and co-edited a Danish book on Saxo as a contemporary historian – was hired at CML as a lecturer for the remaining years of CML in 2018 (to 2022), the plans for a Companion to Saxo Grammaticus began to form.

Heebøll-Holm and Mortensen gathered a wide range of Saxo scholars for a workshop in Odense in August 2020 (we just made it in a window between spells of COVID restrictions) and we were excited to find out how many new approaches were emerging and how important the first English translation promised to be for the international promotion of the chronicle. Among the many novelties can be mentioned: unexpected reception of GD in Old Norse historical sagas, a sustained reaction against the hypercritical school that mainly dismissed Saxo as a source for the 12th century, new emphasis on Saxo as a source for warfare, gift-giving, gender roles and more, new illuminating comparisons with both ancient and contemporary Latin historiography, new discoveries in both the medieval and early modern reception of GD.

Thanks to the centre funding we had time and resources to go through a meticulous editing process, involving a previous Marie-Curie postdoc of CML, Alastair Matthews; with his native English, his training in Germanic philology (including Danish) and editorial expertise he saw the manuscript through to a stage where we could submit it the publishing house, Brill, in August 2022. Brill’s *Companion to Saxo Grammaticus* is expected to be published in 2023 and will feature 20 chapters, 16 freshly written, 4 older fundamental articles by Karsten Friis-Jensen and Michael Gelting, reproduced for easy reference. With this we hope to have established a secure point of departure for future Saxo scholars, to have provided useful material for university teaching, and also to have broken some new ground in our modern understanding of this tremendously rich text composed 800 years ago.



Lars Boje Mortensen
(head of CML)



Thomas Heebøll-Holm



My experience at CML - almost from the beginning - has been affected by the COVID outbreak, which has transformed my daily way of working, reducing the possibilities of creating a fruitful exchange in person with my colleagues. Despite the virtual environment, my experience at CML has been extremely valuable and beneficial. I learnt a lot about different fields and topics beyond my research thanks to CML series of seminars and WiP. More importantly, I was able to benefit from constructive feedback and attentive mentorship. The freedom of thought that characterizes CML has created an extremely positive environment for both professional and personal growth - even on Zoom!

- Elisabetta Barili (PhD student SDU)

Interfaces

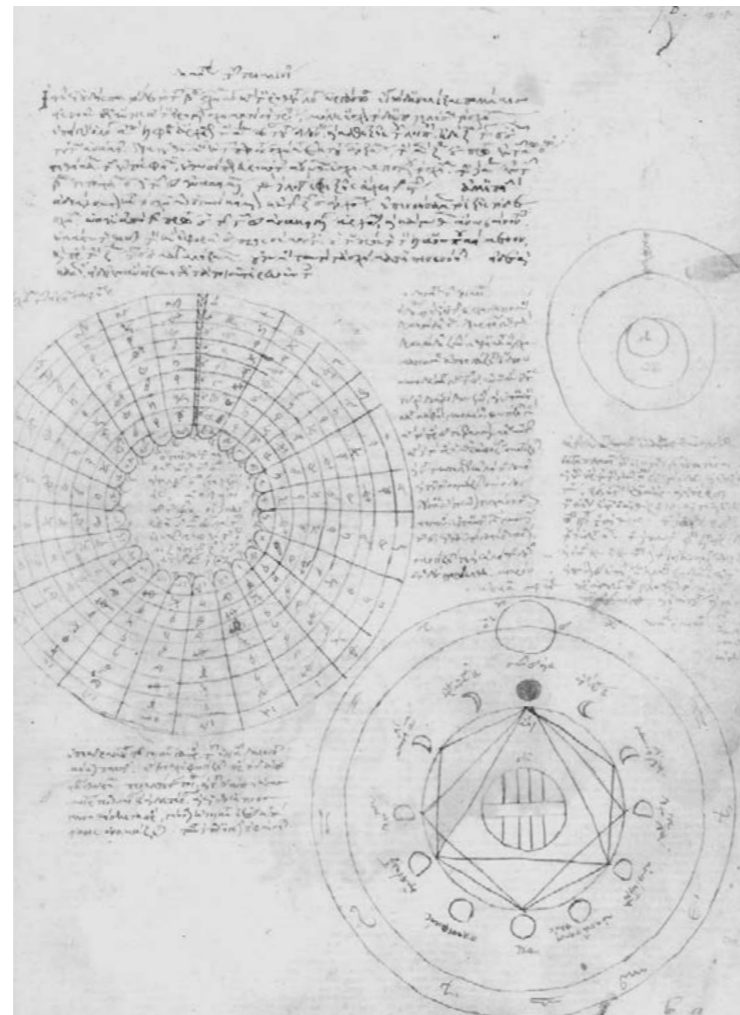
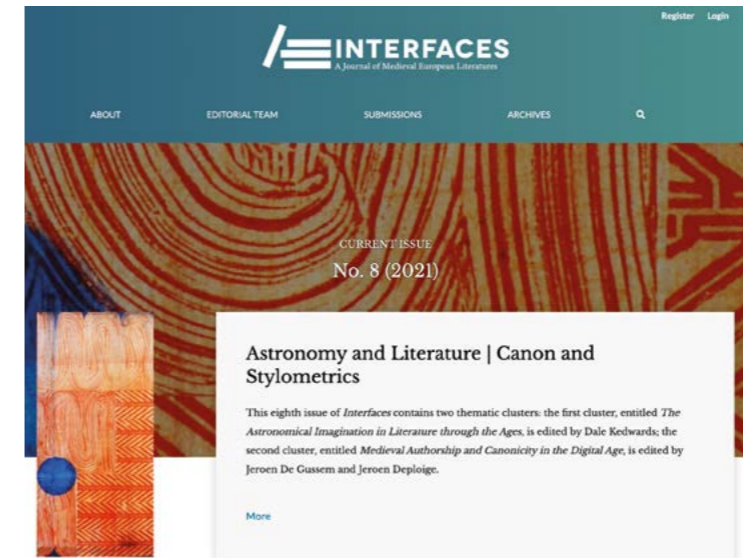
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Open Access Journal

When CML was established in 2012 there was no international journal devoted to medieval textual culture covering all of Europe.

The individual philologies were well served, as were specific cultural and linguistic areas of Europe in journals dealing with national or regional history and culture. By launching *Interfaces* we sought to promote research into medieval textual cultures that was interested in crossing geographies, languages and periods, thereby stimulating studies with a connective, comparative or entangled approach.

Starting a new journal was a daunting and risky task, but we were greatly encouraged by developments in on-line publishing, giving the possibility to circumvent all the cumbersome and profit-seeking procedures of commercial publishing. The breakthrough for us was our link to The University of Milan through prof. Paolo Borsa. In Milan they had already established a cross-faculty platform for scholarly-led publishing, and they took us into the platform for free.



Through the D NRF grant we made some initial investments for the design of our webpage and of our layout, both tailored for an on-line journal only. Apart from that, the costs of running the journal would be restricted to copy-editing and typesetting, because we could use the free, and excellent, Open Journal Systems (OJS, by the Public Knowledge Project) for the workflow and the Milan platform for archiving and distribution. As with many European commercial journals, the editorial work is done on a voluntary basis, but here with the extra satisfaction that we (Borsa, Høgel, Mortensen, Tyler) are working exclusively for our own academic agenda, not to engender profit for anyone.

This type of journal, with no Article Processing Charges (APC) and commonly called Diamond Open Access (DOA), has become much more common in recent years, and with *Interfaces* we hope to have contributed to the growing recognition that journals produced in this manner can honour rigorous procedures and highest quality ambitions. The journal accepts articles in English, French, German, Spanish and Italian, and has so far published nine issues, alternating between open and thematic ones. *Interfaces* enjoys a wide circulation and is beginning to be referenced in substantial ways in monographs and other articles.

For more information on the journal, visit our website riviste.unimi.it/interfaces, or read the article we published in *Pedagogy and Profession*, *New Chaucer Studies* [escholarship.org/uc/item/38j158z2] in which we reflect on our editorial experience and promote the idea of DOA publishing.



I first became a part of CML as an MA student at SDU. I was welcomed into the centre and greatly benefitted from the knowledge and research taking place. Later on I became a research assistant and finally I took on the role of centre administrator. As administrator my role has been to manage the day-to-day activities and I have found CML a wonderful place to work. Rather than feeling lonely when being the only member of staff with this administrative role, I have always felt as part of the community. The collegial spirit and positive atmosphere have been a huge part of my experience at CML.

- Maiken Bundgaard Villumsen
(Research Assistant & Centre administrator SDU)

Major events

Conferences

CML has organised and hosted many conferences, workshops, symposiums etc. over the 10 years of the grant. These have played a key role in facilitating the research at CML as well as enabling the researchers to develop their own projects. They have also been instrumental in the creation of collaborations across research areas both within CML and with the network of researchers beyond. Three of these stand out as our flagship conferences which were fully funded and organised by CML and all current members of CML played an active role in these. The first took place in York, the second in Athens and the third in Rome.

Theorizing Medieval European Literatures, York 2016

On 30 June-2 July 2016 CML held the flagship conference for our first period of funding. This took place at the University of York. With speakers and attendees from across Europe and North America, addressing topics from many points within Northwestern Eurasia, 'Theorizing Medieval European Literatures' aimed to lay fundamental groundwork for thinking in European ways about the literary cultures of the Middle Ages. In this it built on, but radically extended, discussions within CML and the Interfaces Network and publications within the journal. Around eighty participants attended and, appropriately in the week after the Brexit vote, intensively interrogated the concept of 'Europe' as applied to medieval literature.

Moving Forms: The Transformations and Translocations of Medieval Literature, Athens 2019

11-13 September 2019 CML held its second big event in the form of an international symposium at the Danish Institute in Athens. A diverse group of international speakers considered the way men and women, clerical and secular, constructed extensive social networks through travel, written communication and the exchange of texts. At the heart of the symposium was a focus on the way literary form responds to cultural movement, with speakers addressing key theoretical questions: How do we move from the micro to the macro level, from the close up to the panoramic, without falling into shallow generalizations? What are the advantages of existing

methodologies that account for the movement of objects, texts, and people through space? And how does medieval Europe fit into a wider Afro-Eurasian space? Approaching these questions necessarily entailed the act of sifting through difficult and often partial sets of evidence. How do we, as scholars, create narratives out of the trails, traces and clues that remain from the medieval past?

About 50 people attended and took part in both the three days of the symposium as well as social activities and tours organised to enjoy and appreciate the historical setting in the heart of Athens.

Scale(s) of Literary History – Europe c. 500-1500, Rome 2022

On 5-7 April 2022 the third and final big CML conference took place at the Danish Institute in Rome. Around 50 participants attended the conference, and even more were able to follow the three keynotes as these were made available for online attendance.

The central aim of this conference was to explore the spatial, temporal and archival scales which structure our literary histories of the Middle Ages. Spatial scales are particularly contested in the field, with the global scale explicitly challenging long established local and national scales of literary study. While the global has brought valuable methodologies and ethical commitments to the study of medieval literature, its practice risks homogenizing medieval literature and letting literature in English (or of the Latin West) stand in for and efface the rich diversity of the literary cultures of the Middle Ages. This conference aimed to develop and scrutinize the European scale (including Europe within Mediterranean, Islamic, Eurasian and Afro-Eurasian scales) for the study of medieval literary cultures.



Summer schools

The five summer schools organized by CML were attended by a wide range of international early-stage researchers. They provided an opportunity for short, but intense periods of study which was beneficial both in terms of the material learned during the days of the schools, but just as importantly they facilitated long lasting networks as well as helped the students expand their own research areas and projects.

Crossing the Languages of Medieval Europe, Rome 2013

Together with the Henri Pirenne Institute (Ghent), CML ran a summer school in the Belgian Academy in Rome on June 3-8. The programme drew together twenty-five PhD students (from across Europe and the States) and nine tutors from different disciplinary, chronological and geographical specialisms for six days of intensive study. The PhDs worked together to explore and conceptualize the linguistic diversity of medieval Europe. During the week, horizons were widened as discussion ranged from Chaucer to low German in medieval Finland, from Petrarch to Slavonic in the Balkans, from the impact of Sanskrit literature on Europe to European multilingual courts.

Canonizing Medieval Literatures, Helsinki 2014

The spring school took place 12-15 May and was organized by the Canon research strand and co-arranged by the University of Helsinki. The course was attended by eleven PhD students coming from Italy, Germany, UK, USA, Brazil, and Sweden. It consisted of a combination of lectures with prepared readings sent out beforehand, student presentations and discussions. The central term of canon gave focus to the lectures in which a part of CMLs research programme was presented and canonical authors such as Abelard and Heloise, Chaucer, Dante, Petrarch and Boccaccio and their medieval and modern canonicity was introduced and discussed.

Reading Pleasure/Pleasure Reading: Medieval Approaches to Reading, Istanbul 2016

In collaboration with Uppsala University, CML held a summer school at the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul 23-28 May. Twenty-seven

PhD students from a variety of countries (incl. Cuba, Georgia, Russia, Syria, and Venezuela) participated in presentations, discussions and group readings. Group readings were led by four tutors on various locations in the city (the Hippodrome area, the Büyük Londra Hotel, the Pera Tower, and the Chora church), and included ventures into both medieval (e.g. the story of Barlaam and Josaphat, Byzantine novels, etc.) and modern texts (Erich Auerbach, fan fiction, etc).

Medieval Literature Across Languages, online 2021

The multilingual summer school took place 17-28 May, and twenty-two PhD students took part. The main goal was to enable the 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. To facilitate this intense study of language, a course website was designed which featured interactive digital editions of the texts used. The language training was combined with lectures on case studies, addressing various methodological issues and approaches.

Scales of Knowledge: from Cosmos to Book, Ghent 2021

On 18-23 October the Henri Pirenne Institute of Medieval Studies' (Ghent) annual autumn school for took place. The autumn school was organized in close collaboration with Fordham, CMS York and CML and 15 students participated.

Taking the 12th-century Liber Floridus, a manuscript created at a specific time and place, as its touchstone, the challenge of scales of knowledge in times of rapid geopolitical change was addressed. The format of the event was hybrid, allowing students to attend both in person and online from various places in Europe.



I learned a huge amount from my time at CML engaging with a wide range of scholars with expertise in a range of different fields/literatures/geographies. As a recently completed PhD student when I joined, I had many of my first collaborative research experiences at CML and became acquainted with a 'medieval literature' way beyond the canon which has been formative for my current research and research priorities.

- Anya Burgon (post doc York)

CML

fact sheets

CML at SDU

At SDU, CML formed part of the Department of History which also included the study programme of Classics to which Mortensen and Høgel were affiliated. The section for Classics was reinforced with two positions as Mortensen and Høgel had a reduced teaching load during the grant period of CML. One of these positions was filled by former CML postdoc Reka Forrai, thus strengthening the CML profile at the department.

CML activities were regularly attended by colleagues from ancient and medieval history, religious studies, and comparative literature (the latter from another department), and CML researchers likewise contributed to their research agenda, applications etc. The interfaculty Danish Institute for Advanced Studies (DIAS) was set up at SDU in the beginning of the CML grant period and Mortensen was asked to join as the first chair of humanities. This later led to the hiring of two CML postdocs (Pizzone, Rodríguez Porto) on 6 year DIAS contracts.

CML scholars taught courses at classics, history, comparative literature and English. There was no specific medieval studies program, but Mortensen gave courses in medieval history and Høgel in comparative literature. Forrai taught medieval and Renaissance Latin for Latin students. The CML imprint was also conveyed to classics studies in classics reception courses by a number of CML scholars. Høgel and Mortensen had the opportunity to teach their specialties as guest professors, Høgel in Uppsala (2019-22), Mortensen in Siena (2022).

In the last year of the grant, permanent positions were opened within the profiles of two CML associate professors, potentially enhancing a long-term CML impact in both history and classical studies. CML will continue as a centre (with Mortensen as head) within the new department structure to be implemented from the beginning of 2023.



CML at York

At York, CML was part of the Department of English and Related Literature (which teaches English and many other literatures) and the interdisciplinary Centre for Medieval Studies (CMS). The Department of English has gone on to hire two former CML postdocs in permanent positions (Dr George Younge (CML/York) and Dr Shazia Jagot (CML/Odense)). CML has thus had a strong impact on the teaching of medieval literature and studies at York, in particular underpinning major new developments in Global Medieval, Islamic Studies and Medieval Science. The very active presence of Dr Divna Manolova, a Byzantinist working on the History of Science, in CMS has also contributed strongly to Global Medieval and Medieval Science at York. We have also collaborated with History of Art Dr Hanna Vorholt in History of Art, who is a leading researcher on the *Liber Floridus* (see Translations and Transformations strand) has been involved in our activities and Rosa Rodríguez Porto, an art historian, had strong links there while in York.

CML colleagues have primarily taught modules in English and CMS, with Rodríguez Porto teaching in the Department of History of Art and Manolova teaching in the Department of History (where her exceptional work was recognized with a teaching award).

Tyler's period as Co-Director of the CMS (2020-2023) has provided a direct opportunity for CML to impact more fully on Medieval Studies at York. In addition to promoting Global Medieval, Islamic Studies and Natural Sciences within the CMS programme, Tyler has been part of a team defending and extending the range of languages taught at postgraduate level (Latin, Old English, Old French, Old Norse and now Arabic).



External

funding

Bringing home external funding besides the D NRF grant enabled CML to engage with a larger number of international scholars within the field. PhD and postdoctoral research fellows brought their own research projects and became part of the CML community. Many grants also provided the opportunity to organise workshops and conferences as well as supporting training, travels, journal activity and more. Several new research projects were started and many of them extend beyond the timeframe of the D NRF grant.

The full amount granted to CML or to projects associated with CML, besides the D NRF grant, over the course of 10 years was 58.726.350,05 DKK. These funds were distributed on a total of 44 grants from either public Danish funds (10 grants), private Danish funds (5 grants) or international funds (29 grants). The list below shows the most important of these grants.

Fund	Purpose	Grant holder	Activity period	Granted amount
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Individual Fellowships	Postdoctoral fellowship	Alastair Matthews	2015-2017	1.581.187,00 DKK
Carlsbergfondet	Postdoctoral fellowship	Henry Bainton	2016-2018	1.188.000,00 DKK
Fullbright Commission	Visiting fellowship	Jeff Rider	2017	200.000,00 DKK
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Individual Fellowships	Postdoctoral fellowship	Irene Garcia/Lars Boje Mortensen	2017-2019	1.490.000,00 DKK
Danish Institute for Advanced Studies	3/4 Assistant Professorship	Rosa M. Rodriguez Porto	2017-2021	1.576.384,40 DKK
Swedish Research Council	Postdoctoral fellowship	Robin Wahlsten	2018-2020	627.120,00 DKK
Swiss National Science Foundation	Postdoctoral fellowship	Valeria Lovato	2019-2020	682.509,66 DKK
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Individual Fellowships	Postdoctoral fellowship	Maria Dell'Isola/Aglæe Pizzone	2019-2021	1.544.474,00 DKK
Independent Research Fund Denmark	Research and PhD scholarship	Aglæe Pizzone	2019-2022	2.877.895,00 DKK
Norwegian Research Council	Postdoctoral fellowship	Synnøve Myking	2020-2023	2.583.390,82 DKK
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Individual Fellowships	Postdoctoral fellowship	Sandro Passavanti/Aglæe Pizzone	2020-2023	2.446.240,67 DKK
Riksbankens Jubileumsfond	Research programme administered by Uppsala University in collaboration with the University of Southern Denmark: "Retracing Connections: Byzantine Storyworlds in Greek, Arabic, Georgian, and Old Slavonic (c. 950 - c. 1100)".	Christian Høgel	2020-2027	27.526.200,00 DKK (SDU part 5.367.609,00 DKK)
Carlsbergfondet	Research Infrastructure in collaboration with the SDU University library, "Infrastructure for multi- and hyperspectral image acquisition"	Christian Høgel/Aglæe Pizzone	2021	788.574,00 DKK
European Commission	Research network with three partners: University of Cyprus, University of Bamberg and University of Southern Denmark: "Network for Medieval Arts and Rituals" (NetMAR)	Lars Boje Mortensen	2021-2023	1.496.460,54 DKK

CML staff

This overview shows all members of staff at CML during the grant period of 2012-2022. CML was from the beginning organized with Lars Boje Mortensen as centre leader and Christian Høgel and Elizabeth Tyler as co-directors. The staff was split across the two nodes at SDU and York with approximately two thirds being placed at SDU and one third in York.

The day-to-day administration was from 2015 handled by a centre administrator who was placed at SDU with support from the administration at the Institute of History (IH).

The financial administration of the centre was taken care of by an officer at IH. For further details on the organization see our annual reports available on our website.

Core staff

Name	Title	Period of employment	Funding	Place of employment
Lars Boje Mortensen	Professor	2012-22	SDU and DNRF	SDU
Christian Høgel	Professor	2012-22	SDU and DNRF	SDU
Elizabeth Tyler	Professor	2012-22	York and DNRF	York
George Younge	Associate professor	2015-22	York and DNRF	York
Réka Forrai	Associate professor	2016-22	SDU	SDU

Associate professors

Name	Period of employment	Funding	Place of employment
Thomas Heebøll-Holm	2018-22	DNRF	SDU
Henry Bainton	2021-22	DNRF	SDU
Aglæe Pizzone	2022-24	SDU	SDU

Assistant professors

Name	Period of employment	Funding	Place of employment
Rosa María Rodríguez Porto	2017-22	SDU and DNRF	SDU
Aglæe Pizzone	2018-22	DNRF	SDU

Post docs

Name	Period of employment	Funding	Place of employment
Sacramento Roselló-Martínez	2012-15	DNRF	SDU
Venetia Bridges	2012-15	DNRF	York
George Younge	2012-15	York and DNRF	York
Réka Forrai	2012-16	DNRF	SDU
Shazia Jagot	2014-17	SDU and DNRF	SDU
Rosa María Rodríguez Porto	2014-17	DNRF	York
Alastair Matthews	2015-17	Marie Curie fellow	SDU
Aglæe Pizzone	2015-18	SDU and DNRF	SDU
Martin Borysek	2015-18	DNRF	York
Kristin Bourassa	2015-19	DNRF	SDU
Henry Bainton	2016-18	Carlsberg fellowship	SDU
Dale Kedwards	2016-18	DNRF	SDU
Irene Salvo García	2017-19	Marie Curie fellow and DNRF	SDU
Anya Burgon	2018-20	York and DNRF	York
Divna Manolova	2018-22	York and DNRF	York
Julian Yolles	2018-22	DNRF	SDU
Maria Dell'Isola	2019-21	Marie Curie fellow	SDU
Marijana Vukovic	2020-23	Other funding	SDU
Sandro Nikolaishvili	2020-23	Other funding	SDU
Sandro Passavanti	2020-23	Marie Curie fellow	SDU
Uffe Holmsgaard Eriksen	2020-23	Other funding	SDU

Research assistants

Name	Period of employment	Funding	Place of employment
Maiken Bundgaard Villumsen	2017 + 2020	SDU and DNRF	SDU
Steffen Hope	2017-18	SDU and DNRF	SDU
Kristian Thomsen Pureskov	2020	DNRF	SDU

PhD students

Name	Period of employment	Funding	Place of employment
Jonas Helgason Christensen	2012-15	DNRF	SDU
Claudia Wittig	2012-15	SDU	SDU
Christian Etheridge	2014-17	SDU	SDU
Steffen Hope	2014-17	DNRF	SDU
Tim Rowbotham	2015-18	DNRF	York
Tom Powles	2015-18	York	York
Chiara D'Agostini	2018-21	DNRF	SDU
Rasmus Vangshardt	2018-21	SDU	SDU
Elisabetta Barili	2019-22	Other funding	SDU

Guests

Name	Title	Period of employment	Funding	Place of employment
Jeff Rider	Professor	2017	Fullbright	SDU
Marek Thue Kretschmer	Professor	2017	DNRF	SDU
Kevin Blankinship	PhD student + postdoc	2017, 2021	SDU	SDU
Klazina Staat	PhD student	2018	Other funding	SDU
Dinah Wouters	PhD student	2018	Other funding	York
Robin Wahlsten Böckerman	Postdoc	2018-21	Other funding	SDU
Nicola Morato	Postdoc	2019	Other funding	York
Valeria Flavia Lovato	Postdoc	2019-21	Other funding	SDU
Synnøve Myking	Postdoc	2020-22	Other funding	SDU
Anne Ladefoged	PhD student	2021	Other funding	SDU
Kevin Blankinship	Postdoc	2021	Other funding	SDU
Benjamin Pedersen	Postdoc	2021-23	Other funding	SDU

Advisory Board

Panagiotis Agapitos
 Mayke de Jong
 David Wallace
 Anders Cullhed
 Julia Verkholtantsev



Administrative staff

Name	Function	Period of employment	Funding	Place of employment
Karen Fog Rasmussen	Secretary	2012-15	DNRF	SDU
Helle Kildebæk Raun	Financial officer at the department	2012-22	SDU	SDU
David Napolitano	Consultant	2014	DNRF and other funding	SDU
Kristin Bourassa	Centre administrator	2015-19	SDU	SDU
Maiken Bundgaard Villumsen	Centre administrator	2019-22	SDU	SDU
Chiara D'Agostini	Centre administrator	2021-22	SDU	SDU
Chiara D'Agostini	NetMAR administrator	2021-22	Other funding	SDU



My experience at CML has been enriching and stimulating both as PhD student and as centre administrator. The international, cross-disciplinary and multilingual environment of CML has greatly contributed to my work as a scholar helping me to broaden my research perspectives and to investigating things from different angles. Moreover, the experience at CML has taught me how research can be successfully pursued in a human and supportive environment. CML has proven how valuable and constructive the discussion with peers can be. I owe so much to CML!

- Chiara D'Agostini (PhD student, NetMAR administrator & Centre administrator SDU)

Key insights

and top PI publications

1. By taking a broad view of European literary languages in the Middle Ages as extending across Latin, Byzantine Greek, Arabic and a range of vernaculars, CML has been able to contribute with the concept of **imperial languages**, thereby ordering linguistic and literary history in a new way. This concept maps the literatures of Europe much better than the established categories of (modern) national languages and it has great explanatory power for understanding the continued dominance of Latin, Greek and Arabic and the development of vernacular book languages, which, contra nationalizing literary histories, was neither an obvious or linear process.
2. Similarly, a **three-partite chronology of European literatures** has been developed as an alternative to nationdriven periodizations. The three suggested periods – “exegetical” (600-1050), “experimental” (1050-1300), “critical” (1300-1450) respect developments across a widely conceived Europe and could only have emerged from the geographically and linguistically inclusive setup of CML.
3. CML has made a significant contribution to **framing early English Literary culture (c. 800-1300) as multilingual**, rather than as structured around English as the authentic language and others as foreign. The analysis has included the dynamics between English, French, Latin, Norse, Irish, Welsh, Dutch and German in and around England. This approach has contributed to the better understanding the impact of the writing of English on the writing of French, a development of European wide significance.
4. By focusing on a wider selection of “literature” than just the national canons of imaginative or poetic works, CML has successfully pursued a number of **history-of-science topics within a literary and book-historical framework** as well as contributed **with a new theoretical model for how canons of medieval literature were reinvented in the Romantic era**. Through these insights CML has actively promoted a broader 21st-century canon of medieval literature which is not framed by the preoccupations of global English or by sharp modern divisions between fiction and non-fiction when analyzing medieval learned activities.
5. CML has practised a **unique combination of book history and literary history**. This has resulted in breakthroughs for instance in the history of medieval book illustrations, in explaining the rise of French and Old Norse prose around 1200, in registering the deep connections between early medieval written vernaculars, and in understanding the rise of literary self-commentary in Arabic and Greek in the period c. 1000-1200, before the otherwise celebrated moment of Western literary self-reflection in the age of Dante (around 1300).



Top 10 publications by the PIs

For a full CML bibliography see our website

Borsa, Paolo, Christian Høgel, Lars Boje Mortensen, and Elizabeth M. Tyler. ‘What Is Medieval European Literature?’ *Interfaces – A Journal of Medieval European Literatures* 2015, no. 1 (2015): 7–24.

Høgel, Christian. ‘Beauty, Knowledge, and Gain in the Life of Theoktiste’. *Byzantion* 88 (2018): 219–36.

Høgel, Christian. ‘Euthymios the Athonite, Greek-Georgian and Georgian-Greek Translator – and Metaphrast?’ In *Mélanges Bernard Flusin*, edited by A. Binggeli, V. Déroche, and M. Stavrou, 23:353–64. *Travaux et Mémoires* 1. Paris: Association des Amis du Centre d’Histoire et Civilisation de Byzance, 2020.

Høgel, Christian. ‘World Literature Is Trans-Imperial: A Medieval and a Modern Approach’. *Medieval Worlds*, no. 8 (2018): 3–21.

Mortensen, Lars Boje. ‘European Literature and Book History in the Middle Ages, c. 600-c. 1450’. In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Literature*, 2018.

Mortensen, Lars Boje. ‘The Canons of Medieval Literature from the Middle Ages to the Twenty-First Century’. *Analecta Romana Instituti Danici XLII* (2018): 47–63.

Mortensen, Lars Boje. ‘The Sudden Success of Prose: A Comparative View of Greek, Latin, Old French and Old Norse’. *Medieval Worlds* 2017, no. 5 (2017): 3–45.

Tyler, Elizabeth Muir. *England in Europe: English Royal Women and Literary Patronage, c.1000-c.1150*. University of Toronto Press, 2017.

Tyler, Elizabeth M., Emily Steiner, and Jennifer Jahner, eds. *Medieval Historical Writing in Britain and Ireland, 500-1500*. Cambridge University Press, 2019.

Tyler, Elizabeth M., and Máire Ní Mhaonaigh. ‘The Language of History-Writing in the Ninth Century: An Entangled Approach’. *Journal of Medieval History* 47, no. 4–5 (2021): 451–71.

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