



UNIVERSITY  
OF TURKU



# TUCEMEMS

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

TURKU CENTRE FOR MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN STUDIES





**UNIVERSITY  
OF TURKU**



## TURKU CENTRE FOR MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN STUDIES

*The Turku Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (TUCEMEMS) is a multidisciplinary research centre funded by the University of Turku. The Centre provides support for and advances research activities examining different historical time periods, ranging from late antiquity to the latter part of the 18th century.*

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University of Turku 2023

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## EDITORIAL

After years of uncertainty caused by Covid-19, the year 2022 turned out to be successful in gathering people together under the same roof. The Centre's traditional activities returned to their old forms – almost – as most of the events were also offered in hybrid form. This decision will hopefully appeal to many as the events will be more accessible and will not require travel to attend.

A special event that TUCEMEMS had the honour to host was the Dies Mediaevales 2022, a biannual medieval conference in Finland, which was organised over three consecutive days at the beginning of March. There were around 80 participants, most of them present at the conference venue. Some participants avoided travelling and preferred the remote connection and some unlucky presenters had to stay at home with unwanted flu symptoms. The organisation of the conference was praised and it is probably still not too late to stress the importance of student assistants for the smooth running of the event!

The year did not pass without nostalgia: two long-standing members of the TUCEMEMS administrative board, Kirsi Vainio-Korhonen and Olli Koistinen, stepped down at the beginning of the year and were replaced by Charlotta Wolff and Hemmo Laiho. TUCEMEMS thanks Kirsi and Olli for their long-term work for the Centre!

I wish to thank all the TUCEMEMS members, friends, and colleagues for their important role as organisers, assistants, presenters and audience at the different activities during 2022! The atmosphere has always been warm and friendly; it was great to meet so many colleagues face to face after a long time!

Marika Räsänen  
Director of the Centre



## CROSSING BOUNDARIES: TURKU MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN STUDIES

The peer-reviewed book series of TUCEMEMS is published by Amsterdam University Press. Its international Advisory Board consists of leading experts in the fields represented by the Centre. The series publishes monographs and collected volumes placed at the intersection of disciplinary boundaries to introduce fresh connections between established fields of study. By the end of 2022, altogether twelve volumes have been published in the series. No titles came out in 2022, with the pandemic still delaying some projects. There are, however, several forthcoming titles, and we are expecting the publication of at least one new volume in 2023.

The Editorial Board is looking for high-quality manuscripts of monographs or collected volumes. For further information, please visit <https://www.aup.nl/en/series/crossing-boundaries-turku-medieval-and-early-modern-studies>

Matti Peikola  
Series Editor



## TEACHING

In 2022, TUCEMEMS continued to oversee the Prehistorical, Ancient, Medieval, and Early Modern Studies programme (25–60 ECTS). It consists of one compulsory introductory course titled ‘Introduction to the Study of Old Times’ (5 ECTS), and three modules that each include various optional courses: ‘Periods’ (10–15 ECTS), ‘Languages’ (5–20 ECTS) and ‘Methods’ (5–20 ECTS).

‘Periods’ gives the student basic knowledge of at least two older time periods, and the understanding of their basic chronology. ‘Languages’ gives the student basic skills in at least one foreign language required for the study of old times. ‘Methods’ aims at strengthening the student’s skills in methodology. In this module, students familiarise themselves more comprehensively with at least one research method (for example palaeography, diplomatics, codicology, epigraphy, numismatics, heraldry, chronology, text editing or archaeological excavations).

The programme was promoted to the students of the Faculty of Humanities via e-mails, and also on the Centre’s Facebook page.

## SPECIAL TEACHING ACTIVITIES

### **‘Roman nature, environment, and animals as part of the discourse of power.’ A study trip to Rome, 16.–29.5.2022**

In the spring of 2022, seven students from the School of History, Culture and Arts Studies spent two weeks on a study trip to the Eternal City, Rome. The special goal of the excursion was to deepen the students’ knowledge of the foundations of Western cultural history, from the perspectives of man’s

relationship with nature and the representation of power. During the course, students examined the themes in different text genres, iconography, and architecture, as well as in the built and unbuilt environment. The course covered the period from Roman antiquity to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, with an emphasis on the history of Antiquity and the Early Modern era.



*Participants of the excursion.*

Picture: Teemu Immonen

The group lodged at Villa Lante, the Finnish Institute in Rome, a Renaissance villa atop the Janiculum hill. The instructors of the study trip were Prof. Marjo Kaartinen, Dos. Reima Välimäki, and Dr. Teemu Immonen from the Department of Cultural History. The teaching consisted of guided tours in Rome

and the surrounding areas, as well as study seminars at Villa Lante. Each student gave two presentations during the course, one during the excursions to the sites and the other in a seminar. The personnel of the institute participated in the teaching as well. Director Ria Berg took the group to Ostia Antica and told them at Villa Lante about her project concerning the ancient Romans' relationship with nature, Vice Director Elina Pyy guided the group through the Imperial Forums and the Palatine hill, and Intendant Simo Örmä lectured them about the history of wine accompanied with samples of wine made of traditional Italian grapes.

The May days in Rome were boiling hot, yet the group got to work enthusiastically day after day. Many of them mentioned a visit to Villa d'Este in Tivoli (see the Report cover picture!) under a scorching sun as the apotheosis of the study trip. In the evenings, after the seminars, the group gathered to dine on the terrace and enjoy the view of the city, contemplating the words of poet Martial carved in the loggia of Villa Lante: 'hinc totam licet aestimare urbem', 'Here you may take the measure of all Rome'.

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### **Summer Intensive Course: Parish Priests and Rural Communities in Late Medieval Italy (5 ECTS)**

**Teacher: Professor Daniel Bornstein**

Teaching period: 30.5.-15.6.2022. Eight seminar meetings

Time and Place: 16:00–18:00, Seminar Room A270, Arcanum

**Course description:** Studies of the rural clergy have taken an anthropological turn in recent decades, as historians have used the records of episcopal visitations to question longstanding assumptions about the inadequate training and moral failings of the late medieval clergy, turning their attention instead to



the dense social dynamics of the village communities in which the rural clergy was deeply embedded. This course brought into play a different kind of source – the 1402 survey of ecclesiastical property in the Tuscan diocese of Cortona – and invited students to consider the implications of property and poverty for the functioning of pastoral care.

Course readings ranged from humorous stories by Boccaccio and other late medieval authors to essays by modern historians. The fundamental source, however, was Cortona's 1402 *Catasto dei beni ecclesiastici*, which was read together as an exercise in collaborative research. No previous training in paleography or medieval Latin was required; students acquired basic skills in Latin paleography from this course. Students had the option of either keeping a journal in which they reflected on the process of investigating the Catasto and on what they had learned from this investigation or writing an essay addressing a topic selected in consultation with the instructor.

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### **Vanhan suomen ja ruotsin kurssi (Old Finnish and Swedish), spring term 2022 (5 ECTS)**

**Teachers: Minna Sandelin and Tanja Toropainen**

**Course description:** This course was held for the first time and focused on Finnish and Swedish language in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The more precise topic of the course was Old Almanacs published in Finnish and Swedish during this period. A big part of the Almanacs used in Sweden including Finland at that time are published in both languages which makes it interesting to compare and analyse them in a language contact perspective. The main perspective on the course was linguistic and the lessons included Finnish and Swedish Language History and specific language phenomena in Old Finnish and Swedish in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Historical issues concerning especially chronology, the annual cycle in the local

society and daily life were also discussed. For this purpose, we had invited a guest lecturer, Dr Marko Lamberg, who shed light on these themes.

The students were introduced to the topic by practical text analysis and, for example, transliterating the old Fraktur typeface into Latin typeface. The participants of the course were students of Finnish, Swedish and history. While the students were investigating the content and the language of old almanacs, they were at the same time planning an exhibition in co-operation with the Turku University Library. Each student wrote texts concerning different issues in the almanacs to be published in the exhibition. Preparing and carrying out the exhibition was a new experience for the most of the students. The exhibition was the final examination at the end of the course. The exhibition is a permanent digital exhibition [Ajan Tieto – suomalaiset almanakat 1700-luvulla | Libuniturku \(utu.fi\)](https://ajantieto.libuniturku.fi). For technical support we thank information specialists Sara Kannisto and Liisa Hilander at the Turku University Library.

*Students investigating almanacs from 18th century. Picture: Minna Sandelin*



## **Miten vanhoja lähteitä editoidaan? Stockholms stads tänkeböcker (A Finnish perspective to sources of law in medieval Stockholm), spring term 2022**

**Teachers: Minna Sandelin and Kirsi Salonen**

**Course description:** This course focused on the late medieval town court protocols from Stockholm and notices about crimes committed by Finns and was therefore a combination of Swedish legal history and language history. The



*Manuscripts at Stockholm City Archive*

Picture: Minna Sandelin

course consisted of four half-day workshops with group work in between. The workshops introduced the students to medieval juridical practices in the Swedish Realm, to the art of editing medieval sources, to the history of the Swedish language, to the content of the court protocols called *tänkeböcker* and to the dirty deeds of people with Finnish origins.

The participants of the course were students from both history and Swedish language. Each student received a task requiring them to check the editions of the *tänkeböcker* from a certain range of years, and to search for court cases related to Finland or Finns. When they had completed this task, they checked whether the documents they had found were already published in the *Finlands medeltidsurkunder (FMU)*, the edition of medieval Finnish sources. In the second workshop, they presented their findings. After that, the students studied the content of the court cases that were not included in the *FMU* more closely and wrote summaries of the

documents. The findings of the students showed that not all documents concerning Finland or Finns in the tänkeböcker were included in the FMU and that in some cases the summaries in the source publications were partly erroneous. At the end of the course, the group made a trip to Stockholm and the City Archives to see manuscripts of tänkeböcker. The trip was financed by Suomalais-ruotsalainen Kulttuurirahasto.



*Students investigating manuscripts*

Picture: Minna Sandelin



*Manuscript of a tänkebok.*

Picture: Minna Sandelin

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## **Conversations with Students**

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of November TUCEMEMS arranged a meeting with students and scholars interested in the studies of old times. The meeting was conducted by TUCEMEMS members Teemu Immonen and Anni Hella. The idea was to gather together with coffee and light refreshments to discuss the different possibilities regarding the courses available in the University of Turku. What kinds of courses do students wish for? Which subjects, and which eras need more attention? The hour-long meeting was full of bright discussion and opinions, and it showed a clear need for more conversations like this. The original idea indeed was to arrange meetings such as this regularly in the future, with varying themes; for example, different research groups could present their work to students via these meetings.

## TUCEMEMS ACTIVITIES 2022

### ACTIVITIES FOR MEMBERS

#### **Book Reading Club: Early History of the Novel**

**27<sup>th</sup> of October & 15<sup>th</sup> of December at 16:00, Luoma, Arcanum**

Starting in autumn 2022 TUCEMEMS organized a book reading club for its members. The meetings will continue in spring 2023.

The theme is the early history of prose fiction. The books on the reading list include works all the way from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century to the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The autumn period included Achilles Tatius' love tale *Leucippe and Clitophon* (2<sup>nd</sup> century) originating from Ancient Greece, and a picaresque novel from an unknown Spanish writer called *Lazarillo de Tormes* (1554).

The meetings were informal with no enrolment needed, and the idea was to share reading experiences and thoughts on these differing early novels.

### CONFERENCES AND COLLOQUIUMS

#### **Dies Medievales 2022**

**Turku, Finland, 10–12 March 2022**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Dies Medievales conference took place in Turku, Finland, 11–13 March 2022. It was organised by the University of Turku and Åbo Akademi University in collaboration with Glossa (the Society for Medieval Studies in Finland) and TUCEMEMS. The conference was first meant to take place in

spring 2021 but was prevented by the Covid-19 pandemic. The 2022 conference was held in a hybrid mode to accommodate the ongoing uncertainty brought on by the pandemic.

Dies Mediaevales is an international biennial conference that brings together researchers in the multidisciplinary field of medieval studies. The participants come from different universities in Finland and from different fields, ranging from art history to philology and from archaeology to history.

The conference programme consisted of keynotes, presentations and panel discussions that addressed both individual research topics and general trends in the field of medieval studies. The conference languages were Finnish, Swedish, and English. The ‘Valoisa keskiaika’ [The Bright Middle Ages] award given by Glossa was also announced during the conference.

The theme of the 2022 conference was Remembering, memory, and knowledge. Medieval individuals and

### **From a Student Perspective**

I took part in Dies Mediaevales as a student helper, as a part of a workforce of seven students.

During the three days we got to help where needed, naturally, but we also got to follow and listen to discourse, conversation and debate on many different topics. Our position as technical aids made it possible to follow and listen while making sure that everything was working with the hybrid mode. And thankfully enough, we managed to share the sessions for each student with only a little bickering on who got to follow which topic.

The conference enabled researchers of many different fields to meet, but it also got us students together – while studying older times is certainly not rare, it is still a fact that we are not that many compared to those focusing on

communities alike were aware of their past and their relationship with it. The past was often perceived as an idealised space that could provide solutions to contemporary problems. The image of the past was constructed by collecting memories in different forms (chronicles, sagas, hagiographies, documents, relics, pilgrim badges, etc.) and by using them to build new narrative, visual,

and material traditions. In monasteries, the art of memory was carefully trained, and mnemonic techniques were also employed outside the context of the Church. The theme of remembering is present throughout the medieval society.

The theme was purposefully broad in order to cover a wide range of research topics and fields. A selection of the papers related to the conference theme will be published on *Mirator*, a multilingual peer-reviewed electronic journal devoted to medieval studies, published by Glossa, the Society for Medieval Studies in Finland.

more modern times. Seeing and getting to know other students fascinated by similar subjects, and of different academic ages was certainly inspiring, as it is easy to feel quite alone in your own medieval bubble.

## PROGRAMME

### Wednesday 9.3. (Pre-conference)

11:00–17:00    Wikipedia-edit-a-thon: Iron Age and the Middle Ages in Finland (FI)

### Thursday 10.3.

9:00–10:00    Registration



10:00–11:00 Keynote:

**Reima Välimäki**, University of Turku: Sagas, Saxo, and MV-lehti: The Political Uses of the Past on the Internet. (FI)



*Reima Välimäki's keynote lecture, which opened the conference.*

Picture: Marika Räsänen

11:15–13:00 Sessions 1

Session 1a: Finnish Medievalism and Historiography (moderator **Reima Välimäki**) (FI)

- **Heta Aali**, University of Turku: The Kalevala, the Far Right, and the Finnish Medievalism in the 2010s.
- **Heidi Henriikka Mäkelä**, University of Helsinki: Remembering Prehistoric Past, and the Phenomenon of ‘Kalevalaisuus’ in Finland in the 2020s.
- **Tuomas Heikkilä**, University of Helsinki: The Legend of St. Lalli – The Portrait of a National Villain.
- **Marjo Kaartinen, Sakari Ollitervo & Heli Rantala**, University of Turku: Jarl Gallén as a Medieval Scholar.

Session 1b: Fragmented Memories – At the Sources of the Medieval Culture of Images I: Images as Constructors of Memory and Experience (moderator **Elina Räsänen**) (FI)

- **Leena Valkeapää**: Lost in Cupboards? Searching and Finding Medieval Objects during the Art-historical Expeditions of the Antiquarial Society, 1871–1902.
- **Vilma Mättö**, University of Turku: The Picture Program of Taivassalo Church and Challenges in Interpretation.
- **Katri Vuola**, University of Helsinki: Remembering – and Covering – Memories of Christ’s Suffering. The Colouring of the Marttila Church Medieval Crucifix as a Fragment.

13:00–14:00 Lunch

14:00–15:30 Sessions 2

Session 2a: The Culture of Remembering in the Structural Elements and Inscriptions of Churches and Castles (moderator **Janne Harjula**) (FI)

- **Laura Laine & Panu Savolainen**, Aalto University: Wood’s Memory. Markings and Re-use of Wooden Structures from the Viewpoint of the Building’s Agency and Memory.

- **Tanja Ratilainen**, Turku Museum Centre: Markings and Traces on Castle Bricks.
- **Ilari Aalto**, University of Turku: Signings, Prayers, Payslips? Brick Maker's Markings in Church Space.

Session 2b: Nature, Human, and Faith (moderator **Marika Räsänen**) (EN/SWE)

- **Kristel Markus**, University of Helsinki: From Centre to Periphery: The Signs of Heightened Interest towards Nature in the Medieval Churches of the Baltic Sea Region.
- **Anna-Stina Hägglund**, Åbo Akademi: Lived Religion in Medieval Finland.

15:45–17:45 Sessions 3

Session 3a: Texts and Memory (moderator **Teemu Immonen**) (FI)

- **Lari Ahokas**, University of Helsinki: Re-use of Historical Texts in Italian Monastery Chronicles in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century.
- **Anni Hella**, University of Turku: Return to a Unified Church – Manuscripts as Traces of the Past in the Council of Florence and Ferrara.
- **Lauri Ockenström**, University of Jyväskylä: Memory in Magic and Magic in Memory: Rituals of Magic as Instruments and Reserves of Memory.
- **Saku Pihko**, University of Tampere: Memory, Remembering, and the Construction of Information in Medieval Inquisitorial Records.

Session 3b: Philosophy, Theology, and the Body (moderator **Kathryn Rudy**) (EN)

- **Sara Norja**, University of Turku: Transmitting Information with Alchemical Metaphors.
- **Laura Hellsten**, Åbo Akademi: Dance of the Choirboys.
- **Visa Helenius**, University of Turku: Scotus and the Transmission of Metaphysical Ideas.
- **Jesse Keskiäho**, University of Helsinki: Reading and Remembering: Early Annotations to the Major Works of Augustine of Hippo.

18:00 Book presentation: *Verta vuotava kuva ja muita outoja ihmeitä* [A Bleeding Picture and Other Peculiar Miracles] by Sari Katajala-Peltomaa, Jenni Kuuliala & Marika Räsänen.

18:00–19:00 Annual meeting of Glossa, the Society for Medieval Studies in Finland



*The book cover  
(Gaudeamus)*

### Friday 11.3.

9.00–10.30 Sessions 4

Session 4a: Fragmented Memories – At the Sources of the Medieval Culture of Images II: Transformations and Selective Remembering (moderator **Leena Valkeapää**) (FI)

- **Saila Leskinen**, University of Helsinki: Wrongly Remembered? The Siuntio Baroque Sculptures as Portrayals of the Middle Ages.
- **Sofia Lahti**, University of Helsinki: The Displaced, the Hidden and the Forgotten: The Reliquaries and Their Survival after Middle Ages.
- **Joanna Veinio**, University of Helsinki: The Stained Glass Coats of Arms as Means of Remembering.

Session 4b: The Crusades and the Knights (moderator **Kirsi Salonen**) (FI)

- **Sini Kangas**, CESCO, Université de Poitiers/University of Tampere: Synopses of the Bible in the Prayers from the Crusades.
- **Stefan Schröder**, University of Helsinki: Remembering the Crusades and Crusading Ideology in Late Medieval Travel Reports to the Holy Land.
- **Jenni Lares & Antti Hannunen**, University of Tampere: *Ritarit* [Knights] – Story of an Exhibition.

10.45–11.45 Keynote:

**Kathryn Rudy**, University of St Andrews: The Memory in the Material: What Medieval Parchment Reveals about its Early Users (EN)

11.45–13.00 Lunch

13.00–14.30 Sessions 5

Session 5a: Spaces and Traces of Living (moderator **Visa Immonen**) (FI)

- **Päivi Maaranen**, Finnish Heritage Agency: A Memory from the Middle Ages in Gårdsböle, Ingå: Lamboas, the Lands Donated to the Church.
- **Hanna Kivikero**, University of Stockholm: The Fragmentality of Food Management: Comparing Two Source Materials – Archaeological Bone Material and Bailiffs' Records.
- **Tuuli Heinonen**, University of Helsinki: The Past and Remembrance in a Village Space in the Middle Ages.

Session 5b: Using Dreams and Visions as Memories and Knowledge in the Culture of Mid and Late Middle Ages (moderator **Jesse Keskiäho**) (FI)

- **Kirsi Kanerva**, University of Helsinki: Sleep Theories and Lunar Books – A Case Study of the Significance of Scholarly Knowledge in Medieval Iceland: The Hauksbok Manuscript of Haukr Erlendsson.
- **Sari Katajala-Peltomaa**, University of Tampere: Miracles, and Visions of the Devil – Proven Information, Memory, and the Hagiographical Genre.
- **Marko Lamberg**, University of Turku: Monastic Dreams – Fiction, Pedagogy or Authentic Memories?

14.45–16.15 Sessions 6

Session 6a: Erudite works (moderator **Mari-Liisa Varila**) (FI)

- **Anita Geritz**, University of Helsinki: Medieval Portents in Protestant Wonder Collections. The Case of Stephen Batman's *The doome warning all men to the judgements* (1581)
- **Seppo Heikkinen**, University of Helsinki: Medical Terminology and Medical Problems in the Miracles of St. Thomas of Aquinas.
- **Mira Harjunpää**: Poetic Grammar Books and Verses in Grammatical Teaching Material as Memory Aids from the 12<sup>th</sup> Century to the 16<sup>th</sup> Century.

Session 6b: The Religious Communities of Rome During the Papal Schism (moderator **Anni Hella**) (FI)

- **Marika Räsänen**, University of Turku: The Dominican Saints and Communities During the Schism.
- **Teemu Immonen**, University of Turku: The Cistercian Community of Tre Fontane During the Schism.
- **Kirsi Salonen**, University of Turku/Bergen: The Papal Curia as a Community During the Schism.

16:30–18:00 Sessions 7

Session 7a: Saints and the Afterlife (moderator **Sari Katajala-Peltomaa**) (FI)

- **Johanna Tyynelä-Haapamäki**, University of Helsinki: The Ones Remembering in the Canonization Process of Nils Hermansson.
- **Olli-Pekka Kasurinen**, University of Helsinki: Limits of Remembrance: Rare English Saints in the Early Liturgical Fragments Preserved in Sweden and Finland.
- **Jyrki Nissi**, University of Tampere: Announcing Death in the Lazarus Miracles of the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Session 7b: Manuals Supporting Memory (moderator **Timo Korkiakangas**) (FI)

- **Sanna Supponen**, University of Helsinki: Reference Books and Memory: A Case Study of Master Mathias of Linköping and his *Alphabetum distincionum*.
- **Leena Enqvist**, University of Helsinki: Don't Forget Me: Prayer Books as Spaces of Memory in Bridgettine Convents.
- **Antti Ijäs**, University of Helsinki: Text, Memory, and Skill: A Book of Combat as Mediator of Technique.

18:15–19:00

Reception provided by the City of Turku

Greeting: Director of Education and Teaching, Timo Jalonen

Announcement of the 'Valoisa keskiaika' award

19:30 Conference dinner, 25th anniversary of the association Glossa

### **The 'Valoisa keskiaika' award**

The Dies Mediaevales conference saw the announcement of the 'Valoisa keskiaika' [The Bright Middle Ages] award of honour. The honour is given by the Society for Medieval Studies in Finland (Glossa) every other year to a society or a person who has promoted and advanced medieval research via their work.

This year the honour was given to the Turku University Docent of Medieval Archaeology Markus Hiekkanen. He has had a long career in the study of medieval church buildings and their décor. He has advanced the research methods of the field and made valuable and systematic mapping of the medieval churches in Finland. For its part, his research has created a new base for the study of the early days of Christianity in Finland, due to a better understanding of the building dates of these churches.

The board of Glossa also paid special attention to Hiekkanen's work in promoting the Middle Ages to the public, as one of the award's aims is to, indeed, brighten the dark and gloomy image of the Middle Ages, and remind the public that the period has a lot to give to the modern day.

The Centre's director Marika Räsänen also shared her thoughts of the award: 'I think that the award in this day and age is a very topical one: while the war in Ukraine continues it is my belief that society's understanding of the importance of history will increase. Markus' work as a medieval scholar has proved that research takes time, and that one must have the opportunity for long-term work in order for the results to be long-lasting, so that we can further build our understanding of the future.'





*The chairperson of Glossa Hanna Supponen presenting Docent Markus Hiekkänen with the award. Picture: Marika Räsänen*

### **Saturday 12.3.**

9:00–11:00 Sessions 8

Session 8a: Legal Culture, Kinship, and Donations (moderator **Anna-Stina Hägglund**) (SVE/FIN)

- **Margaretha Nordqvist**, University of Stockholm: Kinship – Conceptions of Genealogy in Late Medieval Sweden.
- **Tuula Rantala**: Sources on Morning Gifts and Their Preservation in Medieval Sweden.

- **Kendra Willson**, University of Turku: Of Gunnhildrs and Gyðas.

Session 8b: Language and Translation (moderator **Aino Liira**) (FI)

- **Mikko Kauko**, University of Turku: *Här märk gudhz brudh* – Jöns Budde’s Explanatory Insertions in the Revelations of Mechtild.
- **Saara Honkanen**, University of Helsinki: The Role of Syntax in the Construction of Medieval Historical Prose Between the Carolingian Renaissance and the Renaissance of the 12th century.
- **Timo Korkiakangas**, University of Helsinki: The Failing Memory of Scribes: Linguistical Variations in the Latin from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> Century Italian Standard Document Forms.
- **Hanna-Mari Kupari**, University of Turku: The Conventions in the Documents of the Apostolic Penitentiary in the Usage of Medieval Memory Organization: First Results of the Research Project.

11:15–12:15 Keynote:

**Theresia Pettersson**, Södertörns högskola/University of Jyväskylä. ‘Eodem die sagdes fore retto’ – Of the Protocol Books [tänkeböcker] of the City Courts as Memory Practice and Policy. (SVE)

12:15–12:45 Closing Remarks

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## Colloquium

**Landscapes of Devotion – New Approaches to the Study of Saints, Materiality, and Religion**

**9 June 2022**

The colloquium was organised by TUCEMEMS, Tampere Centre for Classical, Medieval, and Early Modern Studies (TRIVIUM), and the project ‘Levd religion i medeltida Finland’, funded by the Swedish Literature Society in Finland (SLS).

The keynote presentation was part of the Monthly Talks series of Centre of the Study of Christian Cultures (CSCC).

Location (hybrid): Seminar Room A355/357, Arcanum, University of Turku & ZOOM

## PROGRAMME

11.30–13:00 Session I

**Oana Cojocaru** (Visiting researcher, IASR, Tampere University): Constructing the Devotional Life of Children in Byzantine Childhood Narrative.

**Jyrki Nissi** (Researcher, Tampere University): ‘Presbiter ecclesie non est in Urbe’ – Problems with the Last Rites in Late Medieval Resurrection Miracle Narratives’.

**Tiina Kala** (Researcher, City Archives of Tallinn/Senior Researcher, Tallinn University): The Cult of St. Olaf in Tallinn.

13:00–14:00 Lunch break

14:00–15:30 Key-note presentation

**Daniel Bornstein** (Professor, Washington University in St. Louis): Cortona of Margaret of Cortona.

**Abstract:** Margaret of Cortona – illiterate peasant, occasional midwife, and unwed mother – made a most unusual saint. She wasn't even from Cortona, the Tuscan hilltop town of Cortona that claims her as its patron saint, having fled there as a destitute refugee after the murder of her lover. This talk uses Cortona's 14<sup>th</sup> century tax records to reconstruct the social and economic profile of the community into which Margaret inserted herself between her arrival there in flight from the people who had killed her lover and her own death there in 1297.

15:30 Coffee break

16:00–17:00 Session II

**Ileri Aalto** (Researcher, University of Turku): Carved in brick: Hints of Devotion at Medieval Brickyards.

**Sofia Lahti** (Researcher, University of Helsinki and Tampere University): Fragments of Lived Religion: Mapping Saints and Tracking Iconoclasm'

17:00–18:00 Panel discussion

'Landscapes of devotion – new approaches to the study of saints, materiality and religion.'

Discussants: **Daniel Bornstein**, **Anna-Stina Hägglund** (Tampere University & Åbo Akademi), **Sari Katajala-Peltomaa** (Tampere University, HEX), **Joanna Kurth** (City of Turku), **Serena Masolini** (University of Helsinki).

Chair: **Matti Peikola** (University of Turku).

## Conference

### **Cultural transfer between Poland, Finland, and Sweden from the Jagiellonian era to the end of the Vasa Dynasty: on the 460th anniversary of Catherine Jagiellon's arrival in Finland (1562–2022).**

The period of Jagiellonian rule that lasted for centuries, until the end of the second half of the 17th century when the reign of the rulers from the House of Vasa began, was the time when the Commonwealth was a power (territorial and military) in Europe. The rulers of the Jagiellonian dynasty and the Vasa dynasty entered into marriages with, for example, German, Czech, Hungarian, and Swedish courts, which resulted in intensified contact between Polish culture and other cultures. The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth at that time was a multicultural state: it was inhabited not only by Poles and Lithuanians but also by Germans, Jews, Swedes, Scots, and Tatars.



*Ewa Cybulska-Bohuszewicz and Nina Manninen opening the conference.*  
Picture: Jutta Laitila

The aim of the conference was to look at the phenomenon of cultural transfer between Polish culture and other cultures (especially Scandinavian ones) in the period mentioned. It was aimed at literary scholars, historians, linguists, cultural scientists, art historians, religious scholars, theatre scientists, and representatives of the broadly understood humanities interested in researching this period.

The conference was organized by TUCEMEMS, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Helsinki, the Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and Polska Institutet Stockholm.

## PROGRAMME

10:00-10:15 Opening

**Nina Manninen** (University of Turku, Finland) & **Ewa Cybulska-Bohuszewicz** (Institute of the Literary Research of the Polish Academy Sciences, Poland, Warsaw): Polish Manuscript of Catherine's Dowry.

10.15-11.45 1. Session

**Malgorzata Ciszewska** (Institute of the Literary Research of the Polish Academy Sciences, Poland, Warsaw): Catherine Jagiellon and Her Story in the Funeral Sermon Delivered by Szczęśny Skarżyński.

**Anu Lahtinen** (University of Helsinki, Finland): Letters from Exile. Swedes and the Cultural Exchange Between Sweden and Poland-Lithuania.

**Dariusz Chemperek** (Maria Skłodowska-Curie University, Lublin, Poland): Anna Wazówna's (Anna Vasa) Heritage.

11.45-12.45 Lunch

12.45-14.15 2. Session

**Paweł Bohuszewicz** (Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland): Sigismund III Vasa as a Descendant of the Goths and Sarmatians (in the Light of the Polish Chronicle).

**Eva Mattsson** (Vadstena Castle, Sweden): Consequences of Katarzyna Jagiellonka's Marriage to Jan Waza (in the International Perspective: Sweden-Finland – Poland).

**Tupu Ylä-Anttila** (University of Helsinki, Finland): The Jagiellonian and Vasa Dynasties from the Habsburg Point of View 1523–1572.

14.15-14.30 Coffee pause

14.30-16.00 3. Session

**Peter Sjökvist** (Uppsala University, Sweden): Reconstructing the Sigismund Vasa Swedish Library at Uppsala – Some Observations of its Physical Evidence.

**Radosław Rusnak** (Warsaw University, Poland): Swedes in Selected Texts of Polish Literature of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

**Nina Manninen** (University of Turku, Finland): The Princess Returns: Using Research in the Making of an Exhibition.

16.00-16.15 Coffee pause

16.15-17.15 4. Session

**Michał Kuran** (University of Łódź, Poland): Description of the Kingdom of Sweden in Aleksander Gwagnin's Chronicle of Sarmacy in Europe.

**Ewa Cybulska-Bohuszewicz** (Institute of Literary Research, Warsaw, Poland):  
Description of the North and the Beliefs of its Inhabitants in a Treatise by  
Maciej Miechowita.

## STUDIA GENERALIA

### **Studia Generalia Lecture Series, Spring 2022: Enlightenment – The Cultural Phenomenon of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century**

What was the Enlightenment, and how has it affected people's daily lives, worldviews and the institutions that structure our everyday lives? In this lecture series, organised by TUCEMEMS, the 18<sup>th</sup> century ideologies were approached from a broad point of view, in the centre of which were the people and agents who worked behind the scenes of this conceptual and cultural change. The starting force for the series was a research project led by Professor Charlotta Wolff: 'The Authors for Enlightenment – Changing ways of thinking in Northern Europe of the 1700s' (Finnish Academy 2017–2021).

The lecture series was an updated rerun from 2021, when it was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The lectures were held on Monday evenings at 17:00–18:30 in a hybrid mode.

#### **24<sup>th</sup> of January**

**Professor Charlotta Wolff** (Finnish History, University of Turku):  
Enlightenment and the Beginning of Modern European Identity.

**Abstract:** What was the Enlightenment and why does it matter? Is the Enlightenment part of the ideological heritage of the European identity? In this



opening lecture of the Studia Generalia series, Professor Wolff considers how the new 18th century ideas of knowledge, humanity and society have shaped our worldviews.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> of February**

**Docent Jukka Sarjala** (University of Turku): H. G. Porthan and the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Theories of Emotion

**Abstract:** The lecture examines professor of the Royal Academy of Turku, Henrik Gabriel Porthan (1739–1804), and his views of a human’s affects and ability for empathy, that is, of movements of the mind and their infectiousness. The lecture also takes a look at Porthan’s performance of official duties and his post’s central aspects.

#### **14<sup>th</sup> of March**

**Docent Leena Salmi** (University of Turku) & **Professor Hannu Salmi** (University of Turku): Madame de Genlis – A Pedagogue of Enlightenment and Romanticism.

**Abstract:** The subject of the lecture is Madame de Genlis (1746–1830), a French pedagogue and a prolific writer. Genlis embraced the ideologies and thoughts of the mid-18th century pre-Enlightenment, and composed applications of them, especially for educational use, the effects of which were manifested not until the 19th century. Genlis is, however, significant and topical due to her reformative pedagogy in the field of academic teaching. Genlis’ colourful life, prolific literary career, art, and internationality indirectly affected also the history of Finland and Turku.

**11<sup>th</sup> of April**

**Professor Mia Korpiola** (University of Turku): The Effects of the Enlightenment on the Development of Laws in Finland and Sweden.

**Abstract:** The presentation examines the spreading of the ideologies of the Enlightenment philosophers relating to law in Finland, and their effect on the Finnish legal system. First, we take a look at certain literary classics and their spread to Finland at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries. Then we discuss the practical impacts of these ideologies via a few examples of, for example, human rights, criminal law, and procedural law.

**16<sup>th</sup> of May**

**PhD Laura Tarkka-Robinson** (English, University of Turku): Enlightenment via Luxury? The Teaching of Civilizational History in the Catalogue of Engraver James Tassie.

**Abstract:** The presentation examines a catalogue called ‘A descriptive catalogue of a general collection of ancient and modern engraved gems, cameos as well as intaglios’ (London 1791), which was published by a Scottish engraver James Tassie (1735–1799) and a German scholar Rudolf Erich Raspe (1736–1794). The catalogue was, at its time, a unique combination of the marketing of industrial art and the antiquarian research, pushed on by the discourses of the Enlightenment. The collaboration of Tassie and Raspe raises a question of whether or not ‘edifying’ luxury products could promote the Enlightenment.

## MONTHLY TALKS

The TUCEMEMS Monthly Talks in 2022 were held on Thursdays from 16:00 to 18:00 as hybrid events in Arcanum Seminar Room 355/357 and via Zoom. The events were advertised to TUCEMEMS members and to the public.

### 20<sup>th</sup> of January

In collaboration with the Centre for the Studies of Christian Cultures (CSCC).

**PhD Maroš Nicák:** Narsai: Poetry and Theology in the *Sōgītā* on Cyril and Nestorius.

**Abstract:** Syriac Christianity has been and is often still neglected, underestimated and on the fringes of theological interest, due to insufficiently broken-down prejudices, the foundations of which were built during the epoch of Late Antiquity. While Christianity in the Byzantine Empire became the state religion in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, unmissable waves of local and widespread persecution were to hit Syriac Christians in Mesopotamia. In recent years, however, paradoxically, interest in the depths of the spiritual wealth of Syriac Christians has increased in European society precisely because of the migration crisis. It is typical for the Syriac tradition to express not only theological views in a poetic form, but also to evaluate historical events from a religious perspective.

One of the most notable Syriac poet-theologians living during the persecution of the Sasanian Empire is Narsai, who can rightly be considered one of the main pillars of Syriac patristics. It is Narsai who lived and wrote his works during the most divisive Christological disputes, who is often credited with the alleged introduction of the ideas of Bishop Nestorius of Constantinople into the Church of the East. The contextual analysis of the dialogic poem (*sōgītā*) on Cyril and

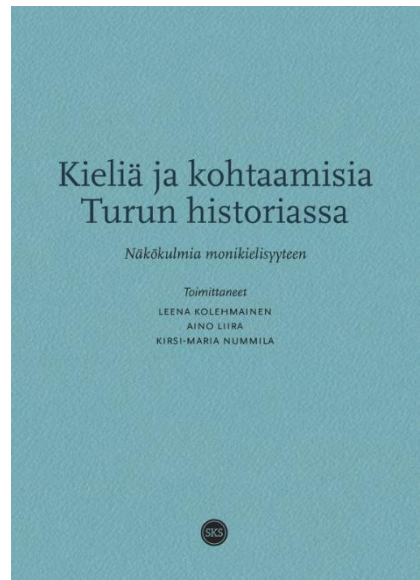
Nestorius, written by Narsai according to the Syriac church tradition, points not only to the importance of the poetic form of Syriac theology, but also to their religious assessment by the author based on the fictional theological conversation between Nestorius and Cyril of Alexandria.

## 17<sup>th</sup> of February

**Book Launch Seminar:** *Kieliä ja kohtaamisia Turun historiassa – Näkökulmia monikielisyteen* [Languages and Encounters in the History of Turku – Perspectives into Multilingualism].

**Event information:** *Kieliä ja kohtaamisia Turun historiassa – Näkökulmia monikielisyteen* (published by SKS) takes a look at the multilingual history of Finland's oldest city, all the way from the Middle Ages to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Which languages were used in the city and its surrounding areas during different centuries? With which parts of life and everyday situations were these languages associated?

The articles in this book seek to answer these questions from different scientific research standpoints: linguistics, history, archaeology, literary research, and cultural heritage research. The studies discuss the linguistic usage of both individuals and institutions. The book offers snapshots from the linguistic past of Turku and demonstrates how crossing



*Cover of the book (SKS)*

cultural and linguistic borders has always been an integral part of living in an urban environment.

The book is edited by Professor Leena Kolehmainen (German language), Postdoctoral Researcher Aino Liira (English language) and Docent Kirsi-Maria Nummila (Finnish language), all from the University of Turku.

## PROGRAMME

Opening:

**Professor Leena Kolehmainen and Postdoctoral Researcher Aino Liira:**  
The Multifaceted Multilingualism.

Interviews with the subject of ‘Snapshots of the languages of Turku, from the Middle Ages to the 1960s’.

- **Docent Janne Harjula**, interviewed by **Aino Liira**: Literary Culture of Medieval Turku.
- **Docent Veli Pekka Toropainen**, interviewed by **Leena Kolehmainen**: The Languages of Turku in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Court Documents.

Short presentations:

- **M.A. Susanna Mäkinen, Professor Matti Peikola and Professor Jukka Tyrkkö**: Talk of Language in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Newspapers of Turku
- **Docents Viola Parente-Čapková & Kati Launis**: The Cultures of Reading in Turku in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century: The Old Multilingual Collection of the Turku City Library.
- **PhD Outi Veivo, Docent Leena Salmi, M.A. Jaana Saarikoski & PhD Maija Mäki**: Languages of Astronomy: Multilingualism at the Tuorla Observatory in the 1960s.

**Professor Hanna Lappalainen** (University of Eastern Finland): Comments and Reflections from a Reader's Standpoint.

**17<sup>th</sup> of March**

**Professor Kirsi Vainio-Korhonen** (Finnish History, University of Turku): The Other Side of Luostarinmäki – History of the Poor in Turku at the Beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Abstract:** The talk presents some results of the new research project, focusing especially on the history of women and children living in Luostarinmäki at the beginning of the 19th century. The project is called 'Experiences of poverty and lack of constituting in Turku, from the 1800s to this day'.



*Professor Kirsi Vainio-Korhonen presenting the Monthly Talk.*

Picture: Marika Räsänen.

**28<sup>th</sup> of April**

In collaboration with the Centre for the Study of Christian Cultures (CSCC).

**Professor Matti Peikola** (English, University of Turku): Philology, Textual Editing and Religious Controversy in Sixteenth-Century England.

**Abstract:** A variety of medieval English vernacular texts (in Old and Middle English) were published and edited in print during the sixteenth century. These publications were often motivated by contemporary religious controversies for which arguments and precedents were sought from previous centuries. My presentation discusses the philological views of sixteenth-century editors and printers of such texts about how their old language forms and archaic material features should be presented to the contemporary audience. Depending on the age of the text and the religious context of the edition, for example, different solutions were devised by editors and printers to maintain the authentic ‘feel’ of the medieval material while they at the same time also tried to render the text accessible to contemporary readers. In my presentation, prefaces and other editorial paratexts are used as a major source to access editors’ and printers’ philological thinking.

**5<sup>th</sup> of May**

**Nea Pälä & Johanna Viitanen:** The Incunabula of the Turku University Library.

**Abstract:** Incunabula, that is, cradle books, are books printed before the year 1501. The influence of medieval manuscripts is still clearly visible in the typography and illustrations of these books. The incunabula were often decorated by hand, and one can find illustrious pictures and ornaments in them. The valuable collection of the Turku University Library includes c. 60 incunabula. Most of them are written in Latin, but Greek, German and Italian

are also represented. The subjects of the books vary from theology to the natural sciences and poetry. The incunabula have often travelled through multiple owners. These owners have left their marks, sometimes quite literally, on the marginals of the pages for example.

The presentation takes a look at the incunabulum collection of the Turku University Library, specifically at those procured during the years 2020 and 2021. How can these books be found in the library database Volter, and what information does the database include?

## 22<sup>nd</sup> of September

**Assistant Professor Stanislav Doležal** (University of South Bohemia):  
Constantine and his Illyrian predecessor.

**Abstract:** Without doubt, Constantine (306–337) was one of the most important Roman emperors, not only in his own right, but also thanks to his predecessors and their legacy. He built on their successes and introduced important political, religious, and social changes during his reign, partly owing to the work of previous Illyrian Emperors. Therefore, it is important to place Constantine in this context and explore the history of the Roman Empire through the second half of the third century, highlighting the essential continuity between Constantine's reign and those of the Illyrian Emperors.



*Fragments of the colossal statue of Constantine.*

Picture: Jutta Laitila



## 13<sup>th</sup> of October

**PhD Erika Pihl** (Comparative Literature, University of Tampere): ‘So the Story Tells...’ – Or Does It? Open and Close Books in Romance Narratives between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

**Abstract:** Part of the rhetoric of medieval romance books is presenting themselves as faithful translations of possibly invented books. At the same time these romances merrily tramp on this convention by questioning their source loyalty via different narrative styles, such as accusing the source book of lying, or via hinting at meanings lost in translations. Also, verbatim loyalty most certainly was not part of the writing process: a central feature of romance art was transforming the source material, for example by shortening or expanding an episode of the story.

In this presentation, I examine how romance texts of the 12th and 14th centuries play with the idea of a book that is open and modifiable, but at the same time unalterable, and how these texts produce a cluster of ambiguous, parallel and even contradictory versions of their characters and events. I also ponder how this medieval viewpoint can diversify the understanding of an adaptation, for example those of fantasy novels and their prequels in modern television, the appraisals of which are often defined by our way of thinking as readers, which is based on the Classical ideal of unity.

The texts presented include *Parzival* by Wolfram von Eschenbach (early 13th century), *Le Roman du Graal* by Robert de Boron (turn of the 12th and 13th centuries), *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* by an anonymous writer, and texts by Chrétien de Troyes (c. 1130–1180/1190) and Geoffrey Chaucer (c. 1340–1400).

## 13<sup>th</sup> of November

**Professor Olli Koistinen** (Philosophy, University of Turku): Knowledge and Emotions in Spinoza's Philosophy.

**Abstract:** According to Spinoza, emotions (affects) are either active or passive. The passive emotions are born due to external influences, and an active emotion accompanies independent thinking. Passive emotions can be either positive or negative, while the active ones are always positive. The highest active emotion is loving God, that is, Nature. The presentation focuses on clarifying the nature of this highest emotion.

This Monthly Talk also acted as a farewell to Olli Koistinen as a TUCEMEMS board member, after he resigned from his post in 2022.



*Aino Mäkikalli presenting Olli Koistinen with a gift of flowers with students in the background. Picture: Jutta Laitila*

**1<sup>st</sup> of December**

In collaboration with the Centre for the Studies of Christian Cultures (CSCC).

**PhD Emil Anton:** The Eastern Church, the Unknown Giant of Aramaic Christianity – And its Modern-Day Inheritors.

**Abstract:** The lecture introduces the hearer to the Eastern Church, that is, to Syriac Christianity which developed in the Persian Empire, bordering the Roman Empire from the East. Its heartland is the modern-day Iraq, and its branches include among others the Chaldean Catholic Church and the Assyrian Church of the East. The lecture seeks to find out how the Eastern Church formed without a clear political authority, how it became the most widespread church of the Middle Ages, and how, in the end, it disappeared from the world maps almost completely. The lecture also deals with the claims of heresy alleged towards the Eastern Church, and the language, ethnicity, and diaspora of its members. Do Chaldean or Assyrian Christians live in modern-day Finland?

PhD Emil Anton is a Catholic Finnish-Iraqi non-fiction writer, teacher of religion and journalist. His latest work is the book *Kahden virran maa: sivilisaation ja kristinuskon irakilainen tarina* [Land of the Two Rivers: The Iraqi Story of Civilization and Christianity] (Kirjapaja 2020).

**8<sup>th</sup> of December**

**Professor Georg Haggren** (Archaeology, University of Turku): The Raseborg Castle as a Research Subject, from 1890 to 2022.

**Abstract:** In the Middle Ages Raseborg was one of the c. half a dozen crown castles of Finland. For over 150 years the castle was the most important centre

on the coastline between Turku and Viborg. It was already abandoned in the 1550s, but before that a sizeable literary collection of source material was formed, of which surprisingly much survives to this day. The ruins themselves got to lay in peace until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The castle was restored for the first time in the 1890s, and after that work has continued on multiple occasions. From an archaeological perspective the castle has immense potential for research. The castle grounds have been preserved exceptionally well, because unlike other crown castles, Raseborg is not part of a modern city. The castle and its grounds have been under intensive research since 2000. New research results offer plenty of new information both on Raseborg itself, as well as on the medieval crown castles of the Kingdom of Sweden altogether.



*A chess piece found during the excavations of Raseborg castle. Probably the King.*

Picture: Georg Haggren

## EVENTS

### Turku Medieval Market 2022

TUCEMEMS took part in the Turku Medieval Market, which was held 30.6.–3.7.2022. On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> of July, members of the Centre took part in the ‘Medieval Book Fair’ at Taiteen talo arts centre. The Fair focused on books published during recent years that deal with the Middle Ages, including academic publications, non-fiction books, books on different crafts, and fictional novels. The Fair was hosted by TUCEMEMS member, docent Reima Välimäki.

### PROGRAMME

12:00 Book *Verta vuotava kuva ja muita outoja ihmeitä* [A Bleeding Picture and Other Peculiar Miracles], **Marika Räsänen**, interviewed by **Reima Välimäki**.

12:45 Book *Keskiajan hirviöt* [Monsters of the Middle Ages], **Miikka Tamminen**, interviewed by **Peppi Leinonen**.

13:45 Book *Perhe ja verstas* [Family and Workshop], **Maija Ojala-Fulwood**, interviewed by **Anna-Stina Hägglund**.

14:30 Leather treating and tablet weaving. Discussing books on crafts, **Mervi Pasanen** and **Hanna Nore**.

15:45 Discussing the book *Rottien pyhimys* [Saint of the Rats], author **Anneli Kanto** and **Docent Marika Räsänen**.

**Roundtable: The Medieval Mediterranean: Crisis and Renewal****Thursday 24 November, 16:00–18:00, Arcanum A355/357**

TUCEMEMS organised a roundtable event on the occasion of the arrival of Professor Simon Doubleday, who served as the opponent in the dissertation of TUCEMEMS member Tiago Queimada e Silva. The roundtable was promoted to TUCEMEMS members thusly:

‘Throughout the Middle Ages, the Mediterranean was a dynamic region of culture, commerce, politics, and faith, experiencing several periods of crisis and renewal. At the roundtable, Professor Simon Doubleday (Hofstra University) and researchers of TUCEMEMS discuss their recent and ongoing research. Please join us on our exciting journey from Galicia to Constantinople!’

The roundtable included the following presentations:

**Simon Doubleday:** The Kingdom of León-Galicia under King Fernando I and Queen Sancha.

**Reima Välimäki:** Latin anti-heretical polemics in 13th-century France and Italy: textual influences and computational analysis.

**Teemu Immonen:** Surviving the Schism: Religious Communities in Rome, 1378–1417.

**Maria Jokela:** Cultural stereotypes between Rome and Byzantium from Late Antiquity to the Early Middle Ages.

**Anni Hella:** The use and authority of manuscripts in the council of Ferrara–Florence (1438–39).

## DOCTORAL DISPUTATIONS BY TUCEMEMS MEMBERS

### **Anna-Stina Hägglund – Nordic History**

28 October 2022

#### **Birgittine landscapes: Three monasteries in their local and regional environment across the Baltic Sea Region c. 1410–1530.**

The Birgittine Order was born in Vadstena around the year 1370. During the next century, new Birgittine monasteries were founded at a rapid pace around the Baltic Sea and Continental Europe; one of these being the Nådendal Abbey. This dissertation studies the processes behind the founding of the monasteries, the financial administration of the monasteries, and their interaction with the surrounding areas. The focus is on the donors and other people who, in different ways, supported the Birgittine monasteries. In return for the donations the monasteries added these private individuals to their daily prayers. This was a favour bestowed only upon those who demonstrated particular support to the Birgittines.

The focal research result demonstrates that the Birgittine monasteries were founded in differing societal contexts. Above all, it was the interaction with those nearby agents who participated in the founding of the monasteries that influenced the formation of said new monasteries. The dissertation reveals the supporters of the Birgittines, both from the country nobility and city bourgeoisie. The dissertation focuses on three monasteries: Nådendal in the diocese of Turku, Marienkrone in Stralsund and Mariendal, which was located in the Tallinn countryside. The research is focused above all on donations, land purchases, pledges and exchanges of property between the monasteries in question and secular parties. The dissertation has on the basis of this material

mapped the ‘Birgittine landscape’, that is, the area where the monasteries had both spiritual and material influence.

The Nådendal Abbey was a part of an international organization that had branches in different parts of Europe, and it is thus important to show how the actions of the Birgittines combined local features and acting beyond borders in its own cultural context. Research on the medieval Birgittine monasteries has influence also in the modern day. The Birgittine Order is alive still today, and its founder, St. Birgitta, is the patron saint of the European Union, and whose 650<sup>th</sup> birthday is celebrated in 2023.

### **Tiago Queimada e Silva – European and World History**

25 November 2022

#### **The Good Noblemen Who Conquered the Kingdom: Islam, Historiography, and Aristocratic Legitimation in Late-Medieval Portugal**

This dissertation deals with aristocratic historiography and political legitimation in late-medieval Portugal (late thirteenth and fourteenth centuries). It offers a perspective into the historical imaginary of the late-medieval Portuguese aristocracy, an imaginary that underlay the argumentation of members of this social class in defence of their traditional rights and jurisdictions against political centralisation. It examines how the medieval Portuguese aristocracy utilised memories of past interactions with Islam to justify its privileged social status and defend its traditional prerogatives at a time when this social group opposed the royalist policy of political centralisation. This research is included in wider debates on the role of culture — in this case, historical culture — as a resource to justify, reinforce, reproduce, and transform an existing social order.



The present dissertation is composed of an introduction and four articles. In the introduction, besides presenting the conclusions of the research, I provide a short historical contextualisation for the chronology in question. A survey on medieval Portuguese historiography is given the first article, while the others discuss the building of an Iberian Christian aristocratic identity based on Islamic otherness, depictions of Christian-Muslim interaction other than military, and the role of the Iberian Visigothic past in aristocratic historiographical memory. The thesis' main sources are chronicles and genealogical compilations written in Galician-Portuguese language. Its primary concern is the socio-cultural dimension of these texts, i.e., their ideological implications and effects upon the social world.

This research shows that, when confronting royalty over the ongoing process of monarchical centralisation, the Portuguese aristocracy invoked the war against Islam as the primary argument for its social prominence and the source of its class privileges. The sources studied in this thesis were part of the aristocracy's political legitimisation discourse. They provided the nobility with an indispensable social role for the equilibrium of an idealised social order, while reality was ridden with contradictions and in rapid transformation.

## INTERVIEWS OF THE NEW DOCTORS

We contacted the two newly minted doctors to ask them a few questions about their thesis and their academic journey.

Questions:

1. What is it about medieval and early modern research that fascinates you the most?
2. How did you come by your doctoral thesis subject? When did you decide to strive for a doctorate?
3. What was the process like? Were there any challenges in particular that you found difficult?
4. What do you do now, and/or what are your plans for the future?

### **Dr Anna-Stina Hägglund**

1. I think that what fascinates me the most is the variety of research on medieval and early modern times. Through palaeography and learning languages it's possible to approach people and societies that have been gone for centuries. The empirical work with sources such as charters, copy books and manuscripts is what I enjoy most in the work as a medievalist.

2. I had already begun to work with the sources from Nådendal in my Bachelor's thesis and continued with it in my Master's thesis by gradually expanding the topic. Originally it was through discussions with my supervisor at the Bachelor seminar that I came up with the idea to study the charters from the former Birgittine abbey. I already knew then that I wanted to strive for a

doctoral degree because I found the field of medieval studies fascinating, and I think it was my eagerness to learn more that guided me to continue.

**3.** When it was time to start considering possible topics for my doctoral thesis it felt natural to continue work with the type of source material that I was familiar with but expanding the topic to include several monasteries of the Birgittine order and to bring in the regional perspective of the Baltic Sea region. Thus, the process of finding a topic evolved over the years, but I think that it was a good decision to continue to work with the same type of material but gradually expanding the perspective and research questions. What I found challenging was to find the balance between the writing process and looking for more sources that could potentially be found in different archives.



Picture: Anna-Stina Hägglund

**4.** Now I'm a post-doc researcher and a team member of the project Lived Religion in Medieval Finland at Tampere University (2021-2024), which is funded by the Swedish Literature Society in Finland (SLS). I thus plan to continue doing research on the Birgittines and other related topics.

## Dr. Tiago Queimada e Silva



1. Ever since I was a child I was fascinated by the medieval ages and "medievalish" fantasy books, movies, etc. After finishing my Bachelor's degree in Archaeology, a Master's degree in History of the Middle Ages opened at my former university (the University of Coimbra in Portugal), so it just felt natural to apply, since I had decided I didn't want to work in the archaeological field.

2. It took me a long time to define my dissertation subject, as I am sure happens with virtually any doctoral candidate in this field. At first, I had the overambitious plan of encompassing in my studies all medieval and early modern Portuguese historiography from the perspective of its socio-political functionality, in a *longue durée* perspective. Eventually I decided to focus on the aristocracy within the particular timeframe of the late thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

3. As I wrote in the foreword to my dissertation, it was a very bumpy process. I had problems with lack of funding, had many short-period grants, and much of that time had to be spent preparing grant applications for yet more funding. From the perspective of the whole system, it is completely counterproductive. Funding should be allocated for longer periods of time.

4. At the moment, I am working part-time outside of academia, while developing at the same time my personal post-doctoral project, a book. But I am also looking for other opportunities, such as taking part in collective research projects, etc.

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