

TUCEMEMS

Annual report 2023

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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Editorial

The Annual Report for 2023 highlights the active engagement of the Centre and its members across various domains, including research, teaching, and societal collaboration.

In 2023, the Centre's scientific endeavours were notably shaped by the commemoration of Birgitta Birgersdotter, marking 650 years since her passing. TUCEMEMS played a significant role in the anniversary, organizing an international symposium on Birgitta and the Birgittine movement in medieval Finland in collaboration with various partners. Additionally, a seminar for the general audience took place at Turku Cathedral, and an exhibition based on Birgitta's visions, *Revelationes celestes*, was established at the University Library, both virtually and physically. The Finnish Pilgrimage Center arranged a pilgrimage from Turku to Naantali, the sole medieval Bridgettine monastery in Finland, with the Centre participating in the event.

From an educational perspective, the Centre further strengthened its collaboration with various university disciplines. This collaboration materialized in the reorganization of the interdisciplinary TUCEMEMS research seminar after a brief hiatus, along with the teaching of joint courses. In spring, the Centre introduced "thematic coffees" for students, featuring brief presentations by researchers on current topics, followed by discussions. The sessions have proven highly successful in fostering interdisciplinary connections.

As a research "hub," the Centre remains attractive, with several research projects affiliated, including the PERSECUTIO project led by Academy

Fellow Reima Välimäki from autumn 2023. We envision the Centre's continued appeal to researchers and other enthusiasts of older periods, both globally and locally in Turku. The commitment to bolster local collaboration is evident in the expansion of the TUCEMEMS steering group, welcoming Päivi Salmesvuori from Åbo Akademi and Susanna Hujala from the Turku Museum Centre.

It is essential to highlight that the Centre operates primarily through the voluntary contributions of its members. Without the dedication and innovation of our brilliant members, the rich programme offered by TUCEMEMS in 2023 would not have been possible. I extend heartfelt thanks to all who participated in the year's activities!

Marika Räsänen

Director of the Centre



Crossing Boundaries: Turku Medieval and Early Modern Studies

This peer-reviewed book series of TUCEMEMS is published by Amsterdam University Press. 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 2023, altogether thirteen volumes have come out.

In 2023, one new title came out in the series: *Addressing Injustice in the Medieval Body Politic*, edited by Constant J. Mews and Kathleen B. Neal from Monash University, Australia. The contributions in this cross-disciplinary collected volume address the long-standing impact of the originally seventh-century Irish text *On the Twelve Abuses of the Age* on ideas about justice and injustice throughout the Middle Ages.

From January 2024, Dr Mari-Liisa Varila has started as the new Series Editor. 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 2011–2023



TEACHING

In 2023, 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 an 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, as well as face-to-face at the Opening Carnival.

DISTINCT COURSES HELD BY TUCEMEMS

CULTURAL HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL MONASTICISM

27th MARCH – 6th APRIL

Teachers: Eleanora Destefanis & Teemu Immonen

Course description: This lecture series served as an introduction to the medieval monastic system and its role in its own time, providing knowledge on the dynamic interactions monasteries had with their surrounding societies and their significance in the cultural, political, and economic spheres. The course

consisted of eight lectures, through which students became acquainted with not only the chronological history of monasticism and the physical realm of monasteries, but also how they pertain to pilgrimages, schools, and art. The students were also introduced to the main monastic orders, notable monasteries, and the factors that affected their development. The course was held both in English and Finnish. Associate professor Eleanora Destefanis (Università del Piemonte Orientale) held the first four lectures in English and Teemu Immonen held four lectures in Finnish. Destefanis's archaeological perspective and Immonen's focus on cultural history truly complemented each other, helping to create a more comprehensive and rich interpretation of the topic. The students completed the course with an independent essay.

As a non-compulsory course, the Cultural History of Medieval Monasticism was very popular, with the lecture halls remaining consistently rather full throughout the lecture series. Monasticism and its impact throughout the Middle Ages generated a lot of interest among students, especially those who were at least a little familiar with the topic. After the lectures, many students seemed to continue the discussion amongst themselves in the halls, making it clear that the course helped correct some earlier assumptions and garnered a lot of positive attention.



Themes of the lectures:

1. The origins of the western Monasticism: why, where and how to found a monastery
2. The layout of the Early Medieval monasteries from an archaeological perspective
3. Monasticism and relics in the Middle Ages. The cult of relics, pilgrimage, and organization of the monastic space
4. Monastic landscapes: how medieval monasteries interact with their territory
5. The outline of the monastic system from Antiquity to the end of the Middle Ages
6. A love of learning: the monastic school
7. Monastic art
8. How the Divine Office and the liturgical calendar determined life in the community

METHOD COURSE IN PREHISTORICAL, ANCIENT, MEDIEVAL, AND EARLY MODERN STUDIES

4th SEPTEMBER – 9th OCTOBER

Teacher(s): Anni Hella (Janne Tunturi, Mari-Liisa Varila, Marika Räsänen, Reima Välimäki, Sari Katajala-Peltomaa, Jenni Kuuliala, Sofia Lahti, Mikko Kauko, Teemu Immonen, Anna-Stina Hägglund)

Course description: This course focused on the methods used to study the pre-modern world. In particular, the course aimed to introduce the students to various types of sources and how these could be utilized in research. The course consisted of nine lectures, all given by different teachers. The teachers were experts in medieval and early modern history, art history, and philology. In addition, as part of the course, we visited the libraries of the University of Turku and Åbo Akademi and explored the material sources, such as the incunabula and liturgical manuscripts held in the libraries' collections. The lectures were held on

campus, but also at the Turku Cathedral.

The participants were students of history and folkloristics. They actively participated in the lectures, where they were given tasks to interpret medieval and early modern sources, both textual sources and objects such as manuscripts and early printed books, as well as other types of sources, such as church art and wooden sculptures. In these exercises, with the teacher's help, the goal was to decipher possible interpretations and discuss how the sources could be utilized in humanities research. Students found the tasks sometimes challenging but also rewarding when they could find little details and hints that helped them solve the puzzles together. The main assignment of the course was to write a learning diary.

The course was held for the first time. The highlight for many course participants (and perhaps the responsible teacher also) was the enlivened scene from the canonization hearing of Thomas de Cantilupe, originally held in Hereford Cathedral in 1307, but acted out in the side chapel of Turku Cathedral. We thank all the teachers and staff of libraries and Turku Cathedral for the great collaboration!



Left to right: Jenni Kuuliala, Sari Katajala-Peltomaa and Reima Välimäki performing a scene from the canonization hearing of Thomas de Cantilupe for students.

TUPIIRI – TUCEMEMS MONTHLY RESEARCH SEMINAR**10th FEBRUARY – 1st DECEMBER**

TUCEMEMS revived its seminar activity in the course of 2023. The monthly research seminar TUPIIRI aimed to support classical, medieval, and early modern research at all levels, especially at postgraduate and postdoctoral stages. The seminar was in high demand, as seminar papers were submitted from different departments and fields of study, and TUPIIRI's first spring period started very actively. TUPIIRI assembled five times during the spring period of 2023. The meetings centred around article manuscripts, research plans, and conference presentations from postgraduates, postdoctoral researchers, as well as senior researchers.

During the autumn period, TUPIIRI was held three times, during which it began a collaboration with Monash University. Due to this collaboration, some of the meetings were also held as a part of Monash University's Medieval and Renaissance Studies online seminar series. The last meeting of the year was reserved for comments on applications for the Research Academy of Finland's winter 2024 call.

TUPIIRI was led by Marika Räsänen, Mari-Liisa Varila, and Reima Välimäki.

TUCEMEMS ACTIVITIES 2023

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND EVENTS

SYMPOSIUM

NEW PERSPECTIVES OF ST BIRGITTA AND THE BIRGITTINE MOVEMENT IN MEDIEVAL FINLAND AND BEYOND: MATERIALITY SENSES AND EMOTIONS

30th – 31st MARCH 2023

The symposium was organized in cooperation with Åbo Akademi University and the research project “Lived Religion in Medieval Finland” (Tampere University). The symposium aimed to stimulate and challenge Birgitta researchers to re-examine their subject and sources from new perspectives and possibly with the help of new research methods.

The symposium was held in Pub.5, Publicum on Thursday and in Runda Rummet, Theologicum on Friday.

Programme:

Thursday 30.3.2023

14:00 **Anna-Stina Hägglund & Marika Räsänen:** Opening words

14:15 **Laura Saetveit Miles** (University of Bergen): Birgitta of Sweden’s Influence on Vernacular Devotional Literature in Medieval England

15:00 – 16:30 Panel a) The dissemination of Birgittine ideas: Texts

Sari Katajala-Peltomaa (Tampere University): "To the treasures on earth" – Pilgrimage ethos in Birgittine sermons

Mikko Kauko (University of Turku): Jöns Budde's Birgittine Version of St. Mechtild of Hackeborn's Liber specialis gratiae

Elise Pihlajaniemi (Open University and Continuous Learning, Turku): "The Smallest Ant in Your Kingdom" – Approaching St. Birgitta's Concepts of Hope Through Contemplation and Bodily Practices

Chair: **Laura Saetveit Miles**

16:30 Coffee



Elina Räsänen giving a lecture at the *New Perspectives of St Birgitta and the Birgittine Movement in Medieval Finland and Beyond* symposium.

17:00 – 18:30 Panel b) Birgittine bonds of friendship: Networks

Päivi Salmesvuori (Åbo Akademi University): Birgitta's Ideal Christian: Mary and Martha together

Jyrki Nissi (Tampere University): Knut Posse, Ingeborg Tott and the Cult of Birgitta in the Häme Castle Region

Anna-Stina Hägglund (Tampere University): Creating bonds through prayers. Adopted women joining the Birgittine community in Nådendal.

Chair: **Sari Katajala-Peltomaa**

Friday 31.3.2023

09:00 Panel c) Imagining St Birgitta through art and relics: Materiality

Elina Räsänen (University of Helsinki): Pyhä Prikitta, Briitta Kurki, and the remaining medieval wood sculptures. Reshaping and stirring the memory of St Birgitta in Finland.

Sofia Lahti (University of Helsinki and Tampere University): Four ostrich eggs and other reliquaries in Naantali: Lost treasures in a Birgittine context

Marika Räsänen (University of Turku): Materiality of Birgitta's healing relics

Chair: **Anu Mänd**

10:30 Coffee

11:00 **Anu Mänd** (University of Tallinn): Material culture of the Birgittine convent in Mariendal (Pirita).

11:45 Concluding discussion

WORKSHOP

TRANSKRIBUS -WORKSHOP

26th MAY AT 10:15 AND 13:00

The workshop introduced the concept of Transkribus and how it could be used in research. During the first half of the workshop, doctoral researcher M.A. Ville-Pekka Kääriäinen introduced the Transkribus -platform. The latter half was dedicated to getting acquainted with the platform and to guided application of the software.

The instructor of the workshop was Ville-Pekka Kääriäinen, who had also written an article on Handwritten Text Recognition for the book *Vanhojen käsialojen lukuopas* (Gaudeamus, 2021) and uses Transkribus for their dissertation research.

STUDENT EVENT

OPENING CARNIVAL

5th SEPTEMBER AT 12:15

TUCEMEMS took part in the yearly Opening Carnival of the University of Turku, where they had a stand together with Turku University Library.

TUCEMEMS introduced their upcoming events, such as the St Birgitta seminar and the online exhibition of Birgitta's *Revelationes*, as well as courses in TUCEMEMS's study programme "Prehistorical, Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern Studies" to visiting students.



Sara Karuneva presenting the TUCEMEMS study programme to students at the Opening Carnival.

EXHIBITION

HEAVENLY GRACE AND THE FIRES OF HELL: IMAGES IN ST BIRGITTA'S REVELATIONES CELESTES

OPENING CEREMONY, 12th SEPTEMBER AT 15:00

In partnership with “Lived Religion in Medieval Finland” and Turku University Library, TUCEMEMS organized an exhibition both online and at Feeniks Library. The opening was held in the Koskenniemi hall at Feeniks Library.

Three early editions of *Revelationes Celestes* from the 16th and 17th centuries can be found in the University of Turku's collection of valuable books, and they were on display in the library display case from 8.9 – 31.12.2023. Images from a 1502 edition of the same collection were used in the “Heavenly Grace and the Fires of Hell” online exhibition. In addition to the images, the exhibition also included information on St Birgitta, her life, and the world she lived in. The online exhibition is in both Finnish and Swedish, accessible at utu.fi/pyhabirgitta and utu.fi/heligabirgitta.

SEMINAR

PYHÄ BIRGITTA -SEMINAARI [ST BIRGITTA SEMINAR]

**6th OCTOBER AT 14:00, TURKU
CATHEDRAL**

In honour of the 650th anniversary of St Birgitta's sainthood TUCEMEMS, together with the research project “Lived Religion in Medieval Finland” (Tampere University) and the Turku Cathedral Congregation, organized a public seminar on the eve of St Birgitta's feast day.



Sara Kannisto and Anna-Stina Häggglund inspecting the library display case for the *Revelationes Celestes* exhibition.

The theme of the seminar was Birgitta's influence in Finland in the late Middle Ages. Researchers Elina Räsänen, Hilikka-Liisa Vuori, Sari Katajala-Peltomaa, Sofia Lahti, and Anna-Stina Hägglund held lectures on relics, pilgrimages, donations, art, and music from the perspective of Birgitta and her monastic order.

The seminar was held in Turku Cathedral, but it was also streamed online at www.virtuaalikirkko.fi.

Programme:

14:00 **Tuomas Vaura** (Turku Cathedral Congregation): Opening words

14:05-13:25 **Sofia Lahti** (University of Helsinki): Pyhän Birgitan reliikkejä Turussa ja Naantalissa [St Birgitta's relics in Turku and Naantali.]

14:30-14:50 **Anna-Stina Hägglund** (Tampere University): Piispa Maunu Tavasta ja lahjoitukset pyhälle Birgitalle [Bishop Magnus Olai and donations to St Birgitta.]

14:50 Intermission

15:10-15:30 **Elina Räsänen** (University of Helsinki): Esineiden pitkä historia. Pyhää Birgittaa kuvaavat moniväriset puuveistokset Suomessa [The long history of artefacts. Multicoloured wooden sculptures in Finland depicting St Birgitta.]

15:40-16:00 **Sari Katajala-Peltomaa** (University of Turku): Ankara ja pitkä matka. Suomalaispyhiinvaeltajat Birgitan haudalla. [A long and arduous journey. Finnish pilgrims at St Birgitta's tomb]

16:00 Coffee

16:30-17:00 **Hilikka-Liisa Vuori** (Sibelius Academy, University of Arts Helsinki): Birgittalaissisarten lauluja Naantalın luostarista, laulutyoöpaja. [Songs of the Birgittine Sisters, a singing workshop.]

Chair of the seminar: **Marika Räsänen** (University of Turku)



Elina Räsänen giving a lecture at the St Birgitta seminar at Turku Cathedral.

PILGRIMAGE EVENT

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST BIRGITTA

7th OCTOBER

As part of the celebrations of St Birgitta's year of commemoration, TUCEMEMS participated in a pilgrimage event from Turku Cathedral to Naantali Church. The pilgrimage was free of charge with room for 20 participants. The guides for the pilgrimage were archaeologist and author Ilari Aalto and the project supervisor for pilgrimage activities Annastiina Papinaho. The departure was at 9 am from Turku Cathedral. A short break was held at Raisio Church where Professor Päivi

Salmesvuori held a lecture “Birgitta of Sweden as a pilgrim”. The pilgrimage ended with an opportunity to participate in a celebratory mass at Naantali Church at 16:00.

STUDENT SEMINAR

VANHOJEN AIKOJEN OPINNÄYTESEMINAARI [PREHISTORICAL, ANCIENT, MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN THESIS SEMINAR]

**20th NOVEMBER AT 14:15, A112, ARCANUM, UNIVERSITY OF
TURKU**

The student seminar organized by TUCEMEMS took place at the University of Turku, with six students holding 15-minute lectures on their theses. All the students were from the history department of the University of Turku and their topics ranged from late antiquity to the beginning of the 18th century. The aim of the seminar was for students to have a chance to introduce their thesis topics to a wider audience and get to know other students with similar research interests. Many of the students also saw the seminar as an opportunity to hone their presentation skills and agreed that the seminar should be held yearly for other enthusiastic students.

Programme:

14:15 Opening words

14:20 **Juuso Karhu:** Korkeimman tason verkostot: Kardinaalit ja heidän kytköksensä Lateraanirekisterissä Bonifatius IX:n ensimmäisen kolmen paavivuosien aikana (1389–1391).

[Networks at the Highest Level: Cardinals and their *familiares* from the Lateran registers of the first pontifical years (1389–1391) of Boniface IX.]

14:35 **Hanna Lehmusto:** Vadstenan luostarin kontaktit luostarin kirjeiden ja päiväkirjan kertomana, 1373–1423.

[The contacts of Vadstena Abbey as told by letters and a diary, 1373–1423.]

14:50 **Sara Karuneva:** Tilan kokemus 1000-luvun Canterburyn katedraalissa: Tilasyntaksin soveltaminen ihmekertomuskokoelman analyysiin.

[Spatial experience in 11th century Canterbury Cathedral: The application of space syntax to miracle collection analysis.]

15:05 Discussion

15:15 Coffee



Mikko Saira presenting his thesis at the student seminar.

15:35 **Jutta Laitila:** Kaupunki, tila ja aistit kirkkoisä Hieronymuksen (n. 347–420) askeettisissa teksteissä.

[The city, space and senses in the ascetic texts of church father Jerome (c. 347–420).]

15:50 **Valteri Rantamäki:** Kahakoita kadulla ja otteluita oikeudessa: Kommunikaatio, kunnia ja väkivalta keskiajan Nottinghamissa, 1322–1336. [Street scuffles and court conflicts: Communication, honour, and violence in medieval Nottingham, 1322–1336.]

16:05 **Mikko Saira:** Turun Soitannollisen Seuran hyväntekeväisyyskonsertit, 1790–1808.

[The charity concerts of Turun Soitannollinen Seura, 1790–1808.]

16:20 Discussion

16:30 Discussion on the student Moodle page “Prehistorical, Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern sources”.

SEMINAR

TURUN HOVIOIKEUS 1623–1900 UUDEN TUTKIMUSTIEDON VALOSSA

[THE TURKU COURT OF APPEAL 1623–1900 IN THE LIGHT OF NEW RESEARCH]

29th NOVEMBER AT 14:00, CAL. 1, CALONIA, UNIVERSITY OF TURKU

The publicly held seminar was based on the book “Turun hovioikeus 1623–1900 – ihmisiä, verkostoja ja oikeuskäytäntöä modernin kynnyksellä”, edited by Mia Korpiola, which was released at the end of October. The seminar, as well as the book, introduced new research on the history of the Turku Court of Appeal. After

the seminar, it was also possible to participate in a guided tour of the Turku Court of Appeal.

Programme:

14:15 **Mia Korpiola** (University of Turku): Book introduction

14:20 **Veli-Pekka Toropainen** (University of Turku):
Hovioikeuden asianajajat 1600-luvun jälkipuolella.
[Advocates at the Court of Appeal at the end of the 17th century.]

14:30 Discussion

14:40 Coffee

14:55 **Marianne Vasara-Aaltonen** (University of Helsinki): Hovioikeuden professionalisoituvat tuomarit 1600-luvulla.
[The professionalization of judges at the Court of Appeal in the 17th century.]

15:05 **Raisa Toivo** (Tampere University): Noitaoikeudenkäynnit Turun hovioikeudessa 1660-luvulla.
[Witch trials at the Turku Court of Appeal in the 1660s.]

15:15 **Mari Välimäki** (University of Turku): Turun hovioikeus ja väärennösrikokset, 1825–1850.
[The Turku Court of Appeal and forgery, 1825–1850.]

Chair of the seminar: **Mia Korpiola**



Left to right: Mari Välimäki, Veli-Pekka Toropainen, Raisa Toivo and Marianne Vasara-Aaltonen.
Front: Mia Korpiola.

GUEST LECTURE

EDWARD SCHOOLMAN (UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA): CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT, AND SOCIETY IN THE PREMODERN WORLD: EXPLORING THE INTERSECTIONS BETWEEN PEOPLE AND LANDSCAPES THROUGH PARCHMENTS, POLLENS, AND PROXIES

**8th DECEMBER AT 11:15, LECTURE HALL “AAVA”, ARCANUM,
UNIVERSITY OF TURKU**

Abstract: How did past societies manage complex landscapes? How did they deal with climate change? And how could we possibly know? This public lecture introduces the range of evidence that helps modern historians and scientists reconstruct past landscapes and climate, and our current understanding of the many drivers of environmental change. In studying historical, archaeological, and palaeoecological records and archives, we are able to discover the ways in which communities survived the political disintegration of the Roman Empire and took advantage of climate change during the Medieval Warming Period, how past landscapes responded to the Little Ice Age and the Black Death, and more generally the interrelationship between climate, environment, and past societies. While these trends are global in nature, this lecture will focus on Italy, where the records of fossil pollens and written documents allow for detailed analysis within narrow timeframes, and will conclude on the resiliency of local communities.

The guest lecture was organized by the project “Rethinking the late Medieval Relic, c. 1200-1550” (Finnish Research Council, no. 349210) in collaboration with the Department of Cultural History and TUCEMEMS.



Edward Schoolman giving a lecture on climate, environment, and society in the premodern world.

WORKSHOP

FROM WORDS TO DEEDS? HOSTILE RHETORIC AND VIOLENCE AGAINST MINORITIES IN PREMODERN EUROPE.

14th DECEMBER AT 14:15, TAMPERE UNIVERSITY

What were the consequences of anti-Jewish sermons, rumours about black magic and treatises against heretics? The verbal attacks against minorities certainly contributed to the persecuting atmosphere of premodern Europe, but what were their connections to acts of violence and other concrete forms of persecution? In the workshop *From words to deeds?*, researchers from the Universities of Greifswald, Tampere, and Turku presented their latest research on polemical accusations and violence and discussed it with Prof. John H. Arnold from the University of Cambridge.

The workshop was organised by the project PERSECUTIO, which is funded by the Research Council of Finland, and hosted by the University of Turku and TUCEMEMS. The workshop was organised in collaboration with Tampere University.

Programme:

14.00, **Christian Krötzl** (Tampere University): Opening Words

Session 1. Chair: **Marika Räsänen** (University of Turku)

14.15 **Jussi Hanska** (Tampere University): Preachers and Anti-Judaic Violence: The Case of “Saint” Hugh of Lincoln

14.45 **Cordelia Heß** (University of Greifswald): Blood libel in Sweden - the transmission of anti-Jewish knowledge in Latin texts

15.15 **Tiago Queimada e Silva** (University of Turku): 'They burnt them in the streets of the city three days on end': the massacre of the "new Christians" in Lisbon, 1506

15.45 Break

Session 2. Chair: **Sari Katajala-Peltomaa** (University of Turku)

16.15 **Jenni Kuuliala** (University of Turku): Black magic and bodily harm: Inflicting suffering and making sense of it in Renaissance Italy

16.45 **Reima Välimäki** (University of Turku): Defining causal mechanisms between polemics and persecution

17.15. **John H. Arnold** (University of Cambridge): Comments on the workshop presentations

STUDIA GENERALIA LECTURE SERIES

SPRING 2023

What is time? How do we experience it? How was time perceived and measured in different times and at different places? The lecture series, organized by TUCEMEMS, focused on the concept of time from a philosophical and historical, as well as linguistic and literary perspective. The focus was on how time was conceptualized, visualized, and most of all how people talk and have talked about time. The lectures were held in a hybrid mode at the lecture hall “Tauno Nurmela” and on ZOOM on Mondays at 17:00.

16th JANUARY

Valtteri Arstila (University of Turku): “Where did the weekend go?” and other conundrums concerning the perception/experience of time.

Abstract: Time organizes our lives from short-lived moments to extended periods. Simultaneously time, as we experience it, is very flexible and often contains surprising phenomena. For example, one sees a stage performer’s mouth move at the same time as we hear their voice, although light and sound reach their subject at different times. Holidays often go by quickly, but in hindsight, they may feel lengthy. A similar tension could be seen during COVID restrictions as singular days dragged on, but weeks and months passed by rapidly. In this lecture, Arstila considered how people perceived explanations given for similar everyday phenomena relating to time.

20th FEBRUARY

Aino Liira & Matti Peikola (University of Turku): From charts to timelines – visual chronology in Early Modern English books.

Abstract: These days, people illustrate historical events by inserting them into a drawn timeline. When was this type of presentation invented? In what other ways was the passage of time or simultaneous events translated into a visual medium? In their lecture, Liira and Peikola examined ways time was illustrated in the early modern period, especially in English books. Through book history and philological research, it is possible to answer questions, such as to what kind of audience were books concerning chronology aimed at, and how book manufacturers' resources affected manners of production. The lecture was based on the research project Early Modern Graphic Literacies conducted by the Department of English at the University of Turku.

THURSDAY 13th APRIL

Aino Mäkikalli (University of Turku): Is time simply money and power? The perception of time in Daniel Defoe's novels.

Abstract: Time is present in literacy in varied ways: it is a feature of language, narration, structure, and form as well as an experiential and thematical element. In Daniel Defoe's (1660–1731) novels the different manifestations of time appear in varied forms, as the novels are an example of early versions of the modern novel as well as an example of novels where the main characters strive to manage alone in the world. Early modern and modern perceptions of time can be seen through the characters' actions and life events. In this lecture, Mäkikalli introduced Defoe's most famous characters, Robinson Crusoe, Moll Flanders, and Roxana, and their experience of the passage of time and their perceptions of time. In addition, Mäkikalli examined how Defoe addressed the plague and the challenges it created in understanding time, life, and death in *A Journal of the Plague Year*.

17th APRIL

Minna Sandelin & Tanja Toropainen (University of Turku): Discerning time with old almanacs.

Abstract: Almanacs that were calculated according to Turku's horizon were produced from the beginning of the 1660s. The first almanacs of this type were in Swedish, but from the year 1705, they were also issued in Finnish. In this lecture, Sandelin and Toropainen examined the ways time and the organization of time could be seen in the calendars as well as other sections of old almanacs. The focus of the lecture was on the language of almanacs, but the possible benefits of almanacs to illiterate people in the 18th century were also considered.

15th MAY

Charlotta Wolff (University of Turku): Chronology and the history of measuring time.

Abstract: How was time measured before the modern atomic clock and time standards? In this lecture, Wolff examined conceptions of time in the Middle Ages and the modern period and the means to measure and determine time in these periods, as well as how different clocks and calendars, or the lack of them, affected people's perception of time and their everyday routines. The lecture also introduced some peculiarities of old calendars, such as the determination of Easter time and the beginning of the new year, which are important features in calculating the date of a document or certain events.

MONTHLY TALKS

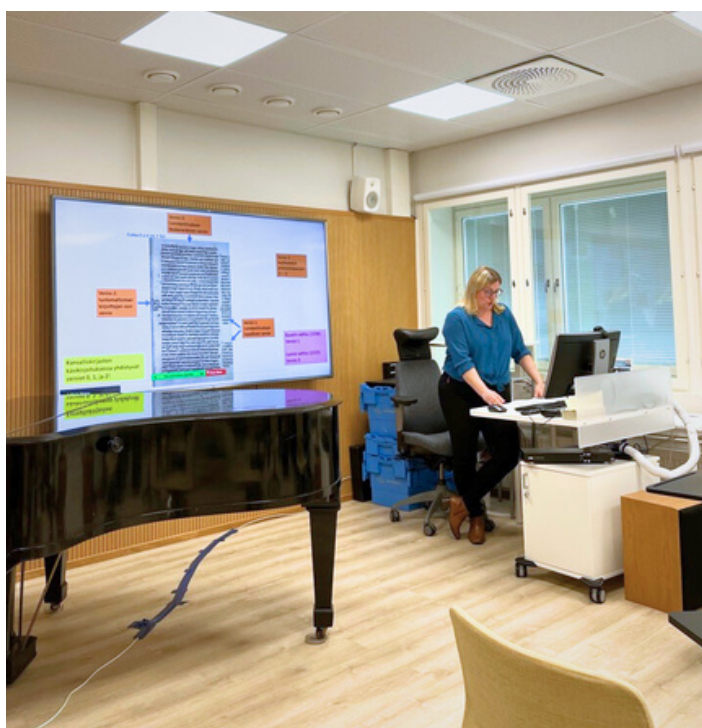
AUTUMN 2023

The TUCEMEMS Monthly Talks in 2023 were held during the autumn period on Thursdays from 16:15 in lecture rooms A355/357 and A270 in Arcanum.

28th SEPTEMBER

Outi Kaltio (University of Helsinki): The First Comprehensive Medical Textbook in Latin: The Pantegni of Constantine the African and its textual history from the end of the 11th century to the 16th century.

Abstract: The Pantegni of Constantine the African (d. by 1098/9) was the first comprehensive medical textbook in Latin. The work is a translation and modification of an original Arabic text, the Kitāb al-malakī by Haly Abbas (d. after 978), combined with other Arabic medical treatises. The Pantegni consists of two parts, the Theorica and the Practica. Kaltio's PhD study concentrated on the textual history of the first part, the Theorica. There are around eighty extant manuscripts containing the Theorica (or parts of it), of which fifty-nine were examined. Kaltio's research illustrated the early reception and transformation of medical texts to better meet the needs of their users. It also shed a broader light on the history of medicine and the transmission of Arabic medical works to the Latin West in the eleventh century.



Outi Kaltio giving a lecture on the Pantegni of Constantine the African and its textual history.

12th OCTOBER

Sara Norja (University of Turku): Between Science and Magic: Alchemical language use in medieval and early modern England.

Abstract: Alchemy was popular in medieval and early modern England, but English-language alchemical manuscript texts have remained an understudied resource for linguists. However, researching alchemical texts can provide valuable insights into the development of scientific language. Norja's postdoctoral research in the project TiTaRa (Between Science and Magic) explores the vernacularisation and manuscript contexts of this early science. How to approach alchemical texts as research material? Can we examine the values placed on alchemy by studying the visual aspects of alchemical manuscripts? What was the Latin influence on Middle English alchemical terminology? In this presentation, Norja introduced some strands of their postdoctoral research to give an overview of studying English alchemy through a philological lens.

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7th DECEMBER

Tiago Queimada e Silva (University of Turku): The Good Noblemen Who Conquered the Kingdom: Islam, Otherness, and Identity in Late-Medieval Portugal.

Abstract: In this lecture, Queimada e Silva presented his doctoral dissertation, which was approved at the University of Turku in November 2022. The thesis dealt with aristocratic historiography and political legitimation in late-medieval Portugal (late thirteenth and fourteenth centuries). It offered 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 centralization. It examined how the medieval Portuguese aristocracy utilized 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 centralization. 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 lecture also introduced the main ideas guiding Queimada e Silva's post-doctoral research project.



Attendees at a TUCEMEMS monthly talk

RECURRING MEETINGS AND CLUBS

BOOK CLUB

EARLY HISTORY OF THE NOVEL

**19th JANUARY, 16th MARCH, AND 27th APRIL AT 16:00,
LUOMA, ARCANUM**

TUCEMEMS organized a book club for its members from Autumn 2022 to Spring 2023.

The theme of the club was the early history of prose fiction. The books on the reading list included works from the 2nd century to the beginning of the 18th century.

The club had three meetings in Spring 2023 centring on Madeleine de La Fayette's *La Princesse de Clèves* (1678), Aphra Behn's *Oroonoko: or, the Royal Slave* (1688), and Daniel Defoe's *A Journal of the Plague Year* (1722).

BOOK CLUB

**ARISTOTELES-LUKUPIIRI –
MITÄ ON HYVÄ ELÄMÄ?
[ARISTOTLE AND THE GOOD
LIFE]**

**FROM 26th JANUARY TO 30th
NOVEMBER AT 17:00, TURKU
CATHEDRAL**

The book reading club was organized together with the Turku Cathedral Congregation and Åbo Akademi. The club was open to all who were interested in



understanding and reflecting on Aristotle's view on the good life, happiness, virtues, and justice. The book club centred on Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, which can be considered the foundation of Western ethical thought. It has also unquestionably influenced Christian thinking.

One book was read for each gathering and the meeting began with a short briefing on the text of the day. Thomas Aquinas's commentary was used as a guide for Aristotle's thinking. Attendance for the reading club did not require earlier knowledge of Aristotle, so everyone was welcome. Simo Knuuttila's translation was used for the club, which could be borrowed from the city libraries.

The book reading club was held eight times throughout the year: four times in the spring and four times in the autumn. Eight books of *Nicomachean Ethics* were read during this period.

Programme:

26.1.: Book I

27.2.: Book II

23.3.: Book III

20.4.: Book IV

24.8. Book V

28.9.: Book VI

26.10.: Book VII

30.11.: Book VIII



Attendees at the Aristotle book club.

MEDIEVAL COFFEE HOUR FOR STUDENTS

The coffee hour was held on Fridays at 14:00 in Arcanum's coffee room. The meetings started with a short introduction to a certain topic or theme after which the meeting continued with open discussion.

3rd FEBRUARY

Marika Räsänen & Teemu Immonen (University of Turku)

Räsänen and Immonen held an introduction on the different courses organized at The Finnish Institute in Rome, as well as other summer course opportunities that could be found abroad.

12th MAY

Teemu Immonen (University of Turku)

The theme of the coffee hour was courses for the upcoming year.

3rd NOVEMBER

Hanna-Mari Kupari & Outi Vesakoski (University of Turku)

Kupari and Vesakoski introduced their topics of research and discussed different computational methods and digital sources used for medieval research.

1st DECEMBER

Jenni Kuuliala & Sari Katajala-Peltomaa (University of Turku)

As new members of staff at the University of Turku, Kuuliala and Katajala-Peltomaa introduced themselves and presented their topics of research with an emphasis on saints, miracle collections, demons, and witches.

DOCTORAL DISPUTATIONS BY TUCEMEMS MEMBERS

Anni Hella – Cultural History

9th December 2023

How can we trust these books?’ The Use and Authority of Manus in the Council of Ferrara–Florence (1438–39).

The dissertation deals with the meeting of Eastern and Western Churches at the Council of Ferrara–Florence (1438–39). The focus is on the use and authority of manuscripts: how the material books were part of theological argumentation. The Council was supposed to end the prolonged East–West schism. Four main issues separating the Churches were discussed: Filioque, eucharistic bread, purgatory, and papal primacy. Of these, controversy about the legitimacy of the addition of Filioque to the creed and its orthodoxy took the most space. Arguments were based mostly on authoritative texts originating from the time of the undivided Church. This study shows that not only the commonly accepted texts mattered, but also the material objects, the manuscripts, had to be authoritative. To prove their authority, the Council’s participants adopted various methods. The materiality of the manuscripts took on an important role in the Council. Even before the Council’s opening, manuscripts were searched for, collected and studied. It became evident in the Council’s sessions that quoting the authoritative texts by heart was not enough. Manuscripts were needed as physical objects. The texts and their possibly different readings had to be read and analysed. Manuscripts were even loaned and borrowed so that they could be compared with one another. Signs of the manuscript’s history were looked for. The manuscript’s age and writing support were important factors in determining its authenticity

and, thus, its authority. What caused debates the most was the corruption found in the leaves of manuscripts. Questions of origin and provenance were also focal, as they could reveal possible mutilation of the text. All these discussions are analysed in this study using the original sources stemming from the Council, the Greek and Latin Acts, Syropoulos's Memoirs, and correspondence, to name the most important. This study offers a thorough perspective into manuscripts' role in the Council's preparations, discussions, and outcomes. The new humanistic methods that were used alongside other argumentative methods, such as scholasticism, not only affected the outcome of the Council but also shaped the individuals and communities that had come to the Council. As the study suggests, this humanistic theology found its arena in the Council, where it could spread.

Interviewing the new doctor

We contacted the newly minted doctor to ask a few questions about her thesis and her academic journey.

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 moments that stood out as especially rewarding or challenging?
4. What are you currently doing? What are your plans for the future?

Dr. Anni Hella

1. In studying the cultural history of the Middle Ages and Byzantium, I get the most excited when working with original sources. It never ceases to amaze me how rich and exciting a world can be found in historical sources. Both similarities and differences with our own time and culture(s) often take me by surprise. I love solving puzzles, and studying the premodern world often feels like a puzzle with thousands of pieces (a great part of them lost or hidden somewhere).

2. It was quite a journey before I found the subject for my doctoral thesis. It has always been clear to me that I want to use Latin and Greek in my studies. This was important already when I was doing my BA and MA theses. Then, I was still working with ancient sources and a period over a thousand years before the era I studied in my PhD thesis. The decision to aim for doctoral studies was also a complex one. I knew I had the “scholar’s mind” that craved more and more information about the past, but still, the step from MA to doctoral studies felt overly great at first. I was lucky enough to get an opportunity to work as a research assistant on an inspiring project. The way was now gently paved for me, and the development of the thesis could truly begin. Even then, it took quite a while before I found the perspective and the original sources that led me to study the Council of Ferrara–Florence and its discussions on manuscripts.

3. The whole process was quite a ride! I was lucky in many ways, as I could first explore the academic life and work as a



research assistant and then decide to aim for doctoral studies. I was also fortunate to get funding from the beginning, so I could mostly concentrate on actually doing the research. The most difficult part of the process was the first years of struggling to find the sources that could answer my research question. Moreover, as it turned out, my motivation for my first research idea began to vanish, and I was kind of lost for a moment or two. I was certainly not an expert on medieval history and culture since at the beginning of my doctoral studies as I had focused on Antiquity throughout my studies at the MA and BA levels. So, it took me time to familiarize myself with this new period and its peculiarities. With the help of my excellent supervisors, this was not an impossible task. What then was the most rewarding part of the process (besides the actual day of defence and the crossing of the finishing line) was probably when everything clicked into place: I found amazing and interesting sources, and the research question was finally sharpening. I could focus on reading and learning and realizing new things daily, and suddenly, even the thesis writing felt possible and rewarding.

4. I am currently working as a post-doctoral researcher in the project *Pyhiinvaellus liikkeessä: Pyhiinvaeltamisen motiivit ja merkitykset Turussa keskiajalla ja nykyään* (2023–2024), funded by Turku Urban Research Programme, that examines medieval and contemporary pilgrimage in Turku. I have various research ideas for the future, and, hopefully, I will be able to continue studying the cultural history of the Middle Ages and Byzantium.

Compliments from the research assistant

While compiling the 2023 annual report, it became clear that TUCEMEMS had spent the year doing what it does best: providing a platform for research, dialogue, and education for people of all levels. When taking on the job of the research assistant for the autumn period, aside from my main duties concerning communications, I was encouraged to set out the goal of bringing students closer to TUCEMEMS. This happened mostly through informing students of events and courses through official university channels, but also by planning and participating in new events that were solely focused on students. For the first time, TUCEMEMS participated in the annual Opening Carnival celebrating the new academic year alongside Student Union organizations and the services of the University of Turku. This brought along opportunities to reach students who did not belong to the Faculty of Humanities and allowed us to make TUCEMEMS known to students all over the university. Additionally, we held our first student thesis seminar, where students introduced their topics of research to a larger audience, simultaneously practising their presentation skills and bringing new and innovative research questions to light. The seminar was a hit, and it was clear that this concept would be continued for the upcoming years. All in all, this year was a successful one when it came to student outreach, and I look forward to seeing more eager students participating in TUCEMEMS activities.

Finally, working as a research assistant for TUCEMEMS was a real privilege, bringing concreteness to what I had been striving towards in my studies. The opportunity to peek behind the curtain and see what was happening behind the scenes was an incredibly welcome one. The experience was eye-opening and solidified the fact, that this is what I would hope to one day be a part of: a team of incredibly passionate people who, even after many years, were truly in love with what they were doing.

Sara Karuneva

Student research assistant, autumn period 2023

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