Dear Sir/Madam,

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to invite you to give a paper at a session devoted to vernacular writings on the Decalogue at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds in 2014. The Ten Commandments played a prominent role in medieval religious and moral instruction of the lower clergy and the laymen. Consequently, a large number of texts discussing the Decalogue had been produced in various medieval vernaculars. A striking characteristic of this body of works is the heterogeneity of textual forms and a wide discrepancies in the complexity of the content. For example, the corpus of the Decalogue writings in medieval English, Dutch and German comprises bare enumerations of the Commandments, elaborate elucidations (either as parts of larger texts or as individual treatises), sermons, theological disquisitions, stage plays and many other forms. Since this diversity appears to be a pan-European phenomenon, it is vital to compare the developments within various linguistic traditions and enquire into mutual influences between such traditions. By organizing a session devoted to vernacular writings on the Ten Commandments, we hope to create a platform for an exchange of the latest research results for scholars of different backgrounds. Moreover, we have every intention to strengthen a widespread international network of medievalists researching the role of the Decalogue in medieval culture. Possible topics may include:

* Production and reception of vernacular writings on the Ten Commandments: in which milieus did the (earliest) written vernacular explanations of the Decalogue originate and which groups constituted their intended audience?
* Circulation of vernacular Decalogue texts
* Translations of Decalogue texts from one vernacular to other
* Possible relationships between textual forms (vernacular *summa*, stage play, short rhymed tale) and intended audiences (parish priests, laymen, etc.)
* Integration of text and image in the vernacular renditions of the Decalogue

We very much hope that you would like to present your recent results within our session. We would appreciate it if you could support our efforts by notifying your colleagues and students about the session.

Kind regards,

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