This conference brings together scholars from different research traditions. They will refine the theoretical framework and methodologies that address the dynamic of urbanization and social change of the High Middle Ages (1000-1250) across England, France north of the Loire, the Low Countries and Germany.

The perception and performance of social identity in urban societies between c. 1050 and 1250 in North-western Europe will be approached from a cultural historical perspective in its broadest possible sense.

Due to the relative paucity of written materials produced by urban groups themselves, we focus not only on how new groups emerged, but especially on how they became conscious of themselves and were recognised by others. What types of behaviour and cultural expressions described in our sources signalled their existence and how were they perceived in both daily situations and extraordinary conflicts?

Organisers: Jeroen Deploige (Ghent University), Jeff Rider (Wesleyan University), and Walter Simons (Dartmouth College)

Please register before 15 May 2014 by email: Marjolein.Stern@Ugent.be.

The registration fee of 15 Euro per day includes lunch and is payable upon arrival.

For more information see: https://ugent.be/perception-performance
Ghent, May 22

11.00-11.15: Registration and coffee
11.15-11.30: Welcome by Marc Boone, Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Philosophy
11.30-11.45: Jeroen Deploige (Ghent University), Introduction

Session 1 – Moderator: Marc Boone (Ghent University)
11.45-12.45: Keith Lilley (Queen’s University Belfast), On socio-spatial Othering in the English medieval city
12.45-13.30: Lunch
13.30-14.30: Hélène Noizet (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne), Spatialiser pour mieux régner : le roi, l’évêque et les Parisiens d’après la « forma pacis » (1222)
14.30-15.30: Anne Lester (Boulder University, CO), “Susceptio reliquarum” in the cities of North-western France: Sacred geography and civic identity in the aftermath of the Fourth Crusade, 1204-1240
15.30-15.45: Coffee

Session 2 – Moderator: Frederik Buylaert (Free University of Brussels)
15.45-16.45: Jelle Koopmans (University of Amsterdam), Les jeunes – un critère problématique ou un groupe bien défini?
16.45-17.45: Sarah Rees Jones (University of York), Neighbourhoods, intentional communities and social welfare. The making of utopia in thirteenth-century English cities

Ghent, May 23

Session 3 – Moderator: Jelle Haemers (Catholic University of Leuven)
9.30-10.30: Daniel Gerrard (University of Oxford), “Imbued with the spirit of an antique nobility”: The dignity of the city in high medieval England
10.30-11.30: Paulo Charruadas (Université Libre de Bruxelles), Exploring nascent social identity: The Brussels aldermen, between behaviours, representations and perceptions (twelfth-thirteenth centuries)
11.30-11.45: Coffee
11.45-12.45: Ewoud Waerniers (Ghent University), Perception and performance of urban identity during the last decades of the commune in Cambrai (1182-1227)
12.45-13.30: Lunch

Session 4 – Moderator: Wim Blockmans (University of Leiden)
13.30-14.30: Jehangir Malegam (Duke University, NC), The aesthetics of belonging and alienation: Organization of hatred in Northern French communes
14.30-15.30: Jan Dumolyn & Jeroen Deploige (Ghent University), Vengeance as communal custom. The destruction of houses in the medieval Low Countries
15.30-15.45: Coffee
15.45-16.45: Jörg Wettlaufer (Academy of Science and Humanities, Göttingen), The emergence and social usage of shaming punishments in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries in Northwest European cities
17.00-18.45: Guided tour of medieval Ghent by Xavier Baecke, Ghent University

Brussels, May 24

8.15-9.30: Bus trip from Ghent (Hotel Ibis Opera) to Brussels (Academy)
9.30-9.45: Coffee

Session 5 – Moderator: Peter Stabel (University of Antwerp)
10.00-11.00: James Davis (Queen’s University Belfast), Urban market regulation and commercial morality in Anglo-Norman England
11.00-12.00: Sethina Watson (University of York), Making polities: revenue and public welfare in English towns, 1170-1240
12.00-13.45: Lunch and guided tour of the subterranean remains of the medieval Coudenberg castle by Bram Vannieuwenhuyze, Catholic University of Leuven

Session 6 – Moderator: Rudi Künzel (University of Amsterdam)
14.45-15.45: Letha Boehringer (Universität zu Köln), Aspiring urban elites and new forms of lay piety – the beguines of Cologne c. 1220-1270
15.45-16.00: Coffee
16.00-16.30: Jeff Rider (Wesleyan University, CT), Conclusions
16.30-18.00: Reception