

Call for Applications - Training school, Antwerp, 29-31 Oct 2014

Deadline for Applications: 1 July 2014

COST Action IS1301 „New Communities of Interpretation. Contexts, Strategies and Processes of Religious Transformation in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe“ is a research network uniting over 120 researchers from 21 European countries. To contribute to the creation of research networks within and outside academia, it furthers connections between experienced scholars, regional and national archives and libraries as well as the upcoming generations of researchers.

The COST Action is proud to present a Training school on „Production and Use of Religious Texts in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe“, held in cooperation with the University of Antwerp, and organized by August den Hollander (Antwerp/Amsterdam) and Sita Steckel (Münster). The event is highly focused on the IS1301 outlook, but includes a broad range of subtopics from typography to religious prints, from seventeenth century religious manuscripts to Antwerp’s tradition of book production.

As the material culture of religious texts, the history of writing and printing and cultures of religious reading are essential to our approach, half of the sessions will be held in collaboration with the heritage collections of the town of Antwerp, world book capital. Antwerp will host a prestigious double exhibition from September 2014 to January 2015. One part will run in the Museum aan de Stroom (MAS) orbiting around ‘Sacred Places and Pilgrimage’, the other will take place in the Hendrik Conscience Library and will focus on ‘Sacred Books’. The chosen topics will allow us to discuss cultural dynamics and strategies of appropriation within lay formal and informal communities, instead of merely focussing on texts and objects with fixed meanings.

Ten Ph.D. or advanced M.A. candidates can be offered the opportunity to participate in lectures and visits during a three-day event and to present their own research. Based on preparatory reading and lectures, participants will discuss with local and external experts, visit the specialized exhibitions and give presentations.

Preliminary Programme

Day 1 (29.10.2014) Printing and marketing religious texts (Museum Plantin-Moretus)

09:00-12:30 lectures and workshops

12:30-14:00 lunch

14:00-16:00 exhibition Polyglot Bible,
incl. demonstration printing press (MPM)

16:00-18:15 presentations

Day 2 (30.10.2014) Sacred books and writings (Hendrik Conscience Library)

09:00-12:30 lectures and workshops

12:30-14:00 lunch

14:00-16:00 exhibition Sacred Books,
incl. presentation (HC Library)

16:00-18:15 presentations

Day 3 (31.10.2014) Sacred places and pilgrimage (University of Antwerp and Museum aan de Stroom)

09:00-12:30 lectures and workshops

12:30-13:30 presentations

13:30-14:30 lunch

14:30-15:00 travel to Museum aan de Stroom

15:00-17:00 exhibition Sacred Places

How to apply - Conditions

Applicants must be Doctoral or M.A. students/researchers in history, literature or art history, who have worked with medieval or early modern religious texts and have some knowledge of manuscript and print culture. The number of places is limited to ten and priority is given to persons from the 21 countries participating in the COST Action. For a list of participating countries, see: http://www.cost.eu/domains_actions/isch/Actions/IS1301. Basic knowledge of Latin is expected.

The training is free and three nights' accommodation will be provided. If travel cannot be subsidized at the home university, a letter documenting the unsuccessful application can be sent in to obtain a contribution towards travel cost, to be reimbursed within 60 days after the event. The exact amount of travel subsidies will depend on the overall spendings, but we envisage being able to pay graded contributions to participants depending on the real amount of travel costs incurred, e.g. 50€ to participants from Benelux countries, but c. 200€ to participants traveling longer distances.

Sessions will be conducted in English and participants should bring a portable computer. Commitment: Each participant should present a relevant research project in a fifteen minute presentation, and write up experiences in a short report after the event.

Application papers and deadline

Applicants should submit a single PDF document containing:

- Cover sheet stating name, nationality, permanent address (including e-mail and telephone), university affiliation, last degree obtained, degree in progress, research director/advisor, research topic.

- Curriculum vitae (including level of competence in Latin/English/other languages, e.g. good/fair/poor).
- Letter of incentive describing your experience in the areas of teaching proposed by the Training School, explaining why you are applying and what you expect from the training in the framework of your current research (suggested length c. 500 words).
- Attestation documenting suitability/thematic relevance from research advisor or director.
- Copy of student ID card.

Applications must be submitted by midnight, 1 July, 2014.

Please send e-mails containing the application as a single PDF document to Sita Steckel, sita.steckel@uni-muenster.de

Successful applicants will be notified by 15 July 2014.



Organizers: Prof. dr. August den Hollander (Antwerp, BE/Amsterdam, NL) & Junior-Prof. dr. Sita Steckel (Muenster, DE)

on behalf of COST Action IS1301.