

# SHAPING AUTHORITY CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
LEUVEN 5 - 6 DECEMBER 2013



## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Pieter De Leemans  
Sylvain Delcomminette  
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Stefan Schorn  
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Gerd Van Riel

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Johan Leemans  
Brigitte Meijns  
Gerd Van Riel  
Shari Boodts  
Marleen Reynders

## KEYNOTE LECTURE

Prof. John Van Engen  
(Notre Dame Indiana USA)

## REGISTRATION

Registration is required  
before 29 November 2013

## CONTACT

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*Lectio*

## SHAPING AUTHORITY

### How did a person become an authority in Antiquity, the Middle Ages and the Renaissance?

The cultural and religious history from Antiquity through the Renaissance may be read through the lens of the rise and demise of *auctoritates*. Throughout this long period of about two millennia, many historical persons have been considered as exceptionally authoritative. Obviously, this authority derived from their personal achievements. But one does not become an authority on one's own. In many cases, the way an authority's achievements were received and disseminated by their contemporaries and later generations, was the determining factor in the construction of their authority. We will focus on the latter aspect: what are the mechanisms and strategies by which participants in intellectual life at large have shaped the authority of historical persons? On what basis, why and how were some persons singled out above their peers as exceptional *auctoritates* and by which processes did this continue (or discontinue) over time? What imposed geographical or other limits on the development and expansion of a person's *auctoritas*? Which circumstances led to the disintegration of the authority of persons previously considered to be authoritative?

We invite interdisciplinary and innovative scholarly case studies that document these processes. They may focus on one (group of) source(s) to analyse its contribution to shaping the authority of a historical person or they may take a *longue durée* perspective on the rise (and demise) of a person's *auctoritas*.

Thematic clusters one can think of may include (1) Biography, historiography and hagiography as grounds for authority; (2) The role played by manuscript transmission and production; (3) The contribution of non-textual sources; (4) Biblical characters as authorities. Papers are invited from fields as diverse as philosophy, classical studies, Oriental and Byzantine studies, history, theology and religion, art history, manuscript studies and hagiography.

The papers selected for presentation at the conference will preferably be case studies which contain the following elements in some combination: (1) Presentation and analysis of the sources and their context; (2) Analysis of the strategies for the "making of authority"; (3) Description of the long term success (or failure) of these enterprises.

**Papers** may be given in English, French or German and should be twenty minutes long. To submit a proposal, please send an abstract of your paper and a brief curriculum vitae (max one pag. each) by e-mail to [marleen.reynders@ghum.kuleuven.be](mailto:marleen.reynders@ghum.kuleuven.be) before 20 April 2013.

The **publication** of selected papers is planned in a volume to be included in the peer-reviewed LECTIO Series (Brepols Publishers).

The **keynote lecture** will be delivered by Prof. John Van Engen (Notre Dame Indiana USA)

Detailed **information** about the conference on <http://ghum.kuleuven.be/lectio>