

Report

IS1301 WG2a and WG2b meeting

Prague, March 19-20, 2015

The meeting took place at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in Jilská 1 in Prague. There were 26-32 participants, depending on the sessions. The majority of the participants were COST Action members. Among the other participants most were local scholars.

After discussion, the coordinators decided for a joint meeting of WG2a and WG2b. Under one common topic, *The Same and Different: Strategies of Retelling the Bible within the "New Communities of Interpretation" (1350-1570)*, two specific strands were identified. For WG2a (Texts and textual traditions, manuscripts and prints) it was *The Life of Christ* (Text versions: What makes the difference? Through what strategies? With what consequences?); for WG2b (Documenting and contextualizing the use of texts, communities and individuals) the focus was *Biblical education* (Catechesis and teaching tools: How to reconstruct community and readership behind the texts?).

Both topics turned out to be very stimulating and provoked much discussion. The two sessions dedicated to the Life of Christ showed the wealth of the mostly still unedited and unexplored material and also created a number of connections. Within the three sessions on biblical education, a variety of genres was examined: exempla, distinctions, poetry, catechisms, historiography, and drama. Two papers devoted to visual material (Dienstbier and Rywиковá) nicely complemented the otherwise text-focused presentations. In the final session, the paper by Linde served as a suitable counterpart to the other papers by discussing the complex attitude of the Dominicans in England to the vernacularization of the Bible, and the paper by Svátek showed that the retelling of the Bible may be hidden in unexpected texts, in his case the travelogues of visitors to the Holy Land.

The closing session of the meeting was dedicated to discussing further possible topics. Marina Gazzini's presentation of her research on confraternities was followed by a discussion about the future of the group. The unwillingness to separate into two subgroups was restated.

Results:

- 1) Further consolidation of the Working Group 2 through lively debates and inspiring interconnections among the specific researches of individual scholars.
- 2) Identification of a field that truly connects a number of members of the group and makes us confident that we can, as a group, substantially contribute to its research.
- 3) Publication is being planned based on revised and peer reviewed papers to be submitted for the COST Action series. Other COST Action members will be invited to join, and the whole will be carefully sought to form a coherent and meaningful contribution to the topic.

On March 20, we all watched the partial eclipse of the sun. On March 21, a trip to the Karlštejn Castle was organized by Jaroslav Svátek for interested participants and was much appreciated.