

Ragnhild M. Bø (Universitetet i Oslo), *Transformative Permanence. Wax as Multisensory Matter in Late Medieval Devotion*

Discussion

11.15 Coffee Break

11.30 SESSION IX

**TRANSCENDING STRUCTURAL BOUNDARIES:
ARCHITECTURE AS SACRED MATTER**

chaired by *Francesca Toffolo*

Lisa Marzahn (Princeton University), *Darkness Beyond Light. Between Visions and Experiences of the Sacred at the Pantokrator Monastery*

Oana Maria Nae (National University of Arts, Iași), *Illuminating the Ineffable: Dionysian Theologies of Light and the Spatial Experience of the Sacred in Byzantine and Gothic Architecture*

Teresa Martínez Martínez (Università di Padova), *Water as Moving Matter and its Sensorial Role in Iberian Medieval Spaces*

Discussion

13.15 Conclusions

MATERIALISING THE HOLY

**MATTER, SENSES, AND SPIRITUAL
EXPERIENCE IN THE MIDDLE AGES
(12TH-15TH CENTURY)**

PADUA, 6-8 May 2026

PALAZZO BO, ARCHIVIO ANTICO
ACCADEMIA GALILEIANA, SALA DEL GUARIENTO
BASILICA DEL SANTO, SALA DELL'ISTITUTO TEOLOGICO

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Zuleika Murat, Valentina Baradel, Vittorio Frighetto, Teresa Martínez Martínez (Università di Padova)

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Link to sign up for online participation:
<https://forms.gle/xJvmq4fwE7dDPbNv5>

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UNIVERSITÀ DI PADOVA
Dipartimento
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Corso di Dottorato in
STORIA, CRITICA E
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DEI BENI CULTURALI

Sacred Bleeding Host of Dijon. The Hours of Ogier Bénigne, ca. 1480. Acquired by Henry Walters before 1891, W.291, The Walters Art Museum.

CONFERENCE

MATERIALISING THE HOLY

MATTER, SENSES,
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4TH INTERNATIONAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE
OF THE SERIES 'EXPERIENCING THE SACRED'



CIRFIM "Carlo Giacon"
Centro Interdipartimentale
di Ricerca di Filosofia
Medievale



ACCADEMIA GALILEIANA
DEI LETTERATI E DEI MATEMATICI DI PADOVA

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6 MAY - PALAZZO BO, ARCHIVIO ANTICO

9.00 Welcome and introduction

9.15 SESSION I

SENSORY EPISTEMOLOGIES AND THE THEOLOGY OF SACRED MATTER

chaired by Zuleika Murat

Micol Long (Università degli Studi di Milano Statale), *Tracing Materials and Their Perception in Medieval Religious Texts (Western Europe, 12th-13th century)*

Marta Battisti (UCLouvain), *Bonaventure, Thomas Aquinas, and the Crucifix: The Sensory and Cognitive Power of Material Artifacts*

Davide Tramarin (Università di Padova), *Hildegard of Bingen Matters: Sensory Epistemologies of Substance and Their Resonance in Twelfth-Century Rhenish Sacred Art*

Discussion

11.00 Coffee Break

11.15 SESSION II

NATURE AS SACRED MEDIUM

chaired by Luca Nodari

Ross Debernardi (KU Leuven), *Material Paradoxes: Sacred Images Produced by Nature between Sensation and Cognition*

Vittorio Frighetto (Università di Padova), *Material Virtue and Sacred Power of the Serpentine Stone*

Maia Wellington Gahtan (Kent State University), *Lead Objects in the Middle Ages*

Discussion

13.00 Lunch Break

14.30 SESSION III

TRANSLUCENT MATERIALS AND LIGHT

chaired by Davide Tramarin

Mihnea Alexandru Mihail (Universitatea Națională de Arte București), *Light as Divine Matter: A Medieval Ciborium in a Rural Church of the Hungarian Kingdom*

Esther Pitoun (Universität Wien), *Carving Light: Materiality, Surface, and Devotional Perception in Late Medieval Tuscan Annunciation Sculptures*

Zuleika Murat (Università di Padova), *Reflecting and Refracting Divine Light: Gilded Glass Reliquaries in Central and Northern Italy*

Jesús Rodríguez Viejo (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen), *Light and Presence: Rock Crystal Objects in Norman Sicily*

Discussion

16.45 Coffee Break

17.00 Keynote

Bissera V. Pentcheva (Stanford University), *The Pursuit of Heights: Romanesque Architecture, Aquitanian Notation, and the Office of Sainte-Foy at Conques*

Discussion

7 MAY - ACCADEMIA GALILEIANA, SALA DEL GUARIENTO

9.15 SESSION IV

SACRED MATERIALS AND THE BODY

chaired by Micol Long

Valentina Baradel (Università di Padova), *'The Material is the Message': The Sensory Agency and Meanings of Linen in Medieval Religious Culture*

Flavia Galli Tatsch (Universidade Federal de São Paulo), *Feeling the Sacred: Textiles, Metal, and Devotional Experience in Marian Pilgrim Badges*

Sarah Guerin (University of Pennsylvania), *Interception and Medieval Art, or The Art of the Bow*

Discussion

11.00 Coffee Break

11.15 SESSION V

MATERIAL WORD: INTERACTING WITH SACRED TEXTS

chaired by Vittorio Frighetto

Karen E. McCluskey (University of Notre Dame Australia), *Grieving and Healing: The Sydney Hours as an Extended Tool of Cognition*

Sebastiano Crestani (Università di Padova), *Look but don't Touch: The Materiality of the Torah Scroll in Medieval European Judaism*

Alison Ray (Royal Irish Academy Library), *Perceiving the Page: Devotional Visions Across Double Openings in the Book of St Albans*

Discussion

13.00 Lunch Break

4TH INTERNATIONAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE
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14.30 SESSION VI

LIQUID MATTER: MEDIATING AND EMBODYING THE SACRED

chaired by Teresa Martínez Martínez

Rocío Sánchez Ameijeiras (Universidad de Santiago de Compostela), *The 'Well of Moses', a Well of Tears: Emotions and Sensory Devotional Experience at Champmol*

Aisling Reid (Queen's University Belfast), *Sweet Matter: The Taste of the Virgin's Milk and the Sensory Theology of Devotion*

Elena Paulino Montero (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, UNED), *Materializing the Holy Blood: Sensory Experiences, Vicarious Touch, and Female Devotion in Late Medieval Castile*

Discussion

16.15 Coffee Break

16.30 SESSION VII

CRAFTING THE SACRED SURFACE: MEDIA, MATERIALITY, AND DEVOTIONAL PRACTICES

chaired by Alfonso Zólea

Emma Bruckner (Courtauld Institute of Art), *Recreating Creation: Material Transformation and Artistic Identity in Jean Colombe's Books of Hours*

Marta Boscolo Marchi (Museo di Arte Orientale Venezia), *The Many Faces of Kannon: Devotion, Material Culture, and Propaganda in Japan from the Middle Ages to the Edo Period (1603-1868)*

Chiara Croci (HES-SO University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland/HE-Arc Conservation Restauration), *Managing the 'Lost of Sense': Conservation Practices and Sensorial Values of Medieval Objects*

Discussion

8 MAY - BASILICA DEL SANTO, SALA DELLO STUDIO TEOLOGICO

9.00 SESSION VIII

WAX AND FRAGRANCES: MAKING THE SACRED SENSIBLE

chaired by Valentina Baradel

Alessandro Vecchia (Università di Padova), *The Scent of the Soul: Materializing the Invisible Through Aromatic Matter and Practices in Medieval Europe*

Dragoș Gh. Năstăsioiu (Asociația Art Conservation Support, Bucharest), *Fragrant Treasures from the East: The Intersensorial Materiality of the Magi's Gifts in Late-medieval Devotion*

Margherita Orsero (Università degli Studi di Genova and Fondazione Edoardo Garrone), *Touching and Smelling Salvation: Wax Agnus Dei in Medieval Rome*