

Living Bodies of Texts: Organising a Literary Corpus in the Middle Ages

The Corpus Nazianzenum and the Corpus Dionysiacum

Göttingen, 27-29 April 2022

Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen

“Haus des Geistes” (Geiststraße 10)

Through the very word ‘corpus’, the metaphor of the ‘body’ is applied to a group of works by the same author that are transmitted together. These works not only share the same ‘skin’ (the binding) but also function organically thanks to a complex system of different paracontents (titles, scholia, glosses, marginal signs, commentaries, author’s biographies, illustrations, tables of contents...). When a corpus is ‘edited’ anew in its original language, or translated into another language, the ‘organs’ (the contents) are transplanted into a new ‘body’, with its own autonomous life.

In the case of only very few medieval authors is it possible to see this system at work such as in the case of the *Corpus Nazianzenum* and the *Corpus Dionysiacum*. In many ways both Gregory Nazianzen and Dionysius the Areopagite are ‘super-authors’, who forged their own literary identity as much as they shaped a closed and limited body of writings and prepared it for posterity. This common feature of both corpora sets them apart from other gatherings of patristic works, which were often much larger and not so well defined from the beginning. Neither Gregory nor Dionysius could foresee, however, that a growing apparatus of paracontents would become inseparable from their work. Amongst the early Byzantine writers, Gregory and Dionysius were at the same time the most celebrated and the most difficult to understand, as we see especially in the (early) medieval translations that made their works available to Arabic, Armenian, Georgian, Latin, Slavonic or Syriac audiences. Their multilingual corpora of texts were glossed, annotated and commented upon continuously, giving rise to an ever growing ‘exoskeleton’, which sometimes superseded or even obliterated the actual ‘body’ on which it was built.

Conference supported by the Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen and the Thyssen Stiftung

We hope to hold this conference as an in-person event. For inquiries and registrations, please send an email to cmace@gwdg.de.

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 27 April 2022

14h Welcome

14h15-15h30 The Editorial Projects on Dionysius Areopagita and Gregory of Nazianzus

Ekkehard Mühlenberg: Das Akademievorhaben „Dionysius Areopagita“ in Göttingen

Bernard Coulie: Le Centre d’études sur Grégoire de Nazianze à Louvain-la-Neuve

Session I Origins of the Corpora, chair: Chiara Faraggiana

15h30-16h15 Caroline Macé: The Author as a Saint: The Lives of Gregory and Dionysius in the Manuscripts of their Corpus

16h15-17h Margherita Matera: Quelques considérations sur la transmission textuelle du *Corpus* dionysien après le déchiffrement du palimpseste Par. gr. 1330

PAUSE

17h30-18h30 Public lecture

Stratis Papaioannou: The Body of the Author: Theories and Practices of Authorship in Byzantium

RECEPTION (19h)

Thursday 28 April 2022

Session II Medieval and Modern Editions of the Corpora (Greek), chair: Patrick Andrist

9h-9h45 Véronique Somers: Sur les traces d'une édition byzantine des *Discours* de Grégoire de Nazianze

9h45-10h30 Pierre-Marie Picard: Les divisions mauristes des *Poèmes* de Grégoire de Nazianze, des corpus évolutifs

PAUSE

Session III Evolution of the Corpora (Latin), chair: Thomas Schmidt

11h-11h45 Reka Forrai: A Foreign Body: the Birth of the Latin Pseudo-Dionysian Corpus

11h45-12h30 Alessandro Capone: Alle origini delle antiche versioni latine delle *Orazioni* di Gregorio di Nazianzo

LUNCH

Session IV Evolution of the Corpora (Near East and Caucasus), chair: Emiliano Fiori

14h00-14h45 Maia Matchavariani: Books for Bibliophiles: Two Ancient Collections of the Georgian Translations of Gregory Nazianzen's Works (S-1696 and A-87)

14h45-15h30 Michael Muthreich: Bekanntheit und Verbreitung: Das arabische *Corpus Dionysiacum* und die dem Dionysius Areopagita zugeschriebenen Texte „außerhalb davon“

PAUSE

Session V Scholia and Commentaries (Armenian and Georgian), chair: Bernard Coulie

16h-16h45 Sergio La Porta: The Armenian scholia on the *Corpus Dionysiacum* and their Use in the Medieval School Curriculum

16h45-17h30 Tamara Otkhmezouri: Paratexts in Medieval Georgian Manuscripts: *Corpus Nazianzenum* and *Corpus Dionysiacum*

Session VIa Scholia and Commentaries (Greek), chair: Caroline Macé

17h30-18h15 Chiara Faraggiana: Anmerkungen hinzufügen: Gehören παρατιθέναι, παραγράφεσθαι, παρακειῖσθαι zum literarischen oder zum kodikologischen Vokabular?

CONFERENCE DINNER (20h)

Friday 29 April 2022

Session VIb Scholia and Commentaries (Greek), chair: Caroline Macé

9h00-9h45 Thomas Schmidt: Les *Commentaires* de Basile le Minime aux *Discours* de Grégoire de Nazianze: le cas particulier du *Discours* 38

9h45-10h30 Gaëlle Rioual: L'ordre de production des *Commentaires* de Basile le Minime

PAUSE

Session VII Scholia and Commentaries (Syriac), chair: Michael Mutreich

11h-11h45 Jonathan Loopstra: Reading the *Corpus Nazianzenum* in Syriac by way of the Margins

11h45-12h30 Emiliano Fiori: From Scholium to Commentary: The Syriacization of Dionysius the Areopagite as a Collective Effort

12h30-13h30 Conclusions (round table), chair: Patrick Andrist