



***Hymnizate nunc superi
Pariterque resonate inferi***

**Spirituality, Liturgy, and Writing
in Female Convents**

1st-3rd September 2021

Heinrich-Heine Universität Düsseldorf (Germany)

After this radiant light went forth and filled the whole choir. She knew this was a sign that the blessed Virgin was praising her Son for the sisters along with them all. Then the whole host of angels and saints escorted their Lord with jubilant dancing to the heavens, chanting and saying, *Hymnizate nunc superi / Pariterque resonare inferi* (Sing hymns now, dwellers above, / And raise the echo, dwellers below).

Mechthild von Hackeborn, Book I *Liber Specialis gratiae*



This passage closes a vision linked to the celebration of the Feast of the Purification of the Virgin in Helfta's liturgical setting. From Mechthild's perspective, the voices of the "dwellers above" are reflected and want to be echoed by those "dwellers below". That is to say, the hymns sung by the community, the elements present in the choir, some ritual gestures and the smell of incense are interwoven with a sudden bidirectional connection with the kingdom of heaven.

Liturgical life is related not only with prayer and meditation, but also with the education of nun's and their capacity of perceiving their lives in a sacred framework. As it is proved not only by mystical commentaries to the liturgy as Mechthild's or by extant visionary sermons cycles, liturgy provided the communities of women with an intellectual set of sacred texts and images and organized their knowledge following the patterns of the liturgical cycle.

In the first Session of this two-part workshop we would like to deepen in the connections between liturgical life, mystical experience and writing in female convents from different parts of Europe.

September 1st

14:00 Welcome and Introduction

15:00 **Latin Learning, the Ordering of Knowledge and Liturgy**

Eva Schlotheuber, Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf

16:30 **Collective Performances of Compassion:
Liturgy, Imagination, and Emotions in Late Medieval
Passion Sermons**

Pietro del Corno, Radboud University Nijmegen

**Liturgical Cycle and Visionary Sermon in the work of
Juana de la Cruz**

Pablo Acosta-García, Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf

September 2nd

09:00 **What exactly is Late Medieval Women's Monasticism?
Some Reflections on Definitions, Narratives, and
Gendered Expectations**


Steven Vanderputten, Ghent University

10:30 **Sacred Art and Artistic Saint.
How Liturgical Vestments inspire Mystical Costumes**

Racha Kirakosian, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

**Christ Child, Liturgy, and Materiality.
Two examples from Southern Europe**
Sergi Sancho Fibla, UC Louvain





September 2nd

14:00

Vision and Liturgy in Hildegard von Bingen

Victoria Cirlot


*Universitat Pompeu Fabra,
Barcelona*

Cantare et orare. Liturgical references in mystical texts (Mechthild of Magdeburg, Mechthild of Hackeborn)

*Caroline Emmelius, Heinrich-
Heine-Universität Düsseldorf*

Vision and Liturgy in Hadewijch of Brabant

*Veerle Fraeters, Universiteit
Antwerpen*



September 3rd

09:30

Liturgy and the building of a prophetic female voice:

Juana de la Cruz's *Conorte*

*María del Mar Graña,
Universidad Pontificia Comillas,
Madrid*

Ecclesia, synagoga, and the Feast of the Presentation of the Virgin in Papal Avignon

*Miri Rubin, Queen Mary
University of London*

11:00

Round-table and Discussion



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Women, Liturgy and Spirituality in the Late Middle Ages (Session 2)

A time to mourn and a time to dance
Sensory Perception through Liturgical Time

Forthcoming, 2022

Université Catholique de Louvain