



‘IMAGE OF DEVOTION’, A CONCEPT TO BE DECONSTRUCTED?

Historiographical Approaches to
Devotional Images in Europe
(14th–18th Centuries)

organised by the research group ‘Essais
de terminologie(s). Images, littérature,
spiritualité’ of the GEMCA

26-28 NOVEMBER 2025

Salle polyvalente du Learning
Center Christine de Pizan
31 place Cardinal Mercier
1348 Louvain-la-Neuve

'IMAGE OF DEVOTION', A CONCEPT TO BE DECONSTRUCTED?

Historiographical Approaches to Devotional Images in Europe (14th-18th Centuries)

Bringing together researchers from various disciplines, the research group "Essais de terminologie(s). Images, littérature, spiritualité" initiated at GEMCA in 2022, aims to collectively question our understandings of terms relating to the use of images and literature in the field of spirituality between the late Middle Ages and the early modern period. We are collectively examining our uses of this vocabulary in order to define our research topics more precisely and propose more informed terminology. This exploration is based on two main types of corpus, which we are careful to cross-reference: secondary literature and primary sources.

During these study days, we hope to broaden our collaborative work and our network by focusing on the notion of the "devotional image" (Andachtbild) and related practices (devotion, piety, prayer, meditation, etc.). Drawing on a variety of approaches and corpora (both geographical and chronological), the study days aim to collectively examine the generic concept of devotional images from a historiographical, epistemological, and terminological perspective.





WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER

13.30

Welcome

14.00

Introduction by the research group "Essais de terminologie(s)"

14.45

Marcello Angheben (Université de Poitiers)

Les relations entre les dévots et l'objet de leur contemplation : problèmes de détermination et de vocabulaire

Respondents: **Philip Muijtjens & Sarah Borges**

15.35

Coffee break

15.55

Viktor Nedeski (Faculty of Orthodox Theology, Skopje)

Hesychasm and Byzantine Iconography: Mystical Experience and the Role of Images

Respondents: **Julie Glodt & Ralph Dekoninck**

16.45

Carolin Gluchowski (Universität Hamburg)

Exchanging Devotion: The Role of Devotional Images in the Lüne Letters

Respondents: **Elise Philippe & Julie Glodt**

THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER

9.40

Tom Gaens (UAntwerpen)

Carthusian Discourses on Images and Devotion in the Later Middle Ages

Respondents: **Thor -Oona Pignarre-Altermatt & Ingrid Falque**

10.30

Arnold Witte (University of Amsterdam)

Conventual or Private Practice, Flanders or Italy? Devotio Moderna, Historiography and Devotional Art on Both Sides of the Alps

Respondents: **Elizaveta Falkova & Thor-Oona Pignarre-Altermatt**

11.20

Coffee break



11.40

Herman Roodenburg (independent scholar)
Imaginative Devotions and Enactive Imagination
Respondents: **Marta Battisti & Sarah Borges**

12.30

Lunch

13.45

Mitchell Merback (John Hopkins University)
Virtuous Versos: Old and New Approaches to the Devotional *Doppelbild*
Respondents: **Mathilde Marès & Clara Lieutaghi**

14.35

Gwladys Le Cuff (EHESS)
Curiosités marginales, scrutations prospectives ? Détails prophétiques engagés dans les « panneaux dévotionnels » (Florence/Milan, c. 1490-1530)
Respondents: **Ingrid Falque & Clara Zajdela**

15.25

Discussion

16.30

Visit of the Musée L, around the collection of 'devotional' prints and objects

FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER

9.30

Fannie Caron-Roy (Queen's University)
Le geste avant l'image. Repenser l'image de dévotion à l'aune des dessins de Michel-Ange
Respondents: **Solène Lecuivre & Elizaveta Falkova**

10.20

Sophie Albert (Sorbonne Université)
La « dévotion » pour la Vierge d'Elche : promotion et illustration d'une image et de sa fête (XVIe-XVIIIe siècles)
Respondents: **Clara Zajdela & Marta Battisti**

11.10

Coffee break



11.30

Evelyne Verheggen (Universiteit Antwerpen)

Meaning, Designation and Significance of Devotional Prints in the Northern Dutch Republic in the Early Modern Period

Respondents: **Gwendoline de Muelenaere & Elise Philippe**

12.20

Lunch

13.30

Reindert Falkenburg (NYU Abu Dhabi)

Johannes Vermeer's *Milkmaid* as *Andachtsbild*

Respondents: **Ralph Dekoninck & Clara Lieutaghi**

14.20

Closing discussion

15.00

Farewell

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Marta Battisti
Sarah Borges
Ralph Dekoninck
Gwendoline de Muelenaere
Elizaveta Falkova
Ingrid Falque
Julie Glodt
Solène Lecuivre
Clara Lieutaghi
Mathilde Marès
Elise Philippe
Thor-Oona Pignarre-Altermatt
Clara Zajdela

ORGANISATION

Ingrid Falque
Solène Lecuivre
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Information et registration (free of charge)

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