

Abstracts & CVs

Dr. Matthias Däumer “A Black and White Peace. About the Possibility of Peace Betwixt the Dichotomies of Medieval Arthurian Literature”

The structure of Arthurian Literature is mainly based on the absence of peace: tourney, combat, war, ›*minne*‹ as means of victory and possession, all this embedded in salvific history with its bugbears of an ongoing and all-conditioning conflict between good and evil. In this context peace can only – laxly speaking – mean boredom, the absence of action. And yet, the existence and cultural (respectively performative) practice of the courtly novel is (historically speaking) an indicator and (sociologically speaking) a ›catalyzer‹ for peace, offering the audience on one hand a virtual outlet for aggression and on the other reflections on the possibility of peace. This presentation will focus mainly on the Middle High German *Parzival* by Wolfram von Eschenbach to raise the question whether courtly literature can (against all structural and narrative odds) be seen as a form of peace-communication.

Matthias Däumer graduated in theatre studies, German and English literature in Munich and Mainz. His dissertation entitled *Stimme im Raum und Bühne im Kopf (Voice in Space and Stage in Mind)* applies performance-theory to medieval Arthurian Romances in order to read these texts as scores of courtly performances. In the last years he worked in universities and academic institutions in Gießen, Tübingen and Berlin; at present he is employed at the Research Unit Historical Cultural Sciences at the Johannes Gutenberg- University Mainz for a project on the prehistory of cultural history. He is about to start a habilitation treatise about the long term genre of visionary literature.

Davina Brückner “Writing about peace in medieval Great Britain – the peace treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton of 1328”

When in 1296 Scotland was defeated by the English and the Scottish king John Balliol was imprisoned in England (never to return to Scotland), Edward I, the Hammer of the Scots, who had invaded the whole country and received homage by most of the Scottish magnates had thus de facto subdued the entire realm of Scotland to his will. Additionally to the military superiority he ordered Jean of Caen to collect written sources, which should proof that Scotland traditionally was held from the Scottish kings as a fief from the kings of England, proof, which Jean of Caen found in English and other chronicles. The Scots for their part waged a guerrilla war on the English, regardless of the homage done by the Scottish nobility and in addition they also searched for legal

documentation of the independent status of their realm, which they also found in chronicles. Despite the attempts to find a solution for the (violent) dispute, it couldn't be solved until 1328. By means of the changed political situation after the death of Edward II in 1327 a final peace could be negotiated in 1328, known as the treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton.

The current paper poses the question how this peace agreement was communicated in written sources. What did the authors tell, what did they find important and about what did they keep silence? Who are the addressees of the respective texts and what political importance did they have? By means of finding answers to these questions the paper tries to approach medieval ways of making and communicating peace.

Davina Brückner studied History and German Studies at the Johannes Gutenberg-University in Mainz. Currently she is working at the Research Unit Historical Cultural Sciences in Mainz. Her research interests are methodological issues around narratology and history, Scotland and the narrative representation of historical knowledge in medieval chronicles, which her PhD project takes account of.

Kristina Müller-Bongard “Make Peace – Show War? The visual representation of peace and peace treaties”

Kristina Müller-Bongard analyses in her paper the artistic “output” of peace and peace treaties. How is peace – as an abstract concept – visualized? Abstract concepts are illustrated by personifications and symbols, such as the Pax/Eirene, or the dove, the olive branch, and the rainbow – but mainly used for religious subjects. A series of allegorical representations of ‘political’ peace can be found particularly in the 17th century, since a genuine longing for peace is to be stated. This is due to a changed perception of peace. Since antiquity the prevailing idea that peace is not a state but the result of human activity, which means peace as a result of victorious wars, is transformed by the peace treaties of 1648. The Peace of Westphalia e.g. is considered to be a transformation into a modern concept of peace, from an order forced by a ruler or an empire towards the legally binding contract between equal states. Artists such as Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1642) who combine their skills as diplomats with artistic work enjoy respect as important mediators of peace; and painters such as Joachim von Sandrart (1606-1688) are commissioned to peace conferences with diplomats portraits that reach wide distribution in engravings, wherein a documentary approach can be seen.

In the paper it is discussed, how political peace is visualized and how the media and material representation of peace has changed.

Kristina Müller-Bongard studied History of Art and Cultural Anthropology at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. She worked as a research assistant at the Institute of the History of Art in the winter semester 2008/2009. In 2009 she was awarded an annual scholarship of the Kalkhof-Rose Foundation and since December of the same year she has been employed as a research assistant in the office of the Research Unit Historical Cultural Sciences. Her research interests are arts and art theory in the early modern period, the political-religious staging of violence as well as its socio-cultural perception, and the history of art collections. Her doctoral thesis deals with "Martyrdom as a Picture Subject – The Visualisation of Religion, Tradition and Renewal in Pictorial Communication in the Early Modern Period".

Chair: Prof. Dr. Jörg Rogge

Jörg Rogge is Professor of History, Middle Ages,. and Speaker of the Special Research Unit Historical Cultural Sciences at the University of Mainz. His main research interests are methods and theory of historical cultural sciences and politics and culture in Late Medieval Europe.