



**22nd Biennial Symposium of the
International Medieval Sermon Studies
Society “Conversions and Life Passages
through the Mirror of Medieval Preachers”
16 to 21 July 2021**

Programme

(all times refer to CET = GMT+2 as in Madrid, Paris, Rome, Berlin or Warsaw. New York is GMT-4, so 6 hours earlier. Los Angeles is GMT-7, so 9 hours earlier)

Friday 16

17:00 – 17:15 Welcome by the organizers, Linda G. Jones and Oriol Catalán*, and by the President of the IMSSS, Anne Thayer.

17:15 – 17:50 Keynote Address: Francisco Gimeno Blay (Universitat de València), “Ediciones manuscritas de los sermones de san Vicente Ferrer (ante 1485)”
Presider: Oriol Catalán (Universitat Pompeu Fabra)
Debate

18:00 – 18:10 Break

18:10 – 19:00 Strand: Early Middle Ages

Presider: Martine De Reu (Ghent University)

Shari Boodts (Radboud University Nijmegen),
“Augustine on Forced Conversion: The Reception of His Anti-Donatist Preaching in Medieval Sermon Collections”

Florence Bret (Université Jean Moulin – Lyon 3),
“Amour familial et amour de Dieu. La scène de conversion du prédicateur dans le Sermo de Vita Honorati”

19:00 – 19:10 Break

19:10 – 19:45 Virtual Tapas with the IMSSS Council

Saturday 17

17:00 – 17:30 Keynote Address: Tahera Qutbuddin (University of

Chicago), "Arabic Oration in Early Islam: Art, Function, and Two Instances of 'Conversion'"

Presider: Linda G. Jones

Debate

17:45 – 19:00 Strand: Internal and spiritual conversions

Presider: Pablo Acosta-García (Universität Düsseldorf)

Pietro Delcorno (Radboud University, Nijmegen), "Convertimini ad me...": Conversion as Permanent Process in Lenten Sermon Collections."

Ismael G. Rojas, O.P. (Facultad de Teología 'San Vicente Ferrer', Valencia), "De la expresividad de lo inefable. El carácter simbólico-poético del decir sobre Dios como 'pro-vocación'".

Antonio Marson Franchini (University of Bologna / University of Oxford), "Saint Paul's Conversion. Preaching Conversion in Parisian Model Sermon Collections"

19:00 – 19:15 Break

19:15 – 20:30 Poster session

Presenters:

Nirit Ben-Aryeh Debby (Ben Gurion University of the Negev), "Baptism and Preaching : Art and Ritual in Tuscany."

Alessia Brombin (Pontifical University of Saint Crux, Rome), "The Conversion as Metanoia in 13th-Century Byzantium. A Comparative Approach to the Spiritual Conversion in Female Monasticism According to the Bishops Theoleptos of Philadelphia and Gregory Palamas."

Christine Cooper-Rompato (Utah State University),

"Adapting the Ages of Man in Late Medieval English Sermons"

Laura Gaffuri (University of Turin), "Transfiguration – Life Passages – Conversion in Late Medieval Preaching."

Olga Kalashnikova (Central European University), "Saints in Action: Saintly Conversion in the Sermons of Iohannes Milicius de Cremsir."

Alexander Marx (Universität Wien), "Martin of Leon (c.1130-1203): Crusade Preaching between Spain and the Holy Land."

Kirsten Schut (University of Cologne), "Inspired Expirations: Death and Burial in the Religious Habit in Medieval Preaching."

Beata Spieralska-Kasprzyk (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University), "*Nomina Sacra* and the Typology of Medieval Abbreviations."

Sunday 18

16:30 – 17:45 Strand: Life passages

Presider: Laura Gaffuri (University of Turin)

Moshe Lavee (The University of Haifa), "Rites of Passage and Initiation Ritual in *Al-Iftitahat*. An Unknown Judeo-Arabic Homiletic Genre."

Andrew Reeves (Middle Georgia State University), "'After Thou Didst Convert Me, I Did Penance': Penance as Conversion in *Sermones moderni*."

Jussi Hanska (University of Tampere), "Thirteenth-Century Model Sermons and the Topic of Conversion in Extremis."

17:45 – 18:00 Break

18:00 – 18:50 Strand: Islamic preaching: narratives and rhetoric of conversion

Presider: Linda G. Jones (Universitat Pompeu Fabra)
Han Hsien Liew (Arizona State University),
“Converting Tyranny to Justice: The Role of
Preachers in Ibn al-Jawzī’s Political Thought.”

Livnat Holtzman (Bar-Ilan University), “A Call for
Repentance: Rhetorical Devices in the
Sermons of the Later Hanbalis.”

18:50 – 19:00 Break

19:00 – 19:50 Strand: Muslim preachers and spiritual conversion

Presider: Linda G. Jones (Universitat Pompeu Fabra)
R. Brian Siebeking (Gonzaga University),
“Converting the Story: Toward a Theory of
Narrative Conversion in a Muslim Sermon on
St. George.”

Ozgen Felek (Yale University), “The Role of
Preachers in Spreading and Preventing the
Spread of Shi‘ism in the Late Ottoman Empire.”

Monday 19

17:00 – 18:15 Strand: Textual, exegetical, and polemical
conversions

Presider: Jussi Hanska (University of Tampere)
Paula Cotoi (History Institute of the Romanian
Academy, Cluj-Napoca), “*De damnabili ritu
Graecorum.*’ Osvaldus de Lasko’s Sermons
Regarding Orthodox Christians in Late
Medieval Hungary”

Andrea Marie Giraldi (Princeton Theological
Seminary), “*Presbyteros euangelizandi gratia
egressos a domo*: Contextualizing
Descriptions of Conversion and Deconversion
in Adam of Bremen’s *Gesta Hammaburgensis.*”

Jonatan Benarroch (Harvard University), “Counter

Exegesis: Medieval Kabbalistic Responses to
Christian Exegesis on the Mystery of Benaiah,
son of Jehoiada (2 Sam. 23:20-21; 1 Chr.
11:22-23).”

18:15 – 18:30 Break

18:30 – 19:50 Round table: Sermons and the Digital Humanities.
Past, present and future: A debate.

Moderator: Marjorie Burghart (Centre National de la
Recherche Scientifique)

Moshe Lavee (The University of Haifa). The Tikkoun
Sofrim project.

Shari Boodts (Radboud University, Nijmegen).
Patristic Sermons in the Middle Ages. The
Dissemination, Manipulation, and
Interpretation of Late-Antique Sermons in the
Medieval Latin West (PASSIM).

Patricia Cañizares Ferriz (Universidad Complutense
de Madrid). Base de données des *exempla*
latins médiévaux conservés en Espagne
(ELME)

Roundtable discussants: Marjorie Burghart (CNRS),
Shari Boodts (Radboud University), Patricia
Cañizares Ferriz (UCM), Oriol Catalán (UPF),
Moshe Lavee (The University of Haifa), Chris
Nighman (Wilfrid Laurier University), Marie-
Anne Polo de Beaulieu (L’École des Hautes
Études en Sciences Sociales), Jean-Paul Rehr
(Université Lumière Lyon II/CIHAM), and
Jeffrey Witt (Loyola University of Maryland)

Tuesday 20

17:00 – 17:50 Strand: Christian - Muslim conversion in the Iberian
Peninsula

Presider: Alberto Montaner (Universidad de

Zaragoza)
Amanda Valdés (Universitat Pompeu Fabra),
“Images as Preachers’: The Role of Images in
the Religious Indoctrination of the Moriscos of
the Albayzin of Granada.”

Olivier Brisville-Fertin (Université Claude Bernard
Lyon 1), “*Fízose muçlīm i fue buena su
creyencia’*: la conversion à l’islam dans les
exhortations en aljamiado”

17:50-18:00 Break

18:00 -18:50 Strand: Conversion sermons in the Hispanic
Kingdoms

Presider: Oriol Catalán (Universitat Pompeu Fabra)
Alberto Ferreiro (Seattle Pacific University), “*In Die
Sancti Iohannis*: Preaching and Conversion on
the Feast of John the Baptist in a Catalan
Sermon of St. Vicent Ferrer.”

Lidia Negoï (IMAFÖ, Austrian Academy of Sciences),
“(Im)Moral Conversion and Status in
Dominican Sermons from Aragón.”

18:50 – 19:00 Break

19:00–20:15 Strand: Los *exempla* como herramienta de
conversión inter e intrarreligiosa: el caso
hispanico.

Presider: Alberto Ferreiro (Seattle Pacific
University)

Patricia Cañizares Ferriz (Universidad Complutense
de Madrid), “Le recueil du ms. 38 de la
Bibliothèque publique de l’État à Tarragone.”

Irene Villarroel Fernández (UNED), “La colección de
Miracula Beatae Mariae Virginis del ms. 9289
de la BNE”.

Montserrat Jiménez San Cristóbal (Universidad

Complutense de Madrid), “La colección de
exempla y miracula del ms. 529 de la
Biblioteca Pública del Estado en Palma de
Mallorca”

Wednesday 21

17:00 – 17:30 Strand: Strategies for public conversion.

Presider: Pietro Delcorno (Radboud University,
Nijmegen)

Piotr Bialecki (University of Warsaw), “The Fear of
Hell or the Fear of Ignorance? Conversion
Strategies in Iacopo Passavanti’s *Lo Specchio
della vera penitenzia*.”

17:30 – 18:20 Strand: Preaching and public opinion

Presider: Nirit Ben-Aryeh Debby (Ben-Gurion
University of the Negev)

Alessia Francone (Independent researcher), “*In suis
predicacionibus peccatores inveterati
surrexerunt’*: Berthold of Regensburg’s
Preaching and its Effects on the Audience.”

Giacomo Mariani (Università degli Studi di Modena e
Reggio Emili), “Emphasizing Conversion for
Public Opinion: Jews Converting to
Christianity in Sermons from Fifteenth-
Century Italy.”

18:20 – 18:30 Break

18:30 – 19:20 Strand: Women, gender and conversion

Presider: Sari Katajala-Peltomáa (University of
Tempere)

Ivana Arsic (Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade),
“The Homiletic Representation of Conversas
and Jewesses in Late Medieval Crown of

Aragon.”
Katherine Wrisley Shelby (Providence College), “The
Conversion of the Soul to God in St. Hildegard’s
Expositiones evangeliorum.”

Katya Mouris (Catholic University of America), “By
Means of Their Sermons They Drove the
Monks and Nuns Out of the City”: Sermons as a
Tool of Anti-Conversion in Reformation
Nuremberg.”

19:30 Closing ceremony
Anne Thayer and Linda G. Jones

(*N.B.: Linda G. Jones and Oriol Catalán have organized this
symposium within the framework of the activities of the Institut
d’Història Jaume Vicens i Vives of the Pompeu Fabra University of
Barcelona and the research project, “Writing Religious,
Transcultural, Gendered Identities and Alterities in the Medieval
and Early Modern Mediterranean,” PI, Linda G. Jones,
MICIU/FEDER, UE/AEI. Ref.: [PGC2018-0934732-B-C2])

