

Joint Special Discussion. Building Bridges – Spatial Aspects in Mediaeval Texts and the Potential of the Digital Humanities

Maximum Number of Participants: Unlimited

Date: Tuesday, July 8, 2014 – 14:00 to 16:00

Facilitator(s):

Organiser: Dr. Frithjof Schwartz, Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur Mainz, Germany

Moderator in Lausanne: Prof. Dr. Daniel Paul O'Donnell, University of Lethbridge, Canada

Moderator in Leeds: Prof. Dr. Julian Gardner, University of Warwick, UK

Participants include:

Prof. Dr. Kai-Christian Bruhn, Fachhochschule Mainz (Lausanne)

Dorothy Carr Porter, University of Pennsylvania (Lausanne)

N.N. (Lausanne)

Prof. Dr. Sible de Blaauw, Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen (Leeds)

Dr. Kerstin Sailer, University College London (Leeds)

Dr. Frithjof Schwartz, Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur Mainz (Leeds)

Overview:

This year the Digital Humanities Congress in Lausanne and the International Mediaeval Congress in Leeds are taking place contemporaneously. Both congresses have a global reputation and are widely-recognised platforms for discussing and show-casing new research approaches in their respective fields. Recognizing the ever-increasing impact of contributions from Digital Humanities at last year's Leeds conference we felt the urgent need to foster more active scientific exchanges between the DH and Mediaevalists. Thus, the idea of a virtual round table discussion between the DH Congress in Lausanne and the IMC Leeds was conceived, providing a forum to stimulate an interdisciplinary discussion in both locations via live-streaming.

The session is divided in two parts:

I. 14.00-15.00 Approaches to the spatial information incorporated in mediaeval texts

Six discussants from different disciplines (History, Architecture, Archeology, Art History, Information Technology) will be analyzing a selected mediaeval text, a description of an architectural space, presenting their particular point of views, and understanding of the spatial information. These brief presentations will be followed by questions and discussion concerning the text in relation to the spatial aspects and the scientific approach by the digital technology.

II. 15.00-16.00 Discussion on Spatial Aspects in Mediaeval Research and in the Digital Humanities

In the second part there will be an extended discussion on the spatial aspects in mediaeval research and in DH as well as discussion on requirements and strategies for the linking of the two disciplines.

It is hoped that this exchange of viewpoints will also uncover new possibilities and fields of Research initiated by the focussed interdisciplinary discussion.