Invited Lectures:

Lexical focusing and lexical norms in Old English: The vocabularies of vices

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This paper addresses lexical focusing and lexical standardising processes in the religious domain of Old English. Lexical change is reconstructed against the social changes within the church, such as the Benedictine reforms, by examining the specificity of social networks within the clergy and between the clergy and secular communities and focusing on the vocabularies of the capital sins.

Middle English scribes' active and passive repertoires

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Middle English texts exhibit great variation in spelling. Two texts may not be identical in spelling even if they are copies of one and the same work and are in the hand of a single scribe. Their non-identity presents a difficulty to the researcher seeking to attribute texts to scribes since identity, or at least great similarity, is their default criterion for making that attribution. In this presentation, I review the established methodologies and point to language modelling as a possible way forward.

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