



Universität
Zürich^{UZH}



Swiss National
Science Foundation



Swiss Academy
of Humanities
and Social Sciences



ICOME-14

14th International Conference on Middle English

Travel and Travelling
3 – 6 June 2026

Programme



<https://www.icode2026.uzh.ch/en.html>



icode2026@es.uzh.ch

Images:

Banner: Detail from the Short Psalter, produced in the early 14th century at Malmesbury Abbey (St. Gallen, Stiftsbibliothek)

Background: Illustration from B MS fr 2810, fol. 188v, containing an early 15th-century copy of John Mandeville's *Le livre des merveilles* (Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale de France)

Day 1: Wednesday 3 June			
9:00 – 9:30	Registration and coffee		
9:30 – 9:45	Opening speech		
9:45 – 11:15	1st panel: Spiritual Journeys (part 1): Travel and Spiritual Transformation Chair: Christiania Whitehead Room: Trotte 1&2	1st panel: Navigating the Lexicon (part 1) Chair: Olga Timofeeva and Annina Seiler Room: Dachzimmer	1st panel: General Session 1 Chair: Sergio López-Martínez Room: Seeparkzimmer
9:45 – 10:15	Burns, Dermot Traversing the weye: Movement, Encounter, and the Poetics of ‘Ye that pasen by the weye’	Wallis, Christine A Web of Words: Glosses for Weaving Vocabulary in John of Garland’s <i>Dictionarius</i>	Bin Sheik Alaudin, Muhammad Hameem Saintly Vernacular Doggerel: The Case of Kenelm and its Unkenned Verse Form
10:15 – 10:45	Lancaster, Sarah A Big Ball of Wibbly Wobbly Timey-Wimey...Stuff! Navigating Providence in the <i>Cursor Mundi</i>	Rose, Madeline Middle English Homography and Word Frequency at Scale: Challenges in Lexical and Semantic Tagging Across Corpora	Gonschorek, Korinna Empress – Victim – Secular Saint. Florence’s Journey between Violence and Salvation in <i>Le Bone Florence of Rome</i>
10:45 – 11:15	Ruset Oanca, Monica Experiencing Jerusalem: Pilgrimage and Vision in <i>Pearl</i>	Mambelli, Gloria Language Mixing and Lexicography: A Journey into the Technical Lexis of the Manorial System	Kanno, Mami Travel, Space, and Sacred Biography: Osbern Bokenham’s Reconstruction of English Saints’ Lives
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee break		
11:30 – 12:30	1st plenary: Prof. Sebastian Sobecki, University of Toronto "The Travels of Middle English" Room: Trotte 1&2		
12:30 – 14:00	lunch		
14:00 – 15:30	2nd panel: Spiritual Journeys (part 2): Travelling Within the Canon Chair: Diana Denissen Room: Trotte 1&2	2nd panel: Navigating the Lexicon (part 2) Chair: Johanna Vogelsanger Room: Dachzimmer	2nd panel General Session 2 Chair: Rory Critten
14:00 – 14:30	Kelly, Anne Scots <i>Eneados</i> (1513), Connection to <i>De Consolatione Philosophiae</i>	Ayed, Rihab Travelling from one Semantic Field to Another: Overlapping Lexical Items in the Semantic Fields of MEDICINE and RELIGION in Middle English	Lemburg, Flora Sophie The Balade of the IX Ladies Worthy – Worthy Women Travelling
14:30 – 15:00	Ruszkiewicz, Dominika Spiritual Modalities in Geoffrey Chaucer’s <i>The Book of the Duchess</i>	Kern-Stähler, Annette and Flannery, Mary Searching for a Lost Language: Building a Middle English Lexicon of Disgust via Medieval Travel Writing	Ruthenbürger, Carolina A Matter of Time? Narratological Observations on the Middle English and Low German <i>Floire and Blancheflor</i>
15:00 – 15:30	Simonin, Olivier Spiritual Knightly Itineraries: Comparing Percival’s Desert Island Trials and Gawain’s Moral Testing in <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i>	Merencio, Sandra Lexical Borrowing in Middle English Medical Writing: A Case Study on <i>The Sekenesse of Wymmen</i>	Wojtyś, Anna Geoffrey Chaucer’s A Treatise on the Astrolabe: Image, Text and Relation Between the Manuscripts
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break		
16:00 – 17:30	2nd plenary / round table: Dr. Daniel Sawyer, University of Oxford "Teaching Middle English Poetry Now" Room: Trotte 1&2		
17:30 – 19:30	Reception at Schloss Au		

Day 2: Thursday 4 June			
9:00 – 9:30	Coffee		
9:30 – 11:00	3rd panel: Spiritual Journeys (part 3): Contemplative Journeys Chair: Olena Danylovych Room: Trotte 1&2	3rd panel: General Session 3 Chair: Christine Wallis Room: Dachzimmer	3rd panel: General Sesssion 4 Chair: Nicole Studer
9:30 – 10:00	Karáth, Tamás ‘Tyme, stede, and body’ in the <i>Cloud</i> -author’s Spiritual Work and Richard Methley’s Reinterpretation	Pratscher Lehecka, Pia The Minim Effect and its Grapho-phonological Consequences	Molencki, Rafat The <i>cyning</i> > <i>king</i> syncopation in Old and early Middle English
10:00 – 10:30	Whitehead, Christiania Setting Aside Reason in Deguileville’s <i>Pilgrimage of the Lyfe of the Manhode</i>	Stenroos et al. (Merja Stenroos, Fatima Ghasemi, Fredrick N. Hansen, Xinmeng Lu, Takuya Takahashi, Kjetil V. Thengs and Synne Tungland) The Geographical Variation of Forms of THEM in Late Middle English Documentary Texts	Čermák, Jan Obsolescent Derivational Morphology and Incipient Typological Change in the 12th Century Variants and Annotations to Homilies by Ælfric: the Case of Masculine n-stems
10:30 – 11:00	Silec Plessis, Tatjana Carnal and Spiritual Matters in the Continuations of Chrétien de Troyes' <i>Perceval</i> and <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i>	Thaisen, Jacob Graph Distribution in Late Middle English	Newman, John G. The Athematic Root-Consonant-Stem Feminine Noun <i>neaht/niht</i> ‘night’ and the Spread of the s-Plural Formative: Analogy, Frequency, and the Maintenance of Zero Plural Marking in Medieval English
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break		
11:30 – 12:30	3rd plenary: Dr. Judith Huber, University of Munich "Verbalizing Motion and Travel in Middle English" Room: Trotte 1&2		
12:30 – 14:00	lunch		
14:00 – 16:00	4th panel: Spiritual Journeys (part 4): Broadening the Gaze Chair: Mireille Le Berre Room: Trotte 1&2	4th panel: General Session 5 Chair: Jan Čermák Room: Dachzimmer	4th panel: General Session 6 Chair: Olga Timofeeva
14:00 – 14:30	Cui, Chen Polycentric World System and Christian Universalism: Restless Echoes between John Mandeville and Janet Abu-Lughod	Kudo, Yoshinobu Peter Idley’s Instructions to his Son for Latin Learning: Bilingual Idley in British Library MS Harley 172	Moghadassi, Fanny Multi-Scalar Mandeville, A Spatial Approach to the <i>Book of Sir John Mandeville</i>
14:30 – 15:00	Denissen, Diana ‘I got back to my own little place’: Travel, Monolingualism, and Homesickness in <i>The Book of Margery Kempe</i> and the Sister-Book of Master Geert’s House	López-Martínez, Sergio A Knight’s Journey from Mallorca to England: Caxton’s Translation of <i>The Book of the Order of Chivalry</i>	Volkonskaya, Maria From Armorica to Armenia: Rewriting the Origins of the Britons in the Later Versions of the <i>Anglo-Saxon Chronicle</i>
15:00 – 15:30	Onuma, Yu <i>Mandeville’s Travels</i> as a Guide to Mental Journey	Alban-Barcia, Sara <i>Sere, Virtue and Pomp</i> : Foreign Lexicon in <i>Prick of Conscience</i>	WAW-ME team Project report: <i>Waxing and Waning Words: Lexical Variation and Change in Middle English</i>
15:30 – 16:00	Renevey, Denis In (Spiritual) Transit? Andrew Boorde’s Equivocal Journeys to Santiago da Compostella and Jerusalem	Bhattacharyya, Syamantak Clouds, Darkness, and the Divine: Mystical Ascent in <i>The Cloud of Unknowing</i> and the King James Bible	Harris, Anthony Towards a New Context-based, Configurable Middle English Normaliser
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break		
16:30 – 17:30	Morris dancing Instructor: Karin Taglang - Location: Main hall		
18:00 – 19:00	Apéro - Restaurant: Wirtschaft Schöneegg		
19:00 - ??	Conference dinner - Restaurant: Wirtschaft Schöneegg		

Day 3: Fri 5 June		
9:00 – 9:30	Coffee	
9:30 – 10:30	5th panel: Historical Stylistics and Pragmatics (part 1) Chair: Annina Seiler Room: Trotte 1&2	5th panel room: General Session 7 Chair: Carolina Ruthenbürger Room: Dachzimmer
9:30 – 10:00	Pons-Sanz, Sara Identity, Agency, and Speech in Medieval English Romances	Takahashi, Miwako Visuality in English Travel Writings from the Late Medieval Period to the Early Modern Period: Descriptions of Historical Buildings in the Holy Land
10:00 – 10:30	Timofeeva, Olga The Knight's Speech: Status and Pronominal Address in Late Middle English Romances	Tichý, Ondřej Tracing the Development of Countability in English: From Middle to Modern English
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 – 12:00	4th plenary: Prof. Margaret Connolly, University of St Andrews "From Hand to Hand: Movements of Middle English Manuscripts" Room: Trotte 1&2	
12:00 – 13:30	lunch	
13:30 – 14:30	6th panel: Historical Stylistics and Pragmatics (part 2) Chair: Sara Pons-Sanz Room: Trotte 1&2	
13:30 – 14:00	Jucker, Andreas and Seiler, Annina “Knights, nu 3e reste one while, ef 3ou leste”: The Origin of Courtesy Request Markers in Middle English	
14:00 – 14:30	Asián Caparros, Marina Semantic Nuance and Stylistic Function of Norse Loanwords in <i>Havelok the Dane</i>	
14:30 – 15:00	Coffee break	
15:00 – 16:00	7th panel: Historical Stylistics and Pragmatics (part 3) Chair: Marina Asian Room: Trotte 1&2	
15:00 – 15:30	Critten, Rory Representing Speech in the Auchinleck <i>Seven Sages of Rome</i>	
15:30 – 16:00	Bartnik, Artur Changes in Middle English Left-Dislocation	