

Beyond the Norms: Religious Practice in Late Medieval and Early Modern Transylvania

(Project PN-II-ID-PCE-2011-3-0359)

NEWSLETTER

June 2014

ACTIVITIES
CONFERENCE, WORKSHOP

COMPARING CATECHISM — ENTANGLING CHRISTIAN HISTORY (Oslo, 14-16 May 2014)

At this conference, Maria Crăciun has given a paper entitled “Interpreting Luther’s Small Catechism: definitions of sin within the Saxon community of early modern Transylvania”

Based on a comparative analysis of Luther’s Small Catechism, Transylvanian Church Orders, the decrees of the synods of the Lutheran Church and guild statutes, this paper discussed definitions of sin within the Saxon community of Early Modern Transylvania. On the one hand, the study assessed whether Transylvanian reformers found inspiration in Luther’s Catechism when defining sin and various types of transgressions which offended God or the community of faithful. On the other, the essay assessed whether the laity, particularly artisans appealed to the definitions of the clergy or to the long-held values and customs of the group when classifying and punishing offences. Such an analysis is helpful for understanding the definitions of sin devised by various institutions (the Lutheran Church, town councils, and the guilds) involved in religious and social disciplining.



Last Judgment, mural painting in the church at Dârlos, Sibiu district

Participation in future conferences

CITIES IN EUROPE - CITIES IN THE WORLD. 12TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON URBAN HISTORY – Lisbon 3-6 September 2014

On 3-6 September 2014 Mária Lupescu Makó will attend the international conference Cities in Europe - Cities in the World. 12th International Conference on Urban History held in Lisbon, Portugal and organised by the European Association of Urban History. Her presentation has been accepted and included in the panel dedicated to Material Culture and Social Change in Western Europe (13th – 17th Centuries). For further details concerning this conference, see:

<http://www.eauh2014.fcsh.unl.pt/index.php?conference=conference&schedConf=eauh2014>

CHURCH REFORMS AND THE CULT OF SAINTS Zadar, 17-21 September 2014

At the conference held at Zadar, Maria Crăciun has been accepted with the paper entitled *Saints in the church and in the prayers of mankind: attitudes towards „God’s creatures” in early modern Transylvania*



St Nicholas, mural painting in the Reformed church at Sic (Cluj District)

REFORMATION STUDIES COLLOQUIUM Murray Edwards College, Cambridge, 10-12 September 2014

Maria Crăciun, who will attend this conference, will give a paper entitled *Aural or Visual? The experience of worship in early modern Transylvanian Lutheran churches*

THE NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN ART

The Days of Cluj Academia
Cluj Napoca, 12-13 June 2014

During the days dedicated to Cluj academia Ciprian Firea will present a paper entitled *Female donors of „art” in late medieval Transylvania*



The altarpiece of Mălâncrav, the donor Clara Appafi (Macedoniai)



The international conference Comparing Catechism – Entangling Christian History (Oslo, 14-16 May 2014)

Meetings of the research team:

During the meeting held on 24 May 2014, Ciprian Firea has presented the paper called *Unpublished sources concerning religious norms of late medieval Transylvania: the protocols of the chapter of Sibiu 1523-1540*. This, so far unpublished source, contains minutes of the trials held in this institutional context, many of them concerning transgressions of ecclesiastical norms by the laity (various offences, particularly those affecting the clergy, trespasses of the right of patronage, adultery, infringements on ecclesiastical property). Their analysis is particularly relevant for the research topic of the project.

Publications of the team members:

Mária Lupescu Makó: "Spoken and Written Words in Testaments: Orality and Literacy in Last Wills of Medieval Transylvanian Burghers." In: *Uses of the Written Word in Medieval Towns. Medieval Urban Literacy II*. Ed. by Marco Mostert – Anna Adamska. Turnhout, Brepols, 2014, pp. 271-297.

Mária Lupescu Makó : "Poverty or not? Economic Aspects of the Mendicant Friaries in Medieval Transylvania" *Hereditas Monasteriorum*, 2013, vol. 3, pp. 111-134.

Carmen Florea: "A Saint for Everyone: the Clerical Promotion of Saints' Cults in the Late Middle Ages", *Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai. Historia*, Volume 58, Number 1, June, 2013, pp. 181-201

Carmen Florea: "Beyond the Late Medieval Economy of Salvation: the Material Running of the Transylvanian Mendicant Convents", *Hereditas Monasteriorum*, 2013, vol. 3, pp. 97-110

The publication of the research project:

On Earth and in Heaven: Devotion and Daily Life (Fourteenth to Nineteenth Century), in *Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai. Historia*, Supp. December 2013

The project *Beyond the Norms: Religious Practice in Late Medieval and Early Modern Transylvania* has set out to explore the construction of religious/confessional identity in the late medieval and early modern period with a focus on lay involvement in this process. The project thus wished to assess changes in religious practice shaped by secular agency in response to the norms set up by the church/churches. However, by taking a closer look at the changes in ecclesiastical prescriptions, both during the late Middle Ages and after the Reformation, this investigation has also considered the possibility of secular impact on the development of church norms. The project has consequently emphasized the role of the two-way communication between the clergy and secular society. It has addressed such issues as the place of religion in society, the strength of habit in religious practice and the power of allegiance to a confessional community. The project has consequently aimed to look at religious life in late medieval and early modern Transylvania from below, particularly and when possible from the perspective of the laity.

The contributors to this collection of studies hosted by the journal *Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai. Historia*, are members of the research team involved in this project or have closely cooperated with it at various stages of the process. They have thus chosen research topics that fit into the purposes outlined by the project and within its conceptual and methodological framework providing common ground and contributing to the coherence of the volume.

Despite the diversity of topics, sources and approaches the essays are bound together by their interest in religious experience and devotional practice, especially in the context of previous research which has privileged institutional development and the elite of the clergy, their reforming or conservative programmes. The common aims that give coherence to this collection are thus the attempt to distinguish between the norm and its transgression in devotional practice (comprising the social and cultural dimension of such actions) and to rethink the existence of the clergy and the laity as monolithic blocs in their relationship to religious experience and to each other.

Contents:

Maria Crăciun, 'Shepherds and Flocks: Religious Practice between Ecclesiastic Priorities and Secular Needs'

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Radu Lupescu, 'Lay and Ecclesiastic in the Heraldic Representation on the Matthias Loggia in Hunedoara Castle'

Anca Gogâltan, 'The Self: Religious and Noble Identity in Late Medieval Transylvania'

Mária Lupescu Makó, 'The Transylvanian Nobles: Between Heavenly and Earthly Interests in the Middle Ages'

Ciprian Firea, "'Donatio pro memoria': Lay and Female Donors and their Remembrance in Late Medieval Transylvania. Research on Visual and Documentary Evidence'

Carmen Florea, 'Civic Control of Sainthood in Late Medieval Transylvania'

Maria Crăciun, 'Communities of Devotion: the Saxons in Early Modern Transylvania'

Elena Firea, 'Seventeenth Century Miracles of St. John the New and Their Impact on His Cult in Early-Modern Moldavia'

Ovidiu Ghitta, 'The Greek-Catholic Church from Transylvania and the traditional popular religiosity'

Diana Covaci, 'The Story of Dumitru and Elenuța: A Transylvanian Romance in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century'



The Cistercian monastery of Cârța

STUDIA UNIVERSITATIS
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On Earth and in Heaven:
Devotion and Daily Life
(Fourteenth to Nineteenth Century)

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The publication can be accessed at: <http://www.studia.ubbcluj.ro/download/pdf/854.pdf>



The fortified church of Copșa Mare