

47th International Congress on Medieval Studies **May 10–13, 2012**

Western Michigan University
1903 W. Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5432
fax: 269-387-8750
medieval-institute@wmich.edu
www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress

Sponsored session:

Laws and rules, legal concepts and legal terminology in Medieval English, German and Scandinavian literature

Sponsoring organization:

Dipartimento di Scienze della comunicazione linguistica e culturale (DISCLIC), University of Genoa, Italy

Organizers:

- 1) **Chiara Benati**, Dipartimento di Scienze della Comunicazione linguistica e culturale (DISCLIC), University of Genoa, Italy
- 2) **Claudia Händl**, Dipartimento di Scienze della Comunicazione linguistica e culturale (DISCLIC), University of Genoa, Italy

Our knowledge of Medieval Germanic legal institutions is very often derived from the study of both Latin and vernacular legal texts. In addition to this, however, laws and rules, legal concepts and legal terminology are largely represented in literary texts, as well. These very texts constitute, therefore, an indirect source for legal history. Furthermore, their being written in vernacular makes them interesting for the analysis of their vernacular terminology to indicate specific legal concepts. In analyzing the interrelationship between law and medieval literature, scholars, in offering new readings, will contribute not only to a better understanding of particular literary texts, but also, more in general, to an enriched comprehension of Medieval culture. Finally this session will offer an opportunity to stress the growing importance of the written use of vernacular in English, German and Scandinavian Medieval society with regards to this field.

Papers proposed for this session should highlight the various functions of laws, rules and legal concepts in Medieval literature and /or deal with the importance of literary texts as indirect but significant sources for studies focused on social and cultural history and/or Medieval legal language and terminology.

Contact persons

Name Chiara Benati – Claudia Händl

Address Dipartimento di Scienze della Comunicazione linguistica e culturale (DISCLIC)

Università di Genova

Piazza S. Sabina 2, I-16124 Genova (Italy)

Preferred Phone +39-3358050064 (Benati) - +39-3294787931 (Händl)

Fax +39-010-209-5855

E-mail chibena@tin.it (Benati) – haendl@tin.it (Händl)