

Biobibliographical Information

Mirja Beck studied Art History and Hispanic and Italian studies in Cologne, Bologna, and Madrid. Since 2021, she has been a research assistant in the project »Cheap Images« – *Popularization of art historical knowledge in the early 20th century* within the context of CRC 1472 Transformations of the Popular at Weissensee Academy of Art, Berlin. As part of her doctoral thesis, she is researching the popularization of art and art history through photomechanical reproductions, comparing the German and the Spanish reproduction industry around 1900. Apart from scientific publications in this field, she has also presented her research in exhibitions, such as *Spanische Kunst – deutsche Kunstgeschichte. Reproduktion, Popularisierung, Kritik* (University of Siegen 2022), and *Ein Bild für alle Fälle – Sammelkarten von Stollwerck bis Liebig und Panini bis Pokémon* (Feld-Haus – Museum für populäre Druckgrafik Neuss 2023).

Melanie Korte is working as a freelance illustrator, designer and artist since 2009. She studied communication design with a focus on illustration and painting in Munich. Her professional experiences include works as an advertising illustrator as well as a character and background designer in the games industry. Her work on trademark fantasy series such as »The Witcher« and »A Song of Ice and Fire / Game of Thrones« has made her one of the most in-demand youth book and fantasy illustrators in Germany.

Thomas Honegger holds a Ph.D. from the University of Zurich (Switzerland) where he taught Old and Middle English. He is the author of *From Phoenix to Chauntecleer: Medieval English Animal Poetry* (Francke, 1996), *Introducing the Medieval Dragon* (University of Wales Press, 2019), and *Tweaking Things a Little. Essays on the Epic Fantasy of J.R.R. Tolkien and G.R.R. Martin* (Walking Tree Publishers, 2023), and has edited several books with scholarly papers on Old and Middle English language and literature and on the work of the late medievalist Prof. J.R.R. Tolkien. Apart from his publications on animals (real and imaginary) and Tolkien, he has written about Chaucer, Shakespeare, and medieval romance. His »Habilitationsschrift« (second Ph.D.) fo-

cused on the interaction between lovers in medieval narrative fiction. He is, since 2002, Professor for English Medieval Studies at the Friedrich-Schiller-University, Jena (Germany).

Judith Klinger has been since 1995 a member of staff at the Chair of German Medieval Studies at the University of Potsdam. She studied German and English language and literature at the University of Hamburg and documentary film and television journalism at the University of Television and Film, Munich. She obtained her Doctorate at the Humboldt University of Berlin (»Der mißratene Ritter: Konzeptionen von Identität im Prosa-Lancelot«; »The Wayward Knight: Identity concepts in the Prosa-Lancelot« and her Habilitation at the University of Potsdam with the thesis »Fremdes Begehren: Spiele der Identitäten und Differenzen im 12. Jahrhundert« (»Desiring the Other: Games of Identities and Differences in the Late 12th Century«). Her main research interests are conceptions of identity, comparative gender and queer studies, conceptions of space, animal studies, intermediality in illustrated manuscripts as well as modern transformations of medieval materials and themes.

Theresa Specht is a research associate in medieval studies and modern German philology in the German department at the University of Siegen. Her doctoral thesis examined the orchard as a space of action and imagination in medieval courtly literature. Besides the narration of space, she is researching the depiction of the Land of Cockaigne in early modern literature. She also works in the project Bo4 »Popular Middle Ages: Narratives and Inventories in Fantasy Literature«, which is part of CRC 1472 »Transformations of the Popular« in Siegen. Here her research interests include the visual aesthetics of Fantasy, the relationship between academic and popular knowledge about the Middle Ages in Fantasy literature as well as the transmedia storytelling of Fantasy in nowadays popular culture.

Miriam Strieder, educated at JGU Mainz, Germany and York University Toronto, Canada, has been awarded her PhD in German Literature from LFU Innsbruck, Austria in 2020. She has taught at the University of Greifswald and is currently a post-doc at the University of Bern, where she is participating in the Parzival-Projekt, which will offer a new digital edition of Wolfram's *Parzival*. Her research interests lay in European heroic epic, semantics of space in medieval narratives, courtly culture of the High and Late Middle Ages, and medievalism, especially with regards to the Arthurian legend. Her latest publications centre on the island Isenstein in the *Nibelungenlied* as a laboratory of matriarchy and the forest as a marker of wildness in plots and characters in medieval narratives. She is collaborating with the Leiermann publishing house for active science communication of medieval topics and regularly publishes digital and in print papers for a broader audience.

Hans Rudolf Velten is a scholar of Medieval German and European Literature and Cultural Theory. He has completed his Habilitation at Humboldt University in 2009 and has taught as a Temporary Professor at the universities of Erlangen, Saarbrücken, Göttingen and Cologne. Since 2014 he is a Professor for Medieval German Literature and Language at the University of Siegen. His research interests are in medieval and early modern literature, and medievalism (1800-). He has published books and articles on premodern humour, popular literature and performance, including *Scurrilitas. Das Lachen, die Komik und der Körper in Literatur und Kultur des Spätmittelalters und der Frühen Neuzeit*, Tübingen 2017 and *Die Literatur des Mittelalters im Fantasyroman* (ed. with N. Busch, Heidelberg 2017). Since 2021 he is Principal Investigator of the research project *Populäres Mittelalter* in the DFG-funded Collaborative Research Centre *Transformationen des Populären* at the University of Siegen.

Joseph Imorde studied art history in Bochum, Rome and Berlin. He worked as an editor for the architecture magazine *Daidalos* and founded the book publisher »Edition Imorde« in 1996. He taught in Zurich, Aachen and Bremen, among other places, until he was appointed to the Chair of Art History at the University of Siegen in 2008. In 2012 and 2017, he was a scholar at the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles. Joseph Imorde has been teaching art history at the Weissensee School of Art in Berlin since 2021.

Racha Kirakosian is Professor of Medieval German at the University of Freiburg (Germany), with a focus on religious textual culture of the late Middle Ages (since 2020). Prior to that she was Associate Professor of German and the Study of Religion at Harvard University. From 2010 to 2013 she was a Marie Curie Research Fellow at the University of Oxford, where she completed her doctorate in Medieval and Modern Languages in 2014. She received scholarships from various bodies, including the European Commission, the Conseil régional d'Île-de-France, the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes and the Fritz Thyssen Foundation. Racha Kirakosian's work is situated at the intersection between women's history, textual culture, and religious history in the European Middle Ages. She is also interested in performativity and music in medieval German texts. Her publications include studies on medieval German mysticism, female sanctity, and cultures of piety in late medieval culture.

Isabella Managò studied history and German studies at the Ruprecht-Karls University in Heidelberg until autumn 2015. She then completed her doctorate there in German Medieval Studies on »Contingency in the Trojan War of Conrad of Würzburg« (the book was published in 2021 by Reichert-Verlag in the series »Wissensliteratur im Mittelalter«). During her doctorate, she initially worked as a research assistant in the editing and commentary project on Johann Fischart's Translation of Jean Bodin's

›Daemonomania Magorum‹ with Prof. Dr Tobias Bulang before receiving a dissertation scholarship from the Landesgraduiertenförderung. She was also an associate member of the literary studies doctoral programme ›What is Tradition? On the Genesis, Dynamics and Criticism of Concepts of Tradition in Western European Literatures‹. Since autumn 2020, she has been a post-doctoral university assistant to Prof. Dr Julia Zimmermann at the Karl-Franzens-University in Graz and is researching, among other things, the reception of the Middle Ages in German fantasy novels.