



UNIVERSITY
OF TURKU



TUCEMEMS

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



TURKU CENTRE FOR MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN STUDIES



**UNIVERSITY
OF TURKU**



TURKU CENTRE FOR MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN STUDIES

The Turku Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (TUCEMEMS) is a multidisciplinary research centre funded by the University of Turku. The centre provides support for and advances research activities examining different historical time periods, ranging from late antiquity to the latter part of the 18th century.

FURTHER INFORMATION

DIRECTOR

Dr. Marika Räsänen

Email: marika.rasanen@utu.fi

Phone: +358 50 564 9298

VICE-DIRECTOR

Professor Matti Peikola

Email: matti.peikola@utu.fi

Phone: +358 50 564 1825

POSTAL ADDRESS OF THE CENTRE:

TUCEMEMS

FI-20014 University of Turku

GENERAL EMAIL:

tucemems-info@utu.fi

www.utu.fi/en/university/faculty-of-humanities/tucemems

To e-mail other administrative members directly use the following format: `firstname.lastname[at]utu.fi`

CREDITS

Texts by lecturers and
TUCEMEMS members

Editor and layout: Jutta Laitila &
Nea Pälä

Language consultant: Damon
Tringham

Cover photo: Hanna Oksanen,
University of Turku

Communications

University of Turku 2022

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL.....	1
CROSSING BOUNDARIES: TURKU MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN STUDIES	2
TEACHING	3
TUCEMEMS ACTIVITIES 2021	5
MONTHLY TALKS	5
EVENTS	11
DOCTORAL DISPUTATIONS BY TUCEMEMS MEMBERS	14
LIFE AFTER DOCTORATE: INTERVIEWS OF THE NEW DOCTORS	20
TUCEMEMS BOARD MEMBERS 2021.....	28

EDITORIAL

The TUCEMEMS year 2021 was as dynamic as always and it gathered colleagues and friends from all over the world in on-line mode. As the global pandemic COVID-19 still restricted many of traditional activities, new ways of doing were successfully regularized. Despite all the smoothly functioning technical equipment and lively ZOOM-discussions we soon realized what we had missed the most when we were allowed to be gathered at lecture rooms in quiet phases of the pandemic: to feel the colleagues' true presence, something which is not tangible through the screen of computer.

As the year 2021 manifested the continuum in the TUCEMEMS activities, it also brought a significant rupture: the former director of the Centre, professor Kirsi Salonen was appointed to a post of a lecturer in Medieval History at the University of Bergen, Norway, from the beginning of the fall term 2021. She continues to act as the Board member of the TUCEMEMS, and we are looking forward to deepening our collaboration with the Norwegian colleagues.

It is a challenge but also an opportunity to start steering the established, multidisciplinary Centre. I am grateful for the Board of the Centre for dedicating me support in my new role. It is the large community of the researchers and friends of the TUCEMEMS who make the Centre exist, and I hope we can together continue our active work for the benefit of the TUCEMEMS.



Marika Räsänen
Director of the Centre

CROSSING BOUNDARIES: TURKU MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN STUDIES

The peer-reviewed book series of TUCEMEMS is published by Amsterdam University Press. Its international Advisory Board consists of leading experts in the fields represented by the Centre. The series publishes monographs and collected volumes placed at the intersection of disciplinary boundaries to introduce fresh connections between established fields of study. By the end of 2021, altogether twelve volumes have been published in the series. No titles came out in 2021, with the pandemic delaying some projects, but we are expecting to get new volumes into production in 2022.

The Editorial Board is looking for high-quality manuscripts of monographs or collected volumes. For further information, please visit this site:

<https://www.aup.nl/en/series/crossing-boundaries-turku-medieval-and-early-modern-studies>

Matti Peikola
Series Editor



TEACHING

In 2021 TUCEMEMS continued to oversee the Prehistorical, Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern Studies programme (25–60 ECTS). It consists of one compulsory introductory course titled ‘Introduction to the Study of Old Times’ (5 ECTS), and three modules that each include various optional courses: ‘Periods’ (10–15 ECTS), ‘Languages’ (5–20 ECTS) and ‘Methods’ (5–20 ECTS).

‘Periods’ gives the student basic knowledge of at least two older time periods, and the understanding of their basic chronology. ‘Languages’ gives the student basic skills in at least one foreign language required for the study of old times. ‘Methods’ aims at strengthening the student’s skills in methodology. In this module the student familiarizes themselves more comprehensively with at least one research method (for example palaeography, diplomatics, codicology, epigraphy, numismatics, heraldry, chronology, text editing or archaeological excavations).

In 2021 the TUCEMEMS members and teachers Teemu Immonen, Marjo Kaartinen, Marika Räsänen, and Reima Välimäki organized a mini study programme focusing on medieval studies. The mini programme was advertised to the students as a ‘unique journey into the medieval world and to its sources’. It began in Autumn 2021 with a course called ‘From a Monk’s Cell to a Hangman’s Hill: The Sources of Medieval Studies’ (5–10 ECTS). The aim of the course was to familiarize the students with different kinds of texts, objects and images, dating from Late Antiquity to the Early Modern era. The course presented the varying sectors of life and the contexts through which medieval people expressed themselves, including monasteries, courts, cities, homes,

universities and many more. In addition to lectures the course included an excursion to the Turku University Library, where the students got to explore the library's valuable incunabulum collection.

From there the students could continue their studies and fuel their interest by applying for and attending a field trip to Rome in Spring 2022, organized in collaboration with the Finnish Institute in Rome. The course and the field trip together then prepare the students for a thematical Bachelor's Seminar focusing on the study of old times, that would be held in Autumn 2022, should there be enough interest and need.



Excursion to the Turku University Library.
Picture: Marika Räsänen

TUCEMEMS ACTIVITIES 2021

MONTHLY TALKS

The TUCEMEMS Monthly Talks in Spring 2021 were held in Zoom on Mondays from 15:00 to 16:00. In Autumn 2021 they were held on Thursdays from 16:00 to 18:00 as hybrid events in Arcanum Seminar Room 270 and in Zoom. The Covid-19 regulations at the time demanded a controlled live attendance as well as the use of a face mask.

11th of January

Jaakko Tahkokallio (Docent, University of Helsinki): The Premise of the BOMPAC-project: The Fragments of the National Library of Finland and the Royal Archives of Sweden, and the Vast Unknown of Medieval Book History.

Abstract: The Books of the Medieval Parish Church (BOMPAC) project, which started at the beginning of 2020 hosted by the National Library of Finland, studies the book provision of Late Medieval parish churches. The ERC Starting Grant project examines this question using the book fragments of the National Library of Finland and the Royal Archives (Stockholm) as its principal sources. The project leader Jaakko Tahkokallio presents the objectives, plans and the research context of the project.

8th of March

Katelin Parsons (PhD, University of Iceland): Songs for the End of the World: A People's Poet in Early Modern Iceland.

Abstract: In North Iceland, Guðmundur Erlendsson (c. 1595–1670). Perhaps more successful as a poet than a parson, Guðmundur was exiled to the remote island of Grímsey – the extreme northern periphery of the habitable world – after a drunken quarrel with a fellow minister. He later served in his birth community until his death at the age of 75. In the 1650s, Guðmundur began the project of cultivating his image as a serious religious poet of the people through the creation and dissemination of poetry anthologies in manuscript form. These anthologies were the products of careful curation by Guðmundur and later scribes in his inner circles who continued the work of promoting his legacy after 1670. A fragment of one of these anthologies has survived in Guðmundur's own hand and provides an enduring microportrait of a poet, a family and a community.

Katelin Marit Parsons is a postdoctoral researcher at the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies. She is currently researching seventeenth-century Icelandic poetry as part of the project 'The sacred and the profane: Comparative studies in the reception and transmission of popular and religious literature in late pre-modern Iceland', funded by the Icelandic Research Fund.

12th of April

Aino Liira (PhD, University of Turku): Polychronicon and paratexts – What Do the Copies of a Chronicle Tell Us About Literary Culture in Medieval and Early Modern England?

Abstract: When texts are transmitted, for instance in the form of a book, they will be presented to readers in a specific material form. This talk is based on my PhD thesis (2020), in which I compare the Middle English manuscript copies and early printed editions of Ranulph Higden's Polychronicon. The materials date from the late 14th to the early 16th century. My analyses focus on paratext, that is, all the different elements accompanying a text which guide the reader, such as prefaces, indices, titles, decorative initials and other elements of textual organisation, and marginal annotation. Early book producers employed these elements in various ways to improve the organisation and presentation, and the readability, of the text. My study gives insight into how textuality and authorship were understood in the late medieval and early modern periods. Additionally, the thesis expands on the concept of paratext, developed by the French literary scholar Gérard Genette (1930–2018) to describe the multitude of elements in printed books which the author and the publisher use to guide the reader's interpretation.

10th of May

Mari Välimäki (PhD, University of Turku): Broken Promises: Premarital Relationships and Agency in the Late Seventeenth-Century Swedish University Towns.

Abstract: The presentation is based on the PhD thesis which focused on premarital relationships and agency in Swedish university towns during the latter part of the 17th century. It analyzed how academic consistory courts examined and judged cases concerning premarital relationships and how changes in legal praxis from the so-called judicial revolution caused gendered effects on women and men.

In addition, the dissertation examined what laws, other legal documents and court cases tell about agency in Early Modern Sweden. The themes are studied in the context of gender history and legal history. The source material of the study consists of different legal documents and court records from the academic consistories of the Royal Academy of Turku and the University of Uppsala.

30th of September

Elina Räsänen (Docent, University of Helsinki): Late Medieval Reredos of Masku and ‘The Innocent Vandals’.

Abstract: The presentation deals with the 18th Century reform of the Late Medieval Reredos (16th Century) of Masku. Why were the doors painted over, and to which larger phenomenon does this work adhere to? In this presentation the adaptation of the reredos to fit the



The Masku Reredos
Picture: Elina Räsänen

Evangelical Lutheran religious life is set into the context of ‘innocent vandalism’.

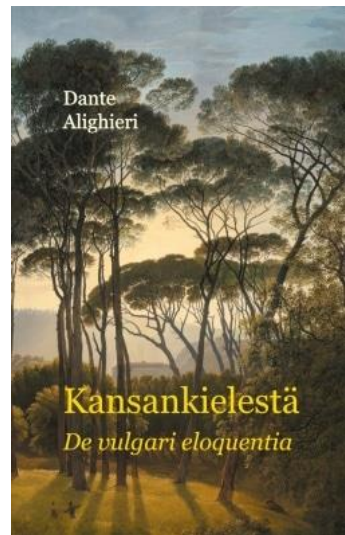
This will lead to Bruno Latour’s reflection on iconoclasm and object transformation. Also, how did prior renewals affect the appreciation and fates of objects like these?

28th of October

Päivi Mehtonen (Docent) and **Jaana Vaahtera** (University Lecturer, University of Turku): Dante, Poetics and Politics: *Kansankielestä – De vulgari eloquentia*.

Abstract: Ideological meaning of language is the main topic of Dante Alighieri’s *De vulgari eloquentia*. Dante wrote *De vulgari eloquentia* while wandering around Italy, having been exiled from Florence. In this work medieval Latin and vernacular poetics are used to argue for a unified and noble Italian language, which correlates to an idea of a politically united Italy.

Translators Päivi Mehtonen and Jaana Vaahtera talk about the roles of poetics and politics in Dante’s work which has been called the declaration of independence for vernaculars.



The cover picture of *Kansankielestä – De vulgari eloquentia* (Faros 2021).

2nd of December

Tanja Ratilainen (PhD, Researcher, City of Turku): Koroinen, Turku and Early Brick Use in Medieval Finland

Abstract: According to my doctoral thesis brick use started on the mainland of medieval Finland in the second half of the 13th century. Bricks were applied in various ways in several different structures, but the first brick buildings were erected only in the second half of the 14th century. Not only roof tiles but also ordinary wall bricks and moulded bricks were imported, but all of them were also locally produced. The bishop was the first to employ brick, likely because he wanted to promote Koroinen as an ecclesiastical centre. In Häme, brick use also probably started in the 14th century. Compared to the Baltic Sea region, brick building was launched modestly in medieval Finland, but as seen in the overview of the known traces and remains, it is richer, more varied and earlier than recently believed.

TUCEMEMS held an end-of-season event after the last Talk on December 2 at 17:30. An invitation was sent to the members with a promise of conversation and light refreshments.

EVENTS

TUCEMEMS at the Turku Medieval Market 1.-4.7.2021

TUCEMEMS took part in the Turku Medieval Market on 1st of July 2021. Year 2021 saw all in all a smaller event due to Covid-19 restrictions. The lectures held by the Centre were recorded and published on the YouTube channel 'Keskiajan Turku' (Medieval Turku).

'I Did It My Way: Medieval Dissidents': Three public lectures at Bar Pinella.

Docent Reima Välimäki: 'Rather Went for a Beer' – Defiance Before Inquisitors.

PhD Tom Linkinen: A Gay Wedding in the Middle Ages? When Reality was More Wonderous than Fiction.

PhD Heta Aali: The Fleeing 6th Century Merovingian Queens.

Online Lecture by **PhD Kendra Willson:** Runes as Letters and Symbols.

Abstract: Are runes magical signs or just and simply letters? How did they originate and what is their relationship to other writing systems? Where, when, on which objects and in which languages were they incised? What does one have to know in order to read runic writing? Runes were used as an alphabet, but what other uses did they have? Were runes used in Finland and was the

Finnish language ever written in runic? What do runes symbolize and how are they used today?

The Turku Scholars — What Topics Were Discussed in the Medieval Universities?

8.-9.10.2021, Turku Cathedral

Buried in the Turku Cathedral are several scholars of medieval universities, and at least one rector. It is no wonder, as the church and universities have a long, shared history.

Who were the students and scholars from Turku who studied at the universities of continental Europe? Which topics were discussed in medieval universities?

Presentations held in the Turku Cathedral sought to find answers to these questions on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th of November. The speakers were scholars of medieval history in Finland.



The setting of the event, the Turku Cathedral.

Picture: Jutta Laitila

The presentations were streamed on the YouTube channel of the Turku Cathedral Parish.

The event was organized in collaboration with the University of Helsinki, Åbo Akademi, TUCEMEMS and the Finnish Academy. It was part of the Year of Research-Based Knowledge 2021.

PROGRAM

Friday 8th of October

15:00–15:45

PhD Mikko Posti: Religion and Just War Theory in 14th Century Italy

16:00–16:30

Docent Virpi Mäkinen: *Ars Moriendi* – The Art of Dying in the Late Medieval Texts on Good Death

16:45–17:15

Professor emeritus Simo Knuutila: Logic in the Medieval Universities

17:15–17:45

Docent Ritva Palmén: Imagination and the Wandering Mind in Medieval Spiritual Exercises

Saturday 9th of October

9:30–10:00

Director General, State Archivist Jussi Nuorteva: Finnish Students and Their Studies at Medieval European Universities

10:00–10:30

Docent Anni Maria Laato: Theology of Medieval Hymns – What Kind of Theology Did the Medieval Hymns Mediate?

DOCTORAL DISPUTATIONS BY TUCEMEMS MEMBERS

Mari Välimäki – Finnish History

17 April, 2021

Broken Promises. Premarital Relationships and Agency in the Late Seventeenth-Century Swedish University Towns.

This dissertation focuses on premarital relationships and agency in Swedish university towns during the latter part of the 17th century. It analyses how academic consistory courts examined and judged cases concerning premarital relationships and how changes in legal praxis from the so-called judicial revolution caused gendered effects on women and men. In addition, the dissertation examines what laws, other legal documents and court cases tell about agency in early modern Sweden. The themes are studied in the context of gender history and legal history. The thesis entails an introductory and summary part as well as five articles. The articles discuss the legislation concerning breaches of marital promise and how it was gendered; the premarital relationships of university students and when students were pressured to marry; the meaning of love in premarital relationships and in court hearings over these relationships, as well as the reactions of family members and their agency in situations where a son had engaged in a premarital relationship. The source material of the study consists of different legal documents and court records from the academic consistories of the Royal Academy of Turku and the University of Uppsala. The concepts of legal praxis, gender and agency are key methodological instruments of the research. The

study shows that the academic consistories examined and judged criminal cases concerning premarital relationships in the same manner as other courts of law in Sweden. The same changes in legal praxis influenced the practices of academic consistories, although there were also differences between their practices. Changes in legal praxis made women's positions more difficult in cases concerning the breach of marital promise, but it simultaneously gave them agency. The agency of young men was determined by the rhetoric of obedience in the court hearings. However, the agency of both women and men was mainly determined by similar factors; therefore, studying agency from a viewpoint of interaction instead of opposition between genders is encouraged. Using an intersectional method, it is concluded that the agency of women and men was determined not only by gender but also by age, marital status, estate and experience, and more generally by their position within a family and society.

Sara Norja – English

27 May, 2021

Alchemy in the Vernacular: An Edition and Study of Early English Witnesses of *The Mirror of Alchemy*

This study concerns an English-language alchemical work called *The Mirror of Alchemy* (MoA). I examine manuscript copies of MoA from the 15th to 17th centuries as well as a printed edition from 1597. The main aim of my study is to edit a previously unstudied manuscript version of MoA, making this work accessible for future research and contributing to developing editorial methods for early scientific texts. A central aim is to place MoA in its textual and

historical contexts to clarify the edited text to readers. I employ theory and methods from the fields of scholarly editing and textual scholarship, and integrate the discussion of manuscript and printed witnesses. MoA is an English translation of the Latin work *Speculum alchemiae*. This is a well-known alchemical work, formerly attributed to Roger Bacon (c. 1214–1292?). The material for my study consists of the seven extant manuscript copies of MoA, as well as the 1597 printed edition. There is a previous edition of the 1597 witness, but all the manuscript copies were previously unstudied and unedited. My analysis uncovers the textual relationships between the witnesses as well as examining the witnesses as translations, focusing on the translation of specialised alchemical terminology into English. Based on detailed qualitative textual comparisons, my study shows that the witnesses of MoA can be divided into four textual groups. MoA is an example of the gradual shift from Latin to English, as the four Groups represent different translations of *Speculum alchemiae*. I examine these Groups both from the point of view of their textual relationships and that of the influence of the (potential) source texts on the translations. My analysis shows that a combination of linguistic strategies was used to translate *Speculum alchemiae* into English multiple times. The differences in the translations are explained by the translation strategies used and diachronic changes in the language of science. A major result of this study is also the best-text edition and its commentary and glossary, as well as transcriptions of the four Groups. The edition's text also provides some previously unrecorded words and antedatings: these show that editing and studying early alchemical material is a valuable undertaking also from a lexicological perspective.

Maria Kallio-Hirvonen – Finnish History

25 October, 2021

Codicology, Cartularies and their Function in the Medieval Cathedral Chapter of Turku

The doctoral thesis studies the medieval cartularies of the Cathedral Chapter of Turku, the Black Book and the Skokloster Codex Aboensis, as well as their role and significance in the context of fourteenth century. Previous research has seen the manuscripts, which contain more than 900 copies of documents, only as administrative aids written by the capitulary scribe. The cartularies have been associated to the capitulary reform of 1474. The thesis questions this view, and investigates why and how the manuscripts were produced, and what kind of manuscripts they are. The Black Book and the Skokloster Codex Aboensis are studied from four perspectives: when were the manuscripts produced, who was responsible for the copying of the manuscripts, what documents were copied to the cartularies and why they were copied, and what is the relationship of the cartularies to the archives of the Bishop and Cathedral of Turku. In addition, to the Black Book and the Skokloster Codex Aboensis other cartularies produced in Turku and original documents produced for the Bishops of Turku and the Cathedral Chapter have been used in the study. Codicology, palaeography and diplomatics are the main methods utilised in the study, which belongs to the field of modern cartulary studies.

The thesis attests that the production history of the Black Book and the Skokloster Codex Aboensis is much more nuanced than previous research has thought. The cartulary tradition of the Cathedral Chapter of Turku has, likely,

began much earlier than the capitulary reform of 1474. Documents that do not bear any relation to administrative functions of the Cathedral Chapter of Turku were copied to the cartularies, which suggests that the manuscripts had also other functions, in addition, to administrative use. Furthermore, documents that do not have any relation to documents preserved in the archives the Bishop or the Cathedral of Turku were copied into the cartularies. Based on codicological and paleographical analysis the copying of the cartularies was not the sole purview of a single scribe, but, instead, was a collective effort of the members of the Cathedral Chapter of Turku.

Sirkku Ruokkeinen – English

4 December, 2021

Historical Appraisal Analysis: Evaluation of the Book in Sixteenth-Century England

This dissertation is a study of the evaluation of the book in the English Renaissance. The purpose of the study is to find out what a good book was like in sixteenth-century England, what personal and societal attitudes were held towards books and literature, and how these attitudes were expressed linguistically.

While some of these attitudes have been studied previously, the focus has been limited according to genre. The anxieties related to translating ancient classics and the necessity of vernacularizing medical texts have received some attention. Yet, no previous linguistic analyses of these attitudes have been conducted, and

linguistic analyses of evaluative language in general have been rare in historical materials.

The material for this study consists of a self-built 70,000-word corpus of English Renaissance translator's paratexts. The corpus consists of 30 dedications and 41 prefaces, collected from the full range of available topics and genres. I analyze the evaluative language within the corpus texts using the Appraisal Framework, a discourse semantic tool for the categorization and analysis of evaluative language.

This study shows that the early modern English book was appraised largely for its internal and external value: the distinction it has among others of its type and its usefulness to its reader. The original author of the work is subjected to succinct positive appraisals of their character, while the translator is appraised with more complex structures expressing both positive and negative attitudes related to their capacity and tenacity. The topic of the main text has a heavy influence on the appraisals. While the paratexts to classical translations focus on negative appraisals following textual conventions, the paratexts to more utilitarian texts opt for more positively toned appraisal profiles. Medical texts are presented more positively, and geographical and navigational works circumvent the traditional positive author appraisal to benefit other targets.

In addition to advancing the understanding of early modern English book culture, this study contributes to the knowledge of evaluative language as a discourse semantic phenomenon, and expands its study to earlier historical periods.

LIFE AFTER DOCTORATE: INTERVIEWS OF THE NEW DOCTORS

We contacted the newly minted doctors to ask them a few questions about their thesis, their academic journey, and their life after dissertation.

Questions:

1. How did you come by your doctoral thesis subject, and when did you decide to strive for a doctorate?
2. What was the process like? Were there any challenges in particular that you found difficult?
3. What has your journey been like after achieving doctoral degree? What do you do at the moment?
4. What are your plans for the future?

Dr. Mari Välimäki

1. I started working with the themes that constituted the basis for my doctoral thesis, namely gender and agency, already in my bachelor's thesis. However, the final theme for my doctoral thesis took its shape after I had finished my master's thesis. I decided to strive for the doctorate when I was writing my master's thesis. When I began my studies in the university I would never have thought that I would become a researcher, my plan was to pursue a career



Picture: Topi Artukka

working in museums or as a teacher. Eventually I realized that doing research motivated and inspired me the most.

2. It took me over ten years to finish my PhD and all kinds of turns were included in the journey. I had two children, I worked as a university teacher and one time I also almost totally lost motivation for finishing my research. This happened around when I had my first child and the year that I spent home with her was a good break from the dissertation for me. When I returned to my research after maternity leave I found new colleagues to work with and they helped me to find the joy for research as well as the motivation again. To do research is never an isolated venture, we all need our friends' and colleagues' support and encouragement every now and then.

3. I have had the privilege to be able to work as a postdoctoral researcher straight after the disputation. First I worked for a year in a project which focused on biography as a method for early modern history. This project is currently going on in the Tampere University. In the beginning of August 2022 I returned to the University of Turku. Here I am working as a postdoctoral researcher in a project where we study forgers and forgeries in Finland during the first part of the 19th century.

Last autumn I also managed to get a funding for a project of my own. The project is called Professor's Household. The Royal Academy of Turku as a Family Network in the 17th Century and it was launched in the beginning of March 2022. The project will continue until the summer of 2024. In addition to myself there are two doctoral researchers working in the project.

4. I hope that I will be able to work as a researcher as well as to teach within the academia.

Dr. Sara Norja

1. I decided to apply for a PhD position at the University of Turku in autumn 2013, and applied in spring 2014. I did my MA at the University of Helsinki, but decided to switch to Turku after discussions with Professor Matti Peikola convinced me that he'd be a fantastic supervisor. (I was right about that: I wouldn't be a doctor now without Matti's unwavering support and excellent advice.) I'd been working an office job for a year and a half after finishing my MA, but knew that I wanted to go back to academia and do a PhD, since I'd been interested in researching the history of the English language for many years.



Picture: Sara Norja

The subject for my dissertation was more challenging to come by. I was interested in several themes, but I knew I wanted to work with primary sources – unedited medieval English manuscripts – and to produce a scholarly edition as part of my dissertation. Eventually, through a process of elimination, I settled upon alchemical manuscript texts as my topic. It turned out that alchemy is an extremely understudied yet highly fascinating field when it comes to the study of the English language. (It still is, and I wish more people used alchemical

material for their linguistic research!) I decided to use the Middle and Early Modern English manuscript texts (falsely) attributed to the 13th-century scholar Roger Bacon as my material. Within a couple of years I had narrowed down my topic even further, to the witnesses of one alchemical work: *The Mirror of Alchemy*.

2. As with any PhD, the process was very challenging – and just plain difficult, too. As mentioned, I spent a while simply figuring out the scope of my material. Since alchemical texts are so understudied, I first needed to get acquainted with a broader spectrum of material before I could narrow it down. So, my focus changed quite a bit during the first couple of years of my PhD process. Since I had planned a monograph from the start (due to the complex and unstudied nature of the material), this fluctuation was luckily not as much of a problem as it would have been for an article PhD.

I frequently found the scope of my project daunting, to be quite honest. It took me a long time and many side quests to fully zoom in on the questions and methods I needed to use, because I was delving into material that had been studied very little, and thus I needed to do a lot of core research into the manuscripts and texts in order to even begin to ask the right questions about them. My finished PhD is very long, both because it includes an edition of the primary material I used and because a lot of contextualisation (in this case, on alchemy and the manuscripts themselves) is necessary for a philological study.

The middle years were the most difficult to me, because at times I felt that I had bitten off more than I could chew, and that I'd never get the constantly evolving pieces of the puzzle to coalesce into something sensible. I also suffered from mental health issues that complicated things. However, the closer I got to the

finish line, the more convinced I became that the puzzle pieces were finally fitting together. That growing sense of cohesion gave me the strength to push through to the end.

3. While finishing the pre-examination draft of my dissertation, I had started envisioning a project that had been bubbling under for a while: a nonfiction book, in Finnish, about the history of alchemy. I wanted to take the alchemical knowledge I'd accumulated during my PhD and present it to all kinds of readers in my other native language. I applied for funding and contacted publishers already before my defence in May 2021. I was fortunate enough to get almost a year's funding for writing the book, as well as a publishing contract from SKS Kirjat. I've been writing the book since August 2021. My deadline is in early January, and I'm currently working hard (with the help of another short grant) to reach it. So, my main job has been working as a non-fiction author, which has been a new kind of challenging as well as a lot of fun.

In addition to working on the alchemy book, I've completed quite a few postdoc applications, both personal and for projects, since I would love to continue researching English language history and medieval/early modern manuscripts. I'm also working on a scholarly edition of the 17th-century 'Confessions' of Richard Norwood, together with Eva Johanna Holmberg and Kirsty Rolfe, as well as coediting a special issue of *Renaissance Studies* together with Mari-Liisa Varila.

4. I want to continue in academia, preferably in a research role. I hope to find postdoc funding after I've turned in my nonfiction manuscript to SKS Kirjat! I still have an interest in alchemy as a topic, since the manuscripts are fascinating and there is so much to do when it comes to studying the language of alchemical

texts. However, I would also love to write more nonfiction books, since I think popularising the results of academic research is one of the most important things we can do to make our research accessible to a broader audience.

Dr. Maria Kallio-Hirvonen



Picture: Maria Kallio-Hirvonen

1. I wanted to be a researcher at the beginning of my studies. I was not in any way tempted or asked to do a doctoral thesis, but I wanted it very much myself. I'm curious, and I like to do research. I love palaeography and codicology, and it was clear that my research had something to do with them.

In the end, my subject was kind of an accident. I was interested in the charter formulas copied in Bishop Magnus Nicolai's personal cartulary and in the conventions for the writing of documents in the Middle Ages. That's how I ended up studying another manuscript attached to Bishop Magnus Nicolai which was Skokloster Codex Aboensis, and soon I discovered that it cannot be understood without also studying the Black Book of Turku cathedral.

2. At least it was a long process! The first few years when I could concentrate on just doing research were great. I spent a lot of time working on the manuscripts in Stockholm and studied codicology and palaeography in Toronto, Rome and Durham, and spent two periods in Utrecht University. I made friends

for life, and I got to do research in good libraries. But the best part were my colleagues at the University of Turku. TUCEMEMS' researcher seminar and medieval researchers in Turku were important peer support for conducting research. In 2016, I went to work in the National Archives and was only able to carry out research on short-term holidays and weekends. The process thus became fairly fragmented at this point, and it took years to complete the work. So I guess, the later part of my process was more difficult because I didn't have time.

3. I have mostly worked! I work in the National Archives as Head of Digital Research Services.

4. I would like to have time for research. There are so many interesting sources and questions that I would love to study. I'm still very much interested in the Conventions of Writing. I am also working on a few editions and a publication on medieval collections in the National Archives. I hope that at some point I will be able to carry out a longer research period abroad.

Dr. Sirkku Ruokkeinen

1. Early modern attitudes towards books and literature and the linguistic expression of those attitudes was my MA thesis topic as well. I have always found it interesting how controversial literature can be, but I think I made the choice after hearing of Appraisal Theory in a lecture. The idea of the topic was somewhat vague until then, and the Appraisal framework, which is a model for analysing evaluative language linguistically, gave me a proper starting point.

2. All in all, the process was enjoyable. There was obviously a lot of growth involved, and I did find it difficult limiting myself to one topic instead of running around studying every tangentially related issue. But I suppose that is a problem to anyone writing a book, especially in the beginning of the process.

3. I am a postdoctoral researcher in the Academy of Finland project Early Modern Graphic Literacies, where I focus on the paratextual framing of graphic elements in early modern English books. I am especially interested in their promotional functionality, and the ways their presence is explained to the readership.

4. My contract in the project ends in 2025, and I have only just begun, so most of my plans involve the project! I will be working on my research, obviously, but I will also be arranging events, editing a journal and even teaching a little. It is all just beginning and very exciting!



Picture: Sirkku Ruokkeinen

TUCEMEMS BOARD MEMBERS 2021

DIRECTOR Kirsi Salonen, Professor, European and World History. Replaced from 1.8.2021 by Marika Räsänen, Adjunct Professor, Cultural History

VICE-DIRECTOR Matti Peikola, Professor, English Language

Kirsi Vainio-Korhonen, Professor, Archaeology and Finnish History

Olli Koistinen, Professor, Philosophy

Janne Harjula, University Teacher, Archaeology and Finnish History

Mia Korpiola, Professor, Legal History

Aino Mäkikalli, University Lecturer, Literary Studies and Creative Writing

Marika Räsänen, University Teacher, Cultural History

Minna Sandelin, University Lecturer, Scandinavian Languages

Tanja Toropainen, University Teacher, Finnish Language and Finno-Ugric

Languages

Jyri Vaahtera, Professor, Classics

Founding members:

Marjo Kaartinen

Sanna-Kaisa Tanskanen

Matti Peikola

Tom Linkinen

Eva Johanna Holmberg