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**1. Main Applicant**

Prof. dr. Bart Besamusca

**2. Title**

The Multilingual Dynamics of the Literary Culture of Medieval Flanders (ca 1200 – ca 1500)

**3. Summary**

This project breaks new ground by systematically correcting the traditional, monolingual view on Flemish literature in the late Middle Ages. Seeking to do justice to the medieval cultural reality in this area, it will be the first large-scale investigation devoted to the literary culture of Flanders, ca 1200 – ca 1500, from a multilingual perspective.

How did the three most important literary languages that co-existed in medieval Flanders, Latin, French and Dutch, function and interact? To tackle this central research question, the researchers will use both Dutch, French and Latin *texts* that were written in medieval Flanders and that were read in that region, and *manuscripts*, the hand-written books containing Dutch, French and Latin texts that scribes copied in that region and that circulated there. Their research will draw on a combination of five theoretical perspectives, derived from literary history, sociolinguistics, institutional studies, translation studies, and the history of the book. Using a broad definition of literature, the researchers' evidence will consist of monolingual and multilingual texts, single-text manuscripts (mainly monolingual) and multi-text manuscripts (mono- or multilingual).

This project crosses disciplinary boundaries, because the topic cannot be studied within the framework of the national philologies. Moving beyond the biases of monolingual approaches to literary history, this research will reveal the as yet uncovered multi-faceted, complex and dynamic character of the multilingual literary culture of medieval Flanders. It will provide the groundwork for a reassessment of the development of Dutch literature in the medieval Low Countries.

[Word count: 244 (max 250)]

**4. NWO research fields**

|                         |                           |  |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Main discipline         | <i>Taal en literatuur</i> |  |
| Sub discipline          | Sub discipline code:      | Name:  |
| <i>Sub discipline 1</i> | 31.25.00                  | Middeleeuwse Europese talen en culturen        |
| <i>Sub discipline 2</i> | 31.20.00                  | Middeleeuwse en neo-latijnse talen en culturen |
| <i>Sub discipline 3</i> |                           |  |
| Main discipline:        | <i>Geschiedenis</i>       |  |
| Sub discipline          | Sub discipline code:      | Name:  |
| <i>Sub discipline 1</i> | 27.30.00                  | Middeleeuwse geschiedenis                      |
| <i>Sub discipline 2</i> |                           |  |
| <i>Sub discipline 3</i> |                           |  |

**5. Investment component: yes/no**

No

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**6. Previous and Future Submissions**

This proposal has not been submitted for funding to NWO before, and will not be submitted elsewhere during the current application process for this funding round.

**7. Institutional Setting**

Utrecht University, Utrecht Centre for Medieval Studies (UCMS). This ambitious and lively research environment will enable the project members to discuss their work with specialists such as Spinoza laureate prof. dr. Frits van Oostrom, VICI winners prof. dr. Marco Mostert (medieval (book) historian) and dr. Els Rose (medieval Latin), and VIDI laureates prof. dr. Mariken Teeuwen (medieval (book) historian) and dr. Katell Lavéant (medieval French). The centre is actively engaged in sharing its knowledge of medieval culture with a wider audience ([www.uu.nl/ucms](http://www.uu.nl/ucms))

**8. Period of Funding**

Four years, starting date November 1, 2018.

**9. Composition of the Research Team**

| Role           | Name                       | Affiliation   | Expertise  |
|----------------|----------------------------|---|--|
| Main applicant | Prof. dr. Bart Besamusca   | Utrecht University                                    | Middle Dutch textual culture from an international perspective |
| Postdoc 1      | NN                         |   |  |
| Postdoc 2      | NN                         |   |  |
| PhD            | NN                         |   |  |
| Advisor        | Dr. André Bouwman          | Leiden University Libraries                           | Medieval manuscripts   |
| Advisor        | Dr. Godfried Croenen       | University of Liverpool                               | Medieval French literature                                     |
| Advisor        | Dr. Jacomine Nortier       | Utrecht University                                    | Multilingualism  |
| Advisor        | Dr. Els Rose               | Utrecht University                                    | Medieval Latin literature                                      |
| Advisor        | Prof. dr. Remco Sleiderink | University of Antwerp                                 | Middle Dutch literature  |
| Advisor        | Dr. Hanno Wijsman          | Institut de Recherche et d'Histoire des Textes, Paris | Medieval manuscript illumination                               |

The applicant is the intended supervisor of the PhD candidate. Prof. dr. Remco Sleiderink (Antwerp) and dr. André Bouwman will act as co-supervisors.

**10. Structure of the Proposed Research**

Subproject 1 (Postdoc 1): The Multilingual Literary Dynamics of Medieval Flanders: The Production and Reception of Texts

Subproject 2 (Postdoc 2): The Multilingual Literary Dynamics of Medieval Flanders: The Production and Reception of Manuscripts

Subproject 3 (PhD candidate): The Literary Dynamics of Medieval Flanders: Dutch Texts in Multilingual Contexts

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All subprojects will be carried out in the Utrecht Centre for Medieval Studies (see 7, Institutional Setting), which is connected to the Research Institutes for Cultural Inquiry (ICON) and History and Art History (OGK) of Utrecht University. The applicant will be responsible for the daily supervision of the PhD candidate.

## **11a. Description of the Proposed Research**

### **General description**

#### *Concept and objective*

In the last decade, Dutch and Flemish literary scholars have invested much time and energy in the production of a new history of Dutch literature (GNL). Funded by the Dutch Language Union (Taalunie), renowned scholars have published a ten-volume series (Gelderblom and Musschoot 2006-2017), effectively applying current theoretical perspectives. Their conceptual framework, however, was traditional: they mainly discuss texts written in Dutch. This limitation to the Dutch language is rooted in the nineteenth-century classification of literatures in national categories, subdivided in different vernaculars, as if they served mainly to foster modern, national identities (Leerssen 2011). In this respect, the series has aptly been characterized as the ‘prestigious conclusion of a nineteenth-century dream’ (Fraeters 2004, 306). The research project proposed here will move beyond this conceptual boundary of the past.

That it is reductive to investigate Dutch literature in linguistic isolation is, in fact, exemplified by the GNL authors, who occasionally incorporate international influences on Dutch texts in their overviews. But the complicated multilingual reality of the Low Countries requires a fundamentally broader scope. In recent years, scholars in Medieval Studies have questioned the limitations of monolingual literary history (Desplenter and Wackers 2008, Jefferson and Putter 2013, Mareel and Schoenaers 2015, Armstrong and Strietman 2017). Inspiring examples of the new approach have been provided by Simon Gaunt, who supervised an AHRC project (2011-2015) that studied the movement of Francophone literature across Europe in the period ca 1200 - ca 1450, and David Wallace (2016), who edited a collaborative two-volume history of European literature between 1348 and 1418, that is structured through places that are linked by, for example, trade, pilgrimage and artistic exchange.

This project breaks new ground by putting forward a multilingual perspective on the literary culture of medieval Flanders. It seeks to advocate the innovative, European-wide reshaping of literary historiography by studying this region between ca 1200 (when the spoken vernaculars were becoming written languages) and ca 1500 (when the introduction of the printing press was beginning to change the production and reception of literature). Medieval Flanders, which corresponds nowadays with the provinces of West and East Flanders in Belgium and the French Flanders area in France, was in medieval times a highly influential principality of the Low Countries (Blockmans 2015). Due to phenomena such as the strong presence of French culture and the exceptionally high degree of urbanization, this region is eminently suited for research that focuses on literary multilingualism.

Medieval Flanders was profoundly multilingual, both on a societal and an individual level. In the early thirteenth-century, French and Dutch were introduced here as the languages of record next to Latin (Prevenier and De Hemptinne 2004). In the late fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, the Burgundian administration, which was firmly based in Flanders, used French as the language of the central government, but permitted Dutch at the regional level. In this way, the Burgundian rule promoted, albeit indirectly, multilingualism in the milieu of the social and cultural elite in medieval Flanders (Willemyns 1994).

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Early examples of French literary presence in medieval Flanders include the poet Chrétien de Troyes, who wrote his *Perceval* for Philippe d'Alsace, Count of Flanders (d. 1191). Another poet, Manessier, likewise aimed at the highest echelons of Flemish society by dedicating his *Perceval Continuation* to Jeanne, Countess of Flanders between 1205 and 1244. Indicative of processes of cultural transfer in Flanders is an early fourteenth-century citizen from Bruges, Simon de Rikelike, who copied passages from the *Roman de la Rose* in his account book (Geirnaert 2006). A later example is provided by the meeting of various shooting confraternities at Tournai in 1455: the representatives of Lille gained the first prize for a comical play in French, those of Ypres presented the best piece in Dutch (Koopmans 2001, 88).

Next to Dutch and French literature, Latin texts were composed and read in Flanders. The Latin beast epic *Ysengrimus*, for instance, was written for a highly educated audience in Ghent as early as 1149. In thirteenth-century Bruges and Ghent, illuminated Latin psalters were produced for use both in those towns and their surrounding regions and elsewhere (Carlvant 2012). The booklist of Michael van der Stoet, compiled around 1394, shows that this prior of Saint Bavo's Abbey in Ghent not only owned books with Latin texts, but also a surprisingly large number of manuscripts with Dutch texts (Gabriël 2009).

Whereas the scope of the investigation is restricted to medieval Flanders and its three most important literary languages, the researchers will evaluate additional information that is relevant for the project. It is noteworthy, for example, that the thirteenth-century parodic Artois text *Prise de Neuville* features Flemish weavers whose poor French is ridiculed (Goyens 2008). The booklist of the Hainaut nobleman Godefroid de Naste (d. 1337) will be taken into account because he was also Lord of Rode, situated in Imperial Flanders (Van Coolput-Storms 2007).

There is no doubt that the three literatures that co-existed in medieval Flanders actually interacted. This is demonstrated by Dutch translations of Latin and French texts, Flemish booklists and Flemish manuscripts that contain texts in more than one language. A fine example is a late fifteenth-century Bruges manuscript in which Dutch and Latin, Latin and French, and French and Dutch texts, respectively, were copied side by side (Besamusca 2017). Uncovering these multilingual dynamics will result in a better understanding of the literary culture of medieval Flanders. However, our knowledge of its multilingualism is restricted. The recent GNL overviews of medieval Dutch literature in the Low Countries (Van Oostrom 2006, 2013, Pleij 2007) allow us to allot Dutch authors, texts and (to a lesser degree) manuscripts to Flanders. But French and Latin literature in medieval Flanders have never been systematically investigated. Our knowledge of the features and functions of French and Latin texts and manuscripts in medieval Flanders must be constructed.

*Research design and implementation*

In line with Even-Zohar's polysystem theory (1979), this project assumes that medieval Flanders consisted of a variety of local, literary and cultural circuits which showed both lines of fracture and overlaps. The central research question of the project that follows from this assumption is: *How did the three literatures that co-existed in medieval Flanders function and interact between ca 1200 and ca 1500?* The exploratory answer to this question will be based on research that draws on a combination of five theoretical perspectives. These approaches address intertwined aspects of cultural reality in medieval Flanders, and the integration of these aspects in the project's deepening and synthesising stages (see below) is methodologically innovative.

The *literary-historical* approach (cf. Pratt et al. 2017) will address, for example, the question as to what types of texts and genres were part of the Dutch, French and Latin corpora. And which monolingual texts are part of multilingual text collections that were copied in Flanders? Applying a *sociolinguistic* approach (cf. Lusignan 2012), the project investigates the cultural prestige of the three languages in Flemish literary production. In which domains, for instance, did the vernaculars compete

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with Latin? How did readers of Dutch texts relate to French texts? The *institutional* perspective (cf. Jansen and Laan 2015) will direct the research to the aristocratic courts, monasteries, cities and confraternities of medieval Flanders as literary centres. What was their impact on the mono- and multilingual text and manuscript production? Can we connect institutions through texts and/or manuscripts? From the point of view of *translation studies* (cf. Rikhardsdottir 2012), the issue of cultural transfer will be the focus of attention. Did Latin, French and Dutch originals as well as translations and reworkings of these texts circulate in the same literary centres in medieval Flanders? Which source texts were imported from outside the region? The *book-historical* approach (cf. Johnston and Van Dussen 2015), finally, will enable the study of the appearance of manuscripts in relation to different languages. Were luxurious codices ordered for chronicles in both Latin and the vernaculars? Was the production of manuscripts for local use geared towards certain types of texts or languages? Applying and combining these five theoretical perspectives will bring about a richer and more nuanced view on the literary culture of medieval Flanders.

Continuing a line of thought advocated in Sleiderink 2007, Willaert 2010 and Caers 2011, this project distinguishes between *texts* and hand-written books, *manuscripts*. A medieval text is written by a person – be it an author, a translator or a compiler – on his own initiative or at the request of a patron. Such a text may have been preserved in a manuscript written in the person’s own hand. However, in most cases this so-called autograph is lost. The text has come down to us in one or more copies, faithfully or independently copied by medieval scribes for commissioners or for private use. Such a copy, preserved as a single text or together with other texts in a manuscript, is of outmost importance for the study of medieval culture, because the manuscript provides firm evidence of the text’s reception. It shows when, where, and how the text was read at a later moment in time. Due to copies, old texts found new readers.

An example may illustrate how this project will profit from the distinction between texts and manuscripts. In 1466, the Bruges goldsmith Jacob Vilt completed a Dutch rendition of Boethius’ *Consolatio* for readers who did not understand Latin. The translator gives this information in his prologue, in which he also states that he made use of a French translation of the Latin text. It is noteworthy that Vilt’s text points at multilingual interaction concerning an authoritative classical text in a civic milieu in medieval Flanders. For the project’s research purposes, it is, in addition, highly relevant that Vilt’s translation was favourably received in Bruges. His text has come down to us in an illustrated copy, made by a scribe who calls himself Drubbel in Bruges in 1470. In this copy, the scribe added the Latin lemmas. This manuscript shows that a well-to-do commissioner who knew Latin was interested in a Dutch translation of the *Consolatio* (Wackers 2009). Vilt’s text and Drubbel’s copy exemplify the dynamic character of the literary culture of medieval Flanders.

This four-year project requires close interdisciplinary cooperation between specialists in Dutch, French and Latin literature. All researchers will operate in two or more medieval languages and will have codicological and paleographical expertise. The team will consist of two Postdoc researchers (each 3 years, 1.0 fte), a PhD candidate (4 years, 1.0 fte), and the project leader (1 year 0.5 fte). The PhD candidate will start one year earlier than the two Postdocs in order to allow him/her to acquire the skills and expertise needed to benefit from the collaborative research with the Postdocs in years 2-4. One Postdoc will focus on Dutch, French and Latin *texts* that were written by authors in medieval Flanders and texts that were read in that region. The second Postdoc will study *manuscripts* containing Dutch, French and Latin texts that scribes produced in medieval Flanders and the manuscripts that circulated in that region. The PhD candidate will focus on Dutch texts in various multilingual textual and manuscript contexts.

This project is divided into three stages. In the first, *exploratory* phase of the project, the researchers will systematically collect and review data on authors, texts and manuscripts. The central research question does not require them, however, to aim at exhaustivity. They will, in addition, adopt



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a broad definition of literature, including instructive, religious and scholarly texts. In the second, *deepening* stage of the project, they will apply the theoretical perspectives outlined above in order to gain a thorough understanding of their material. They will pool their findings. In the final, *synthesising* stage of the project, the researchers will jointly focus on the areas that are particularly revealing for the multilingual literary culture of medieval Flanders.

[Word count: 1960 (max 2000)]

**Subproject 1: The Multilingual Literary Dynamics of Medieval Flanders: The Production and Reception of Texts**

The Postdoc researcher carrying out this subproject (further: PD1) will tackle the project's central research question by first focusing on the *production* of Latin, French and Dutch texts in medieval Flanders. The *reception* of these texts will be included extensively from the moment onwards that the findings of the subprojects 1 and 2 will be combined (halfway phase 2).

*Phase 1 (9 months: project year 2, months 1-9)*

In the *exploratory* phase of the project, PD1 will master the existing scholarship on the project's research topic, and will, if lacking, acquire expertise related to one or more of the theoretical perspectives. S/he will, furthermore, collect data on text production in medieval Flanders. To this end, the researcher will consult, in addition to reference works like the *Dictionnaire des lettres françaises. Le Moyen Age* (Hasenohr and Zink 1992), various extensive and detailed online resources (addresses are listed in the reference list below), in particular the BNM-I (mainly for Dutch), JONAS (French), FAMA (Latin) and Narrative Sources. It is a great privilege that the PD will be facilitated by Leiden University Libraries (BNM-I) and the Paris based Institut de Recherche et d'Histoire des Texts (IRHT) to consult the invaluable paper documentation of both institutes, which will yield additional and specific data that cannot be reached through the selective online resources. The data collection, that will be restricted to texts whose production and reception can be indisputably assigned to medieval Flanders, will provide details per text related to authorship, patronage, date of writing, place of writing, language, form, and content (by means of catchwords).

*Phase 2 (12 months: project year 2, month 10 - project year 3, month 9)*

In the *deepening* stage of the project, PD1 studies the collected texts by applying the theoretical perspectives mentioned earlier. The researcher will seek to uncover characteristics that testify to medieval Flanders' literary dynamics. From a socio-linguistic point of view, for example, the *Reynardus vulpes*, written by a certain Balduinus in the region of Bruges between 1272 and 1279, is remarkable, because it transmits a vernacular beast epic, *Van den vos Reynaerde*, into Latin, the prestige language of science and religion. This shift may be linked to the status of his patron, who was at that time provost of Saint Donatian at Bruges and Saint Peter at Lille (Engels 1996).

From the point of view of translation studies, moreover, it is interesting that Balduinus added moralising passages to his source text. As a result, his Latin text is explicitly instructive. In this stage of the project, PD1 will study various cases in which texts deviate from their sources. These instances do not only provide information about the texts that were available in medieval Flanders at a certain moment, they also show how the translators interacted with their sources.

In this deepening stage of the project, PD1 will combine his/her textual findings with the material evidence of PD2. This step will open up an exciting route to studying the reception of the texts in medieval Flanders. It will be possible, for example, to identify the texts that were both composed in medieval Flanders and are preserved in manuscripts that were produced in the same region (such as Drubbel's copy of Vilt's *Consolatio* rendition, mentioned earlier). Were certain

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indigenous texts particularly appreciated in medieval Flanders? What are the dynamics of the text collections in the case that these texts are part of multi-text manuscripts?

*Phase 3 (15 months: project year 3, month 10 - project year 4)*

In the *synthesising* stage of the project, the two PDs will, in co-operation with the PhD candidate, focus on the topics that are particularly revealing for the multilingual literary culture of medieval Flanders. It is to be expected, for instance, that certain institutions, like the court, monasteries, schools and confraternities, are highly suitable for demonstrating the literary dynamics of medieval Flanders. Can we uncover common cultural trends in multilingual literary reception, and specific local characteristics? In earlier research, for example, Bruges has been called a centre of cultural exchange ('rotation') (Koopmans 2005). The PDs will, furthermore, identify time frames in which this culture blossomed (perhaps the fourteenth century, as Dutch literature fully expanded in that period (Van Oostrom 2013)?). The results of their synthesising research will be presented at the project's final conference. They will be written up for publication in the proceedings of the conference and will be incorporated in the exhibition (see below).

[Word count: 735 (max 800)]

**Subproject 2: The Multilingual Literary Dynamics of Medieval Flanders: The Production and Reception of Manuscripts**

The PD carrying out this subproject (PD2) will tackle the project's central research question by focusing on the production and reception of manuscripts containing Dutch, French and Latin texts in medieval Flanders. The material evidence will consist of single-text manuscripts (mainly monolingual) and multi-text manuscripts (mono- or multilingual). The reception of the Flemish texts in medieval Flanders will be included from the moment onwards that the findings of the subprojects 1 and 2 will be combined (halfway phase 2).

*Phase 1 (9 months: project year 2, months 1-9)*

In the *exploratory* phase of the project, PD2 will master the existing scholarship on the project's research topic, and will, if lacking, acquire expertise related to one or more of the theoretical perspectives. S/he will, furthermore, collect data on the manuscript production in medieval Flanders. The data collection, that will be restricted to manuscripts that can be indisputably assigned to this region, will provide details per manuscript related to location and date of production, scribe, commissioner, language, content (by means of catchwords), illustration (catchwords), and evidence of ownership (provenance). Like his/her colleague, PD2 will be enabled to retrieve information from the paper documentations of the BNM-I and the Institut de Recherche et d'Histoire des Texts, and will make use of the online resources BNM-I, JONAS, FAMA, and Narrative Sources. Additional databases that will be rewarding to consult are Medieval Francophone Literary Culture Outside France, Luxury Bound (that served as the research tool for Wijsman 2010), Medieval Manuscripts in Dutch Collections, and some volumes of the *Manuscripts datés* (Masai and Wittek 1968-1991, Lieftinck and Gumbert 1964-1988).

*Phase 2 (12 months: project year 2, month 10 - project year 3, month 9)*

In the *deepening* stage of the project, PD2 will study the collected manuscripts by applying the theoretical perspectives listed earlier. The researcher will uncover characteristics of the manuscripts that can be related to medieval Flanders' literary dynamics. From a book-historical point of view, for example, the absence of Dutch illustrated counterparts of the lavishly decorated French *Lancelot-Grail*

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manuscripts produced in Flanders (Meuwese 1999) is striking. Should we ascribe this phenomenon to varying appreciations of the Lancelot story, related to different milieus?

In this stage, PD2 will visit a number of libraries to carry out *in situ* research, in particular regarding uncatalogued evidence of manuscript ownership (including manuscripts that were produced outside the region, but were in the possession of owners in medieval Flanders) and the study of manuscripts that consist of multiple codicological units from different places and different periods. It will be useful, in addition, to identify codices that were produced for export reasons.

As stated earlier, PD2 will combine his/her findings with the observations of the first subproject. Pursuing their joint interest in the reception of texts and manuscripts in medieval Flanders, they will also study the appearance of French, Dutch and Latin titles in medieval booklists from medieval Flanders, using the *Corpus catalogorum belgii* (Derolez et al. 1994-2016).

*Phase 3 (15 months: project year 3, month 10 - project year 4)*

The *synthesising* stage of the project is described above, as part of subproject 1.

[Word count: 516 (max 800)]

**Subproject 3: The Literary Dynamics of Medieval Flanders: Dutch Texts in Multilingual Contexts**

The PhD candidate carrying out this subproject (further: PhD) will tackle the project's central research question by studying the literary dynamics resulting from the interaction between Dutch and other languages in three multilingual contexts: (1) Flemish *texts* in which Dutch appears in combination with French and/or Latin; (2) Flemish multi-text *manuscripts* which include French and/or Latin next to Dutch; (3) Booklists from medieval Flanders in which Dutch titles figure amidst references to texts in other languages.

*Phase 1 (15 months: project year 1 - project year 2, month 3)*

In the *exploratory* phase of the project, the PhD will master the existing scholarship on the project's research topic. S/he will, furthermore, get acquainted with the five theoretical perspectives, and will, if needed, acquire the skills that are desirable to properly carry out the research.

The PhD will set up the investigations for two of the three research strands. (1) Dutch texts in which Latin and/or French passages feature, whether small or large, will be collected. To this end, a computer-assisted analysis of the Flemish texts in the Digitale Bibliotheek voor de Nederlandse Letteren (DBNL) will be carried out, in consultation with the Royal Library Lab, which hosts experimental tools and datasets on the Royal Library's digitised collection, including the DBNL (<http://lab.kb.nl>), and the Antwerp Centre for Digital Humanities and Literary Criticism (<https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/rg/digitalhumanities/>). (2) The BNM-I will be consulted to identify multi-text manuscripts in which Dutch is accompanied by Latin and/or French. Like the two PDs, the PhD will be allowed to retrieve information from the paper documentation of the BNM-I.

*Phase 2 (18 months: project year 2, month 4 - project year 3, month 9)*

In the *deepening* stage of the project, the PhD will first focus on the literary dynamics resulting from multilingualism in Flemish texts (strand 1). The researcher will study the collected passages in detail, and will evaluate them in the light of the theoretical perspectives. When in *Van den vos Reynaerde*, for example, the badger utters a proverb in garbled Latin in his effort to defend the fox, he is actually undermining his own authority. This is interesting from a literary-historical point of view, because only listeners and readers who understand Latin will be able to interpret the passage correctly. The PhD will seek to identify general characteristics in the material. Latin will be quoted, for instance, to



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give authority to the Dutch text (as the badger is trying to do). Are French and Latin often used to exclude readers or characters? Do these languages serve to allow non-Dutch readers to orient themselves in a Dutch text?

The next step in this deepening stage of the project concerns the Flemish multi-text collections which include French and/or Latin next to Dutch (strand 2). The PhD will provide analyses of a number of text collections in which the multilingual literary dynamics feature prominently. S/he will focus on different types of texts, including prayers and utilitarian texts (Oosterman 1995, 87-88, 138-39, 191-93, Huizenga 1996). The functional use of the various languages is of particular interest here. There is a difference, for instance, between Latin and French quotes that are followed by Dutch explanations, and Latin and French texts that feature alongside Dutch texts.

The final step in this deepening stage of the project concerns the booklists that include references to Dutch texts (strand 3). The PhD will be able to build on the PDs' work on the *Corpus catalogorum belgii* (Derolez et al. 1994-2016), selecting the undisputable references to Dutch texts. This research will allow the PhD to study the literary dynamics in highly intriguing, and often elusive, contexts. An example is provided by the booklist of John VI, Lord of Gistel (d. 1417), who owned both French and Dutch books, both of a religious and secular nature, including a tantalizing 'dietsch bouc [...] van den ruddere metter leeuwe' (Derolez et al. 1994-2016, vol. 1, 183-85). Like many other Flemish book owners, the nobleman was in the possession of a *Spiegel historiael*. How does this popularity of Maerlant's Dutch chronicle in private libraries relate to the presence of Latin *Speculum historiale* manuscripts in religious institutions in medieval Flanders (Voorbij and Biemans 1996)?

*Phase 3 (15 months: project year 3, month 10 - project year 4)*

The *synthesising* stage of the subproject of the PhD starts at the same moment as the two PD subprojects. Building on the research that has been carried out for the three strands, s(he) will assist the two PDs in selecting the topics that mostly reveal the multilingual literary culture of medieval Flanders. The PhD will contribute to the project's final conference and will finalize the thesis. S/he will write up his/her conference paper for publication in the proceedings, and contribute to the exhibition (plus catalogue).

[Word count: 791 (max 800)]

**Synthesis**

The synthesising component of the project will consist of the four contributions of the team members to the final conference, followed by the proceedings of that meeting and a synthetic journal article, written by the applicant, that will be published separately. Through these channels, the research team aims at sharing their research results with the scholarly community and at stimulating further investigations in multilingual literary cultures. At meta-level, the team takes issue with the partitioning of scholarship in national and linguistic areas, and pleads for research across languages, cultures, and disciplines.

The team will organize a concluding conference in order to inspire interdisciplinary exchange. The researchers will both jointly and individually present the results of their research. The two PDs and the PhD will each aim at presenting synthesising aspects of the conclusions of his/her subproject, in combination with illuminating case studies. The joint presentation, given voice by the applicant, will discuss general features of multilingual text and manuscript production and reception in medieval Flanders.

The team will co-author and co-edit the conference proceedings. This volume of essays will consist of a synthesising introduction, followed by the written versions of the team members' paper

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presentations. Scholars who have participated in the project's final conference will be invited to contribute to this peer-reviewed volume, that will be published in open access.

Whereas the proceedings are directed at an international audience of medievalists, the synthesising journal article will be aimed at the Dutch-speaking scholarly community of literary historians, both medieval and post-medieval. The applicant will discuss the research results and evaluate the project's concept, objectives and methodology.

[Word count: 265 (max 400)]

**Knowledge utilisation**

The main element of knowledge transfer will be a manuscript exhibition that will open towards the end of the four-year project, that is in the second half of 2022. It aims at setting up a dialogue between a large audience, including high school and university students and people with broad cultural interests, and their multilingual cultural past. This subject is highly relevant for today's society, because of the, rather uninformed, political discussions between the supporters of linguistic assimilation and linguistic pluralism. The former claim that everyone, regardless of origin, should learn Dutch and that the use of other, in particular minority, languages should be discouraged. The adherents of linguistic pluralism argue that our society should recognize more than one language. This debate may not only profit from scholarly input, but also from an historical perspective on the issue of multilingualism. The impact of such an exhibition, which will be accompanied by a popularizing catalogue, is high, as manuscript exhibitions have proven to be attractive for large crowds of visitors in the past.

Museum Meermanno, The Hague (<https://www.meermann.nl/>), is interested in hosting the exhibition, on the condition that the event can be funded adequately. Since the costs for such an exhibition are considerable, it has been assured that a virtual exhibition on the website of the Royal Library may serve as the unconditioned alternative in case that sufficient financial support is not available. The exhibition will be organised in cooperation with staff members of the museum and the Royal Library, in particular Erik Geleijns, who is the curator of old collections at Meermanno, and Ed van der Vlist, who is curator of medieval manuscripts at the Royal Library. The exhibition will display manuscripts from the libraries' own collections, possibly supplemented by copies from other collections that have their origin in medieval Flanders. The project's five theoretical perspectives will jointly serve as the framework for the design of the exhibition, in order to visualize the multilingual dynamics of literary culture in medieval Flanders. MS KB 128 C 1, for example, is a Bruges manuscript that contains a French translation of the *Speculum historiale*, which can be used to discuss cultural transfer from the Latin domain to the vernaculars. This manuscript can be linked to MS KB KA 20, which was produced somewhere in East Flanders (Ghent?) and preserves a Dutch rendition of the *Speculum historiale*, by Jacob van Maerlant. From a book-historical point of view, it is noteworthy that this manuscript is the only – albeit spectacularly – illustrated copy of Maerlant's *Spiegel*.

It is a highly attractive option to organise the exhibition together with a museum that is part of the Musea Brugge, like the Gruuthuse museum (<https://www.visitbruges.be/en/gruuthusemuseum>). Staff members Inge Geysen and Evelien Hauwaerts, who is cataloguing the collection of manuscripts of Bruges' public library, have responded enthusiastically to the proposal to co-operate. This route will be explored further.

In the course of the project, the team members will share their findings and insights with a wider audience by means of popularizing essays, in Dutch or French, and public lectures. They will present their work in the framework of UCMS' outreach (see supra no. 7). The applicant will present the topic at selected high schools, as participant in the Rectors League, organised by Utrecht University (<https://www.uu.nl/onderwijs/scholennetwerk/rectors-league>). The project members will,

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furthermore, offer tutorials to students of the Utrecht Research Master Ancient, Medieval and Renaissance Studies (AMRS), the Netherlands Research School for Medieval Studies, the Flemish Medievalist Association and the Réseau des médiévistes belges de langue française.

[Word Count: 584 (max 800)]

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*Online resources*

BNM-I: <https://bnm-i.huygens.knaw.nl/>

DBNL: <http://www.dbnl.org/>

FAMA: <http://fama.irht.cnrs.fr>

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JONAS: <http://jonas.irht.cnrs.fr/>

Luxury Bound: <http://www.cn-telma.fr/luxury-bound>

Medieval Francophone Literary Culture Outside France (Gaunt): <http://www.medievalfrancophone.ac.uk/>

Medieval Manuscripts in Dutch Collections: <http://www.mmdc.nl/static/site/>

Narrative Sources: [http://www.narrative-sources.be/about\\_en.php](http://www.narrative-sources.be/about_en.php)

**11b. Description of the Proposed Investment component (optional)**

Not applicable.

**12. Word Count**

Number of words 11a (General description): 1960

Number of words 11a (Subprojects and synthesis): 2307

Number of words 11a (Relevance/knowledge utilisation): 584

Number of words 11b (Investment component, *optional*): 0

Total number 11a + 11b: 4851

**13. Summary in Keywords**

Medieval Flanders, multilingual literary history, material culture, multilingualism in the past, interdisciplinary research.

**14. Work Programme**

Work plans for the three subprojects and for the applicant (replacement) are provided here. They are preceded by an integrated overview of the project phases for the whole team.

**Overview of the project phases**

| Year / months   | PD1     | PD2     | PhD     | Applicant |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
|                 |         |         | Phase 1 |           |
| <b>Y1</b> , 1-3 |         |         | X       |           |
| 4-6             |         |         | X       |           |
| 7-9             |         |         | X       |           |
| 10-12           |         |         | X       |           |
|                 | Phase 1 | Phase 1 |         |           |
| <b>Y2</b> , 1-3 | X       | X       | X       |           |
|                 |         |         | Phase 2 |           |
| 4-6             | X       | X       | X       |           |
| 7-9             | X       | X       | X       |           |
|                 | Phase 2 | Phase 2 |         |           |
| 10-12           | X       | X       | X       |           |
| <b>Y3</b> , 1-3 | X       | X       | X       |           |
| 4-6             | X       | X       | X       |           |
| 7-9             | X       | X       | X       |           |
|                 | Phase 3 | Phase 3 | Phase 3 |           |
| 10-12           | X       | X       | X       |           |



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|                 | Phase 3 |   |   |   |
|-----------------|---------|---|---|---|
| <b>Y4</b> , 1-3 | X       | X | X | X |
| 4-6             | X       | X | X | X |
| 7-9             | X       | X | X | X |
| 10-12           | X       | X | X | X |

**Work plan PD1 (the bi-weekly project meetings are not indicated; output in bold)**

| Year, months    | Work programme PD1   |
|-----------------|--|
|                 | <i>Phase 1</i>   |
| <b>Y2</b> , 1-3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading existing scholarship on topic project</li> <li>• Preparation of site research</li> <li>• (optional) Studying theoretical perspectives</li> </ul>  |
| 4-6             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collection on texts on-line resources</li> <li>• Data collection on texts in Leiden</li> <li>• Data collection on texts in Paris</li> </ul>  |
| 7-9             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collection on texts in Leiden</li> <li>• Data collection on texts in Paris</li> <li>• Holiday</li> <li>• <b>Popularizing essay</b></li> </ul>  |
|                 | <i>Phase 2</i>   |
| 10-12           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applying theoretical perspectives on collected data</li> <li>• <b>Tutorial for students</b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Y3</b> , 1-3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applying theoretical perspectives on collected data</li> <li>• Writing first conference paper</li> <li>• <b>Public lecture</b> (UCMS outreach)</li> </ul>   |
| 4-6             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combining textual and material evidence with PD2: selection of topics</li> <li>• Study of medieval booklists</li> <li>• <b>First international conference paper</b> (Leeds, Kalamazoo)</li> </ul>       |
| 7-9             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holiday</li> <li>• Writing up first conference paper for <b>journal publication</b></li> <li>• Selection and study of selected topic(s)</li> </ul>  |
|                 | <i>Phase 3</i>   |
| 10-12           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tutorial for students</b></li> <li>• Study of selected topics</li> <li>• Contribute to preparation of final conference</li> <li>• Contribute to preparation of exhibition and catalogue</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Y4</b> , 1-3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing contribution to the final conference</li> <li>• Contribute to joint introduction of final conference</li> <li>• Writing paper for second conference</li> </ul>                                  |
| 4-6             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Paper presentation at final conference</b></li> <li>• <b>Second international conference paper</b> (venue to be decided)</li> <li>• Contribute to exhibition catalogue</li> <li>• Holiday</li> </ul> |

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|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 7-9   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to editing of conference proceedings</li> <li>• Writing up of paper presentation at final conference for <b>article</b> in the conference proceedings</li> </ul>  |
| 10-12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing up second conference paper for <b>journal publication</b></li> <li>• Start of <b>exhibition</b></li> <li>• Publication of <b>exhibition catalogue</b></li> <li>• Finalizing editing <b>conference proceedings</b></li> </ul> |

**Work plan PD2 (the bi-weekly project meetings are not indicated; output in bold)**

| Year, months    | Work programme PD2   |
|-----------------|--|
|                 | <i>Phase 1</i>   |
| <b>Y2</b> , 1-3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading existing scholarship on topic project</li> <li>• Preparation of site research</li> <li>• (optional) Studying theoretical perspectives</li> </ul>  |
| 4-6             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collection on manuscripts on-line resources</li> <li>• Data collection on manuscripts in Leiden</li> <li>• Data collection on manuscripts in Paris</li> </ul>  |
| 7-9             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collection on manuscripts in Leiden</li> <li>• Data collection on manuscripts in Paris</li> <li>• Holiday</li> <li>• <b>Popularizing essay</b></li> </ul>  |
|                 | <i>Phase 2</i>   |
| 10-12           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applying theoretical perspectives on collected data</li> <li>• <b>Tutorial for students</b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Y3</b> , 1-3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applying theoretical perspectives on collected data</li> <li>• <i>In situ</i> research in libraries</li> <li>• Writing first conference paper</li> <li>• <b>Public lecture</b> (UCMS outreach)</li> </ul>   |
| 4-6             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combining textual and material evidence with PD1: selection of topics</li> <li>• Study of medieval booklists</li> <li>• <i>In situ</i> research in libraries</li> <li>• <b>First international conference paper</b> (Leeds, Kalamazoo)</li> </ul> |
| 7-9             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holiday</li> <li>• Writing up first conference paper for <b>journal publication</b></li> <li>• Selection and study of selected topic(s)</li> </ul>  |
|                 | <i>Phase 3</i>   |
| 10-12           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tutorial for students</b></li> <li>• Study of selected topics</li> <li>• Contribute to preparation of final conference</li> <li>• Contribute to preparation of exhibition and catalogue</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Y4</b> , 1-3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing contribution to the final conference</li> <li>• Contribute to joint introduction of final conference</li> <li>• Writing paper for second conference</li> </ul>  |

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|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 4-6   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Paper presentation at final conference</b></li> <li>• <b>Second international conference paper</b> (venue to be decided)</li> <li>• Contribute to exhibition catalogue</li> <li>• Holiday</li> </ul>                              |
| 7-9   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to editing of conference proceedings</li> <li>• Writing up of paper presentation at final conference for <b>article</b> in the conference proceedings</li> </ul>  |
| 10-12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing up second conference paper for <b>journal publication</b></li> <li>• Start of <b>exhibition</b></li> <li>• Publication of <b>exhibition catalogue</b></li> <li>• Finalizing editing <b>conference proceedings</b></li> </ul> |

**Work plan PhD (the bi-weekly project meetings and the monthly meetings with the supervisor(s) are not indicated; output in bold)**

| Year, months    | Work programme PhD   |
|-----------------|--|
|                 | <i>Phase 1</i>   |
| <b>Y1</b> , 1-3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading existing scholarship on topic project</li> <li>• Studying theoretical perspectives</li> <li>• (optional) Acquiring skills</li> </ul>  |
| 4-6             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Studying theoretical perspectives</li> <li>• Preparation of data collection text passages (strand 1)</li> <li>• Preparation of site research (strand 2)</li> <li>• (optional) Acquiring skills</li> </ul> |
| 7-9             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer assisted analysis for data collection text passages (strand 1)</li> <li>• Holiday</li> </ul>   |
| 10-12           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collection multi-text manuscripts in Leiden (strand 2)</li> <li>• Preparation of first version introductory chapter of thesis</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Y2</b> , 1-3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finishing first version introductory chapter of thesis</li> <li>• Enrolment in course Research School for Medieval Studies</li> </ul>   |
|                 | <i>Phase 2</i>   |
| 4-6             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applying theoretical perspectives on collected data (strand 1)</li> <li>• Analysis of text collections (strand 2)</li> </ul>  |
| 7-9             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applying theoretical perspectives on collected data (strand 1)</li> <li>• Analysis of text collections (strand 2)</li> <li>• Holiday</li> </ul>   |
| 10-12           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing of conference paper</li> <li>• Preparation of thesis chapter on text passages (strand 1)</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Y3</b> , 1-3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enrolment in course Research School for Medieval Studies</li> <li>• <b>Paper presentation at International Conference</b></li> </ul>  |
| 4-6             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study of medieval booklists (strand 3), building on work by PDs</li> <li>• Completing first version of thesis chapter on text passages (strand 1)</li> </ul>  |
| 7-9             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist PDs in selection of topics</li> <li>• Preparation of thesis chapter on multi-text manuscripts (strand 2)</li> </ul>  |

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|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
|                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing up conference paper for <b>journal publication</b></li> <li>• Holiday</li> </ul>   |
|                 | <i>Phase 3</i>  |
| 10-12           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completing first version of thesis chapter on multi-text manuscripts (strand 2)</li> <li>• Preparation of thesis chapter on medieval booklists (strand 3)</li> <li>• Contribute to preparation of final conference</li> <li>• Contribute to preparation of exhibition and catalogue</li> </ul> |
| <b>Y4</b> , 1-3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completing first version of thesis chapter on medieval booklists (strand 3)</li> <li>• Writing contribution to the final conference</li> <li>• Contribute to joint introduction of final conference</li> </ul>   |
| 4-6             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Paper presentation at final conference</b></li> <li>• Contribute to exhibition catalogue</li> <li>• Holiday</li> </ul>  |
| 7-9             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing up of paper presentation at final conference for <b>article</b> in the conference proceedings</li> <li>• Reviewing and finalizing of thesis chapters (introduction and all strands)</li> <li>• Preparation of concluding thesis chapter</li> </ul>                                     |
| 10-12           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalizing of thesis chapters</li> <li>• Start of <b>exhibition</b></li> <li>• Publication of <b>exhibition catalogue</b></li> <li>• Submission of <b>thesis manuscript</b> to reading committee</li> </ul>  |

**Work plan Applicant (the bi-weekly project meetings are not indicated; output in bold)**

| <b>Year, months</b> | <b>Work programme Applicant</b>  |
|---------------------|--|
|                     | <i>Phase 3</i>   |
| <b>Y4</b> , 1-3     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in the <b>Rectors League</b></li> <li>• Writing of synthesising paper presentation at the final conference</li> <li>• Contribute to exhibition catalogue</li> <li>• Preparation of synthetic journal article</li> </ul> |
| 4-6                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Paper presentation at final conference</b></li> <li>• Writing of synthetic journal article</li> <li>• Holiday</li> </ul>   |
| 7-9                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-editing of conference proceedings</li> <li>• Submitting <b>synthetic journal article</b></li> </ul>  |
| 10-12               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tutorial for students</b></li> <li>• Start of <b>exhibition</b></li> <li>• Publication of <b>exhibition catalogue</b></li> <li>• Finalizing editing <b>conference proceedings</b></li> </ul>                                       |

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**15. Planned Deliverables**

| Type of publication | PD1   |
|---------------------|---|
| Peer reviewed       | <b>2 non-Dutch articles</b> (revised versions of conference papers) (to be published in, for instance, <i>Queeste, Le Moyen Age, Cultura Neolatina, Cahiers de Civilisation Médiévale, French Studies, Mediaevistik, Mittellateinisches Jahrbuch, Zeitschrift für romanische Philologie</i> ) |
| Synthesis           | <b>1 article</b> in the Proceedings of the final conference<br><b>1 edited volume of articles</b> (conference proceedings, including the synthesising <b>introduction</b> )   |
| Outreach            | <b>1 popularizing essay in Dutch or French</b> (to be published in, for instance, <i>Madoc, Geschiedenis Magazine, Historiek, Perspectives médiévales, Diogène, Nunc, L'histoire, Le Vif</i> )<br><b>Lemma's</b> for the exhibition catalogue   |

| Type of publication | PD2   |
|---------------------|---|
| Peer reviewed       | <b>2 non-Dutch articles</b> (revised versions of conference papers) (to be published in, for instance, <i>Queeste, Le Moyen Age, Cultura Neolatina, Cahiers de Civilisation Médiévale, French Studies, Mediaevistik, Mittellateinisches Jahrbuch, Zeitschrift für romanische Philologie</i> ) |
| Synthesis           | <b>1 article</b> in the Proceedings of the final conference<br><b>1 edited volume of articles</b> (conference proceedings, including the synthesising <b>introduction</b> )   |
| Outreach            | <b>1 popularizing essay in Dutch or French</b> (to be published in, for instance, <i>Madoc, Geschiedenis Magazine, Historiek, Perspectives médiévales, Diogène, Nunc, L'histoire, Le Vif</i> )<br><b>Lemma's</b> for the exhibition catalogue   |

| Type of publication | PhD   |
|---------------------|---|
| Peer reviewed       | <b>1 non-Dutch article</b> (revised version of conference paper) (to be published in, for instance, <i>Queeste, Le Moyen Age, Cultura Neolatina, Cahiers de Civilisation Médiévale, French Studies, Mediaevistik, Mittellateinisches Jahrbuch, Zeitschrift für romanische Philologie</i> )<br><b>1 PhD thesis</b> |
| Synthesis           | <b>1 Article</b> in the Proceedings of the final conference   |
| Outreach            | <b>Lemma's</b> for the exhibition catalogue   |

| Type of publication | Applicant   |
|---------------------|---|
| Synthesis           | <b>1 synthesising article in Dutch</b> (to be published in, for instance, <i>Queeste, Spiegel der Letteren, Tijdschrift voor Nederlandse taal- en letterkunde</i> )<br><b>1 edited volume of articles</b> (conference proceedings, including the synthesising <b>introduction</b> ) |
| Outreach            | <b>Exhibition catalogue</b>   |



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**16. Short Curriculum Vitae Applicant**

*Date of birth:* 18 November 1955

***Education***

1988 PhD Utrecht University

***Main Academic Appointments***

2016 Professor of Middle Dutch Textual Culture from an International Perspective, Utrecht University  
 2007 Senior Lecturer in Middle Dutch Literature, Utrecht University  
 1994 Lecturer in Middle Dutch Literature, Utrecht University

***Research Awards***

2013-17 Joint Research Program FWO-NWO  
 2013-14 Research Tool CLARIN  
 2011-12 Research Tool CLARIN  
 2010-13 Joint Research Program HERA  
 2004-08 Joint Research Program NWO  
 1988-93 Research Fellow KNAW  
 1983-88 PhD candidate NWO

***Honours***

2005 Honorary President of the International Arthurian Society

***Major Collaborative Research Projects***

2013-17 (co-PL F. Willaert) The Changing Face of Medieval Dutch Literature in the Early Period of Print (<http://changingface.eu/>)  
 2013-14 (co-PL A. Bouwman) Bibliotheca Neerlandica Manuscripta et Impressa (BNM-I) (<https://bnm-i.huygens.knaw.nl/>)  
 2011-12 Arthurian Fiction in Medieval Europe: Narratives and Manuscripts (<http://www.arthurianfiction.org/>)  
 2010-13 (co-PL M. Meyer, K. Pratt, A. Putter) The Dynamics of the Medieval Manuscript (<http://www.dynamicsofthemedievalmanuscript.eu/>)  
 2005- (co-PL C. Dauven) Bibliothek mittelniederländischer Literatur (BIMILI)  
 2004-08 Arthurian Fiction: A Pan-European Approach  
 2003-11 (co-PL H. van Dijk) Middle Dutch Adaptations of the Matière de France  
 1994-98 (co-PL E. Kooper) Walewein in International Perspective

***Other Academic Responsibilities***

Editor-in-Chief of the *Bibliothek mittelniederländischer Literatur*  
 Member of the Editorial Board of the *Zeitschrift für deutsches Altertum und deutsche Literatur*  
 Member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of the International Arthurian Society*

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**17. Key Publications Applicant**

Karen Pratt, Bart Besamusca, Matthias Meyer, Ad Putter (eds) (2017), *The Dynamics of the Medieval Manuscript: Text Collections from a European Perspective* (Göttingen: V&R Unipress), in particular 'Introduction' (11-39), 'The Patron and the Implied Readership of The Hague, Koninklijke Bibliotheek, MS 76 E 5' (41-56).

Bart Besamusca, Gareth Griffith, Matthias Meyer, Hannah Morcos (2016), 'Author Attributions in Medieval Text Collections: An Exploration', *Amsterdamer Beiträge zur älteren Germanistik* 76, 89-122.

Bart Besamusca (2013), 'The Prevalence of Verse in Medieval Dutch and English Arthurian Fiction', *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 112, 461-474.

– (2011), 'The Manuscript Contexts of Short Tales: The Example of the Middle Dutch *Chastelaine de Vergi*', in: *Cultures courtoises en mouvement*, eds Isabelle Arsenau and Francis Gingras (Montréal: Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal), 249-261.

– (2003), *The Book of Lancelot: The Middle Dutch Lancelot Compilation and the Medieval Tradition of Narrative Cycles* (Cambridge: Brewer).

**18. Data management**

a) Will data be collected or generated that are suitable for reuse?

Yes

b) Where will the data be stored during the research?

On the server of Utrecht University

c) After the project has been completed, how will the data be stored for the long-term and made available for the use by third parties? To whom will the data be accessible?

The data will be presented to the online resources that collect them. They will be accessible to everybody.

d) Which facilities (ICT, (secure) archive, refrigerators or legal expertise) do you expect will be needed for the storage of data during the research and after the research? Are these available?

What we need at the moment is available (the server of the UU). Nevertheless, the applicant subscribes to the need of the worldwide introduction of the ISMI (International Standard Manuscript Identifier), and will support the IRHT in its recent efforts to realize this progress.

**19. Public Summary and Title**

*De dynamiek van de meertalige literaire cultuur in middeleeuws Vlaanderen*

Dit is het eerste grote project dat zich richt op het meertalige karakter van de literaire cultuur van middeleeuws Vlaanderen. Onderzocht wordt hoe Nederlandse, Franse en Latijnse eentalige en meertalige teksten er tussen circa 1200 en 1500 naast elkaar werden geproduceerd en gelezen, en welke wisselwerkingen er tussen hen bestonden.

[Word count: 50 (max 50)]

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**20. Summary for Non-Specialists**

Wie in Nederland en Vlaanderen interesse heeft voor literatuur uit het eigen verleden, is aangewezen op literatuurgeschiedenissen die alleen Nederlandstalige teksten beschrijven. Dat uitgangspunt, dat teruggaat op de negentiende-eeuwse gedachte dat literatuur een belangrijke rol speelt bij de ontwikkeling van de nationale identiteit, doet echter geen recht aan de culturele realiteit van Nederland en Vlaanderen in heden en verleden, want die was en is meertalig. Illustratief voor deze meertalige context in het verleden is het rekeningenboek van de koopman Simon de Rijke, die leefde in Brugge in de vroege veertiende eeuw. Naast zijn financiële gegevens heeft hij passages genoteerd uit een van de invloedrijkste Franse teksten van zijn tijd, de *Roman de la Rose*.

Het project dat hier voorgesteld wordt, breekt met het eentalig georiënteerde perspectief op de literatuurgeschiedenis van de Lage Landen. Het overstijgt disciplinaire grenzen bij de bestudering van de literaire cultuur van middeleeuws Vlaanderen, de meest spraakmakende en meertalige regio van de middeleeuwse Nederlanden. Met als vertrekpunt de veelheid aan overlappende en in elkaar grijpende culturele circuits die in middeleeuws Vlaanderen onderscheiden kunnen worden, zoekt dit project een antwoord op de vraag hoe de Franse, Latijnse en Nederlandse teksten er functioneerden en op elkaar reageerden. Als beginpunt is gekozen voor circa 1200, omdat in die tijd de volkstalen voor het eerst op schrift kwamen. Het eindpunt ligt rond 1500, omdat de introductie van de boekdrukkunst halverwege de vijftiende eeuw de productie en receptie van literatuur, die eerder via handgeschreven boeken plaatsvond, wijzigde. Het onderzoek zal de tot op heden onbekend gebleven dynamiek van de meertalige literaire cultuur van het middeleeuwse Vlaanderen voor het voetlicht brengen.

Het onderzoek zal worden uitgevoerd door twee Postdocs en een promovendus. Postdoc 1 richt zich op de Franse, Nederlandse en Latijnse *teksten* die in Vlaanderen geschreven zijn en/of er werden gelezen. Postdoc 2 bestudeert de Franse, Nederlandse en Latijnse *middeleeuwse boeken* (gewoonlijk aangeduid met de term *handschriften*) die er geproduceerd en gereciperd werden. De promovendus richt zich op meertalige teksten en boeken waarin Nederlands voorkomt. Zij hanteren een brede opvatting van wat literatuur is, door naast fictionele ook instructieve, religieuze en wetenschappelijke teksten in hun onderzoek te betrekken. Hun materiaal bestaat naast meertalige teksten zowel uit boeken waarin één enkele tekst opgenomen is, die doorgaans ééntalig is, als boeken met meerdere teksten, die één- of meertalig kunnen zijn.

De literaire meertalige dynamiek in het middeleeuwse Vlaanderen zal worden bestudeerd door vijf verschillende theoretische posities te combineren. De literair-historische benadering roept onder meer de vraag op of bepaalde teksttypen in sommige talen beter vertegenwoordigd zijn dan in andere talen. Vanuit de optiek van de sociolinguïstiek is het relevant om te achterhalen welk cultureel prestige de verschillende categorieën teksten ten opzichte van elkaar hadden. De institutionele benadering onthult in welke sociale en culturele milieus in Vlaanderen (hoven, steden, kloosters) teksten ontstonden en circuleerden. Vanuit het gezichtspunt van vertaalstudies zijn processen van culturele overdracht belangrijk: hoe zijn de verschillen tussen bronteksten en hun vertalingen te begrijpen? De boekhistorische benadering vraagt aandacht voor de materiële aspecten van de tekstdragers, zoals het mogelijke verband tussen de waardering voor bepaalde teksten en de aanwezigheid van illustraties in de handschriften. Deze combinatie van vijf benaderingen zal voor het eerst zicht bieden op het veelzijdige, complexe en dynamische karakter van de meertalige literaire cultuur in middeleeuws Vlaanderen.

Het project bestaat uit drie fasen. In de eerste, verkennende fase van het onderzoek worden teksten en handschriften uit middeleeuws Vlaanderen met behulp van databases en catalogi geïdentificeerd en bijeengebracht. In de tweede, verdiepende fase concentreren de onderzoekers zich met behulp van de vijf theoretische posities op de gevallen waarin de meertalige literaire cultuur van het middeleeuwse Vlaanderen zich het meest kenmerkend manifesteert. Het kan daarbij gaan om bepaalde teksttypen, steden, sociale milieus en tijdvakken. In deze fase verruimen de twee postdocs

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hun gezamenlijke onderzoeksmogelijkheden door hun bevindingen te combineren. In de derde, synthetiserende fase van het project beantwoorden de onderzoekers de onderzoeksvraag. Zij presenteren synthetiserende bijdragen op de conferentie die in de laatste fase van het project georganiseerd zal worden. Deze presentaties zullen worden omgewerkt tot artikelen voor de congreshandelingen die in open access gepubliceerd zullen worden. Een tentoonstelling zal aan de hand van een selectie van middeleeuwse boeken de dynamiek van de meertalige literaire cultuur in Vlaanderen visualiseren voor een breder publiek. Deze tentoonstelling draagt bij aan een historisch perspectief op de individuele en maatschappelijke meertaligheid, die al geruime tijd een actueel hedendaags thema vormen.

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**21. Research Budget**

See the Excel document.

**Scientific integrity**

I declare that I have satisfied the nationally and internationally accepted standards for scientific practice as stated in the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Scientific Practice (VSNU).