



Slezská univerzita v Opavě

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

Call for papers

Piety and Fluidity of the Border between Convent and World (1350–1810)/ Frömmigkeit und Durchlässigkeit der Grenze zwischen Kloster und Welt (1350–1810)

(Opava, April 23rd 2012)

The growing interest in the research of piety in the second half of the twentieth century was connected with increasing scepticism about institutionally framed religious life. Rather than studying religious institutions and official theology, historians have preferred to explore what came to be labelled as “the history of piety” or “the history of religiosity” (Frömmigkeitsgeschichte). They have started to ask more intensively about the lived religion, individual devotion and shared religious cultures.

By focus on piety as a research category our workshop will attempt to reconsider the strict lines separating female regulars and extraregular people. This blurring of the line between female regulars and extraregulars has recently attracted attention of historians like Silvia Evangelisti who has explored the connections and parallels in historiography on convent life and married life. Moreover, a very interesting concept of “cooperative piety among monastic and secular women” has been suggested by a medievalist June L. Mechem. The concept of “cooperative piety” seems particularly stimulating and enables a more inclusive approach in studying the ways in which regular religious life was attractive and inspiring for a broader spectrum of people than merely the nuns proper. This perspective enables to explore what other “externals” participated in conventual religious models (patrons and supporters, ladies in convent schools, “Kostfrauen”, relatives etc.). The weakening of the borders between “regulars” and “non-regular”, both female and male, enables to ask new questions and to relate the life behind the convent walls more to the outside world.

The one-day workshop for early career researchers (in a doctoral and postdoctoral stage) will take place on April 23rd 2012 at the Silesian University in Opava (Czech Republic). The official workshop languages are English and German. The participants will present their research in 10-minute presentations followed by discussion. If you are interested in participating, please send your CV and a proposal of max. 300 words by February 15th 2012 to Veronika.Capska@fpf.slu.cz or vcapska@yahoo.com.