

A Poetics of Integumental Narrative in 12th-Century Latin Literature

B02 (Strand “Narrating Ideas”)

Summary

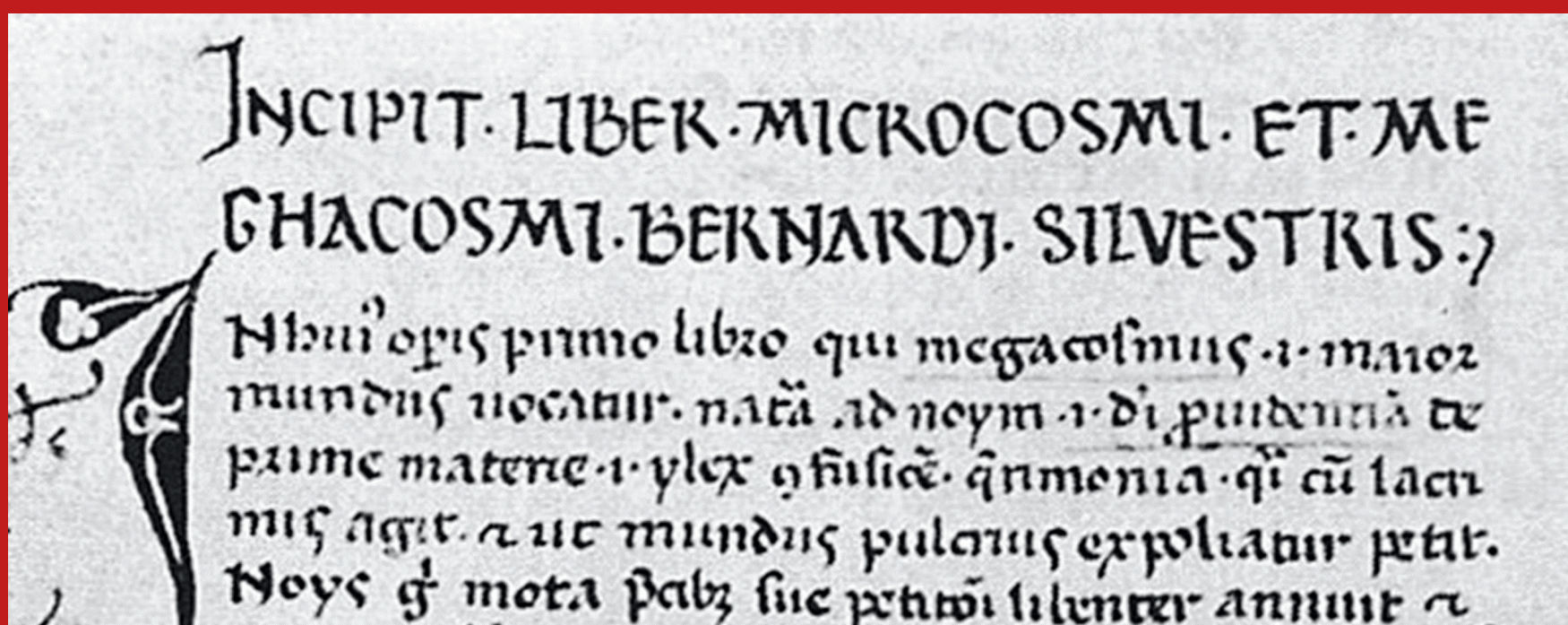
This project explores integumental Latin texts from the “long” 12th century as sophisticated narratives. Works by Bernard Silvester, Alan of Lille, John of Hauvilla, and others have been primarily studied for their (para-)philosophical content, but their narrative structures – plots, narrators, characters, scenes, and metaphors – largely remain unexplored. Combining narratological analysis with intellectual-historical contextualisation, the project develops analytical categories for understanding how these texts narrate philosophical ideas. This first systematic study of integumental poetics reveals the literary dimension of texts that profoundly shaped medieval and early modern thought.

Prof. Dr. Frank Bezner

Medieval Latin Literature

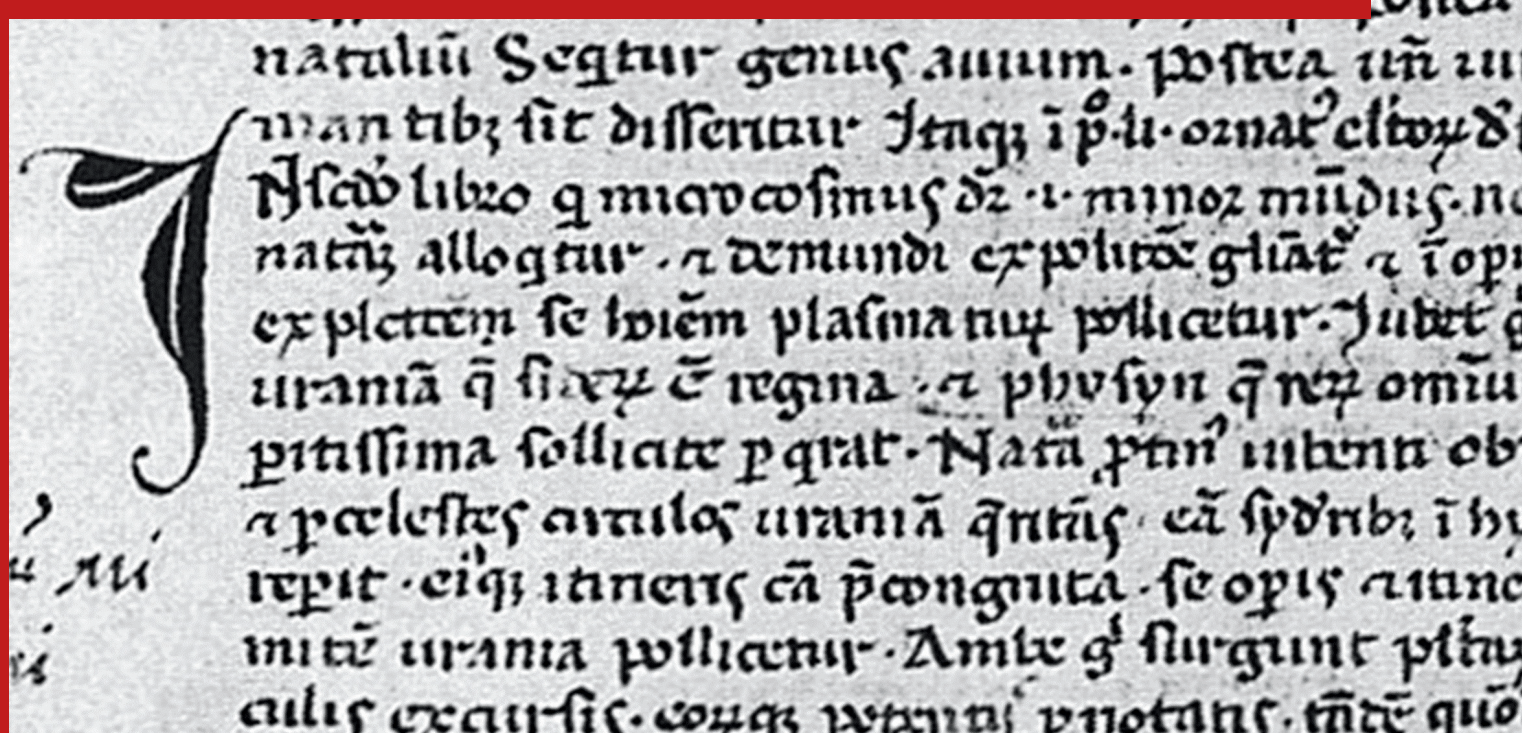
B06 Schwermann
C01 Brügger

C02 von Contzen
C03 Eggert



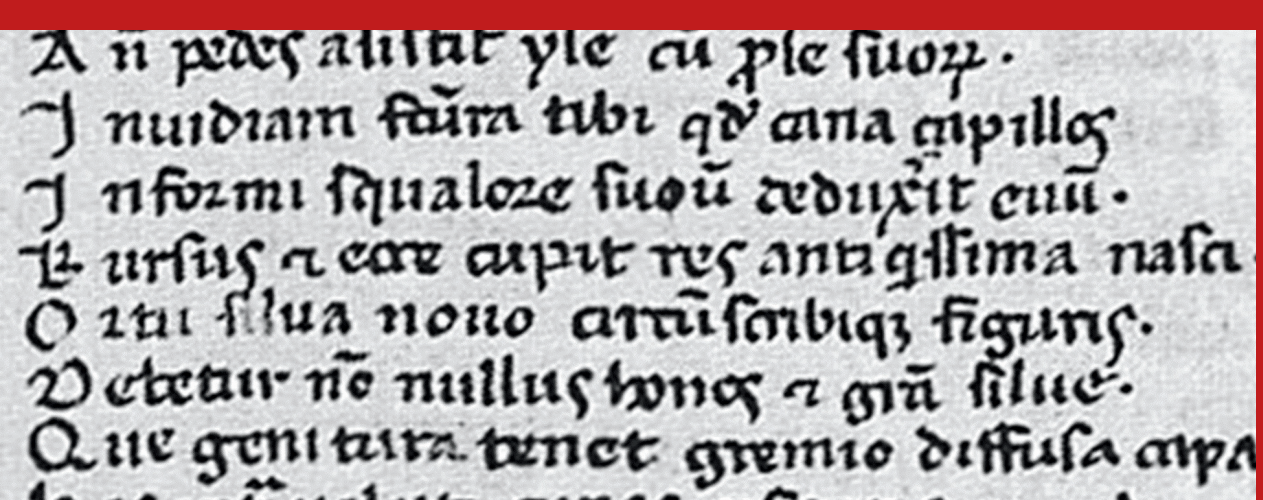
...and in teaching the truth of philosophy he did not neglect poetic fiction...

Bernardus Silvester's famous statement in his commentary on the Eneid (ca. 1120) is the most poignant attempt to express the fundamental literary utopia during the Renaissance of the 12th Century.



Corpus

- (1) What narrative patterns (plot structures, character types, scene construction) can be isolated in these works?
- (2) How do these narrative patterns take up, negotiate, subvert, complicate, or aestheticise the philosophical dimension within these texts?
- (3) What narratological categories are required to analyse integumental 'narration', and how do they differ from those used for ancient or vernacular medieval (let alone modern) literatures?



Work Packages

- (1) Peer-reviewed articles on narrative structures and conceptual problems
- (2) Monograph on the poetics of integumental narrative(s)
- (3) International conference on narration and knowledge in medieval allegorical poetry