

Iridescent Storytelling: The Art of Narrating Characters in Wolfram's von Eschenbach *Parzival*

C01 (Strand "Narrating Lives")

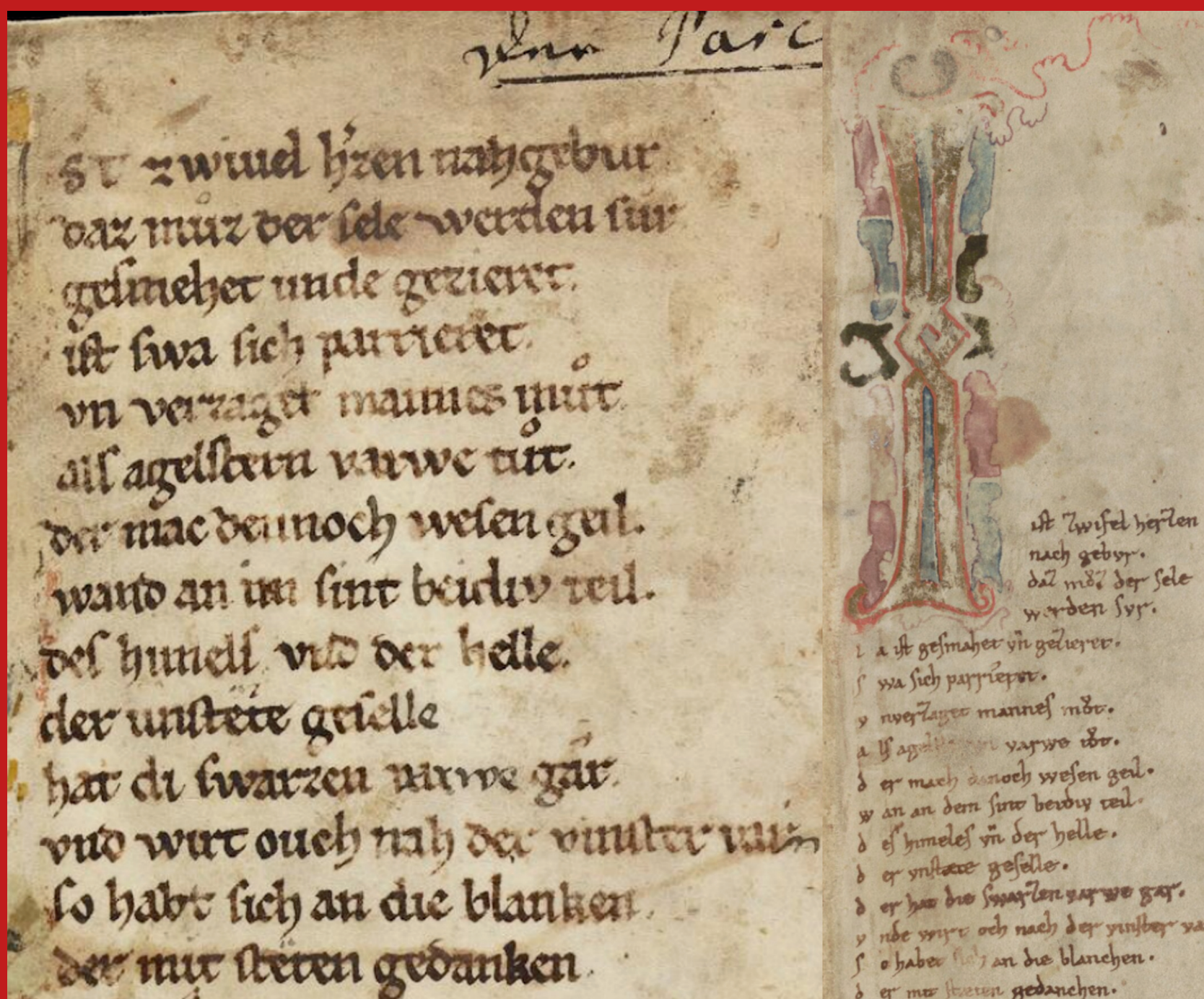
Summary

The project explores the conceptualisation and the depiction of the literary character in the courtly romance of the (German-speaking) Middle Ages. It does so by choosing Wolfram's von Eschenbach 13th-century epic poem *Parzival* as an exemplary subject of investigation, a core text of premodern vernacular literature showing an extraordinary wealth of literary characters, which has not yet been systematically studied. The aim is to provide a framework for character analysis for the courtly novel as well as to advance our understanding of a striking stepping stone in the history of (medieval) storytelling.

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A02 Friede
A05 Setzer-Mori
A06 Tilg

B01 Baumbach
B02 Bezner
B04 Müller
B05 Rüggeleiter



St. Gallen, Stifsbibliothek, Cod. 857, p. 5.
München, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, cgm 19, fol. 1r.

Methodology

The project

- works on a historical and context-sensitive description model for the literary character,
- picks up central theoretical issues and categories controversially discussed in narratological research,
- reviews and modifies them against the backdrop of the depiction of characters in *Parzival* and the comparative, transcultural perspective that guides cooperation in the CRC.

Objectives

The project

- strives to open up Wolfram's *Parzival* on the basis of the literary depiction of character which is crucial for understanding the text's poetics,
- aims to shed light on forms and functions of character narration in medieval texts,
- wants to assign the concept of 'character' a new significance in (medieval) literary studies.