



Research Groups

The Faculty of Arts and Philosophy is home to 50 research groups that are active in the broad field of humanities: philosophy, archaeology, history, art history, (applied) linguistics, literary studies, cultural studies, etc.

- . AFRIKAANS : Ghent Centre for Afrikaans and the Study of South Africa
- . ANCIENTHISTORY : Ancient History
- . ARCHAEO : Archaeology
- . BANTUGENT : UGent Centre for Bantu Studies
- . BIG : Bioethics Institute Ghent
- . CARAM : Centre for Anthropological Research on Affect and Materiality
- . CEL19 : Centre for the Study of 19th-Century Literature
- . CEVI : Centre for Ethics and Value Inquiry
- . CGS : Centre for Gender Studies
- . CLIV : Centre for Literature in Translation
- . CLPS : Centre for Logic and Philosophy of Science
- . CMSI : Cultural Memory Studies Initiative
- . CRCG : Centre for Research on Culture and Gender
- . CSCT : Centre for the Study of Christian Traditions
- . DIALING : Diachronic and Diatopic Linguistics
- . EACP : East Asian Culture in Perspective: Identity - Historical Consciousness - Modernity
- . ECC : Economies, Comparisons, Connections
- . EQTIS : Empirical and Quantitative Translation and Interpreting Studies
- . GCBS : Ghent Centre for Buddhist Studies
- . GCSEES : Ghent Centre for Slavic and East European Studies
- . GEMS : Group for Early Modern Studies
- . GHENTCDH : Ghent Centre for Digital Humanities
- . GICAS : Ghent Interdisciplinary Centre for Art and Science
- . GIKS : Ghent Institute for Classical Studies
- . GLIMS : Ghent University Research Group on Linguistic Meaning and Structure
- . GUST : Ghent Urban Studies Team
- . HICO : Centre for History of Philosophy and Continental Philosophy
- . HPIMS : Henri Pirenne Institute for Medieval Studies

- . HPIMSDH : Henri Pirenne Institute for Medieval Studies - Department of History
- . IEMH : Institute for Early Modern History
- . IPEM : Institute for Psycho-acoustics and Electronic Music
- . LT3 : Language and Translation Technology Team
- . MAPS : Centre for Media and Periodical Studies
- . MULTIPLES : Research Centre for Multilingual Practices and Language Learning in Society
- . PEPPER : Philosophy, Ethology, Politics and Performance
- . RAP : Authorship Studies
- . RCVC : Research Centre Vergelijkende Cultuurwetenschap
- . RELICS : Researchers of European Literary Identities, Cosmopolitanism and the Schools
- . RSRC : Roman Society Research Centre
- . SANGH : South Asia Network Ghent
- . SARTON : Sarton Centre for History of Science
- . SEL : Centre for the Study of Experimental Literature
- . SOCIALHISTORY : Social History since 1750
- . S:PAM : Studies in Performing Arts & Media
- . THALIA : Interplay of Theatre, Literature and Media in Performance
- . THIS : The Inside Story. Art, Interior Design & Architecture 1750-1950
- . TLIV : Textual Scholarship Literature in Flanders
- . TMB : The Moral Brain
- . TRACE : Translation and Culture
- . URBANHISTORY : Urban History

More about our research groups, our researchers and our research projects on our research platform:

- . research.flw.ugent.be

The aim of the **Ghent Centre for Afrikaans and the Study of South Africa** (AFRIKAANS) is to coordinate the research activities with regard to linguistics and literature of the Afrikaans language. It brings together all researchers of the faculty with an interest in Afrikaans, the other languages of South Africa and the linguistic and societal situation in South Africa. Its members belong to the departments of Linguistics, Literary Studies, Languages and Cultures, Art, Music and Theatre Sciences, History and Translation, Interpreting and Communication. A vast number of associated members belong to universities all over the world.

The research group **Ancient History** (ANCIENTHISTORY) is one of the research groups in the Department of History. The group brings together all staff members of the department who conduct research in the history of Classical Antiquity, Late Antiquity, and Byzantium. There are four full-time professors and a changing number of PhD and post-doctoral researchers (usually about 15 to 20). The main focus is on the social and economic history of the Roman World, ancient urban history, socio-cultural and political history of Late Antiquity, and cultural history of Antiquity and Byzantium, including early Christianity.

Our research group **Archaeology** (ARCHAEO) is driven by five research units: (1) Pre- and Protohistoric Archaeology of Northwest Europe, (2) Mediterranean Archaeology, (3) Historical Archaeology of Northwest Europe, (4) Near Eastern Archaeology and Assyriology and (5) Archaeometry and Natural Sciences. These units cooperate with other research groups of the faculty and the university. The research output is diverse, original and innovative, and is highly international visible by the many successful methodological contributions to the discipline, a large number of publications and the organization of numerous scientific meetings.

The **UGent Centre for Bantu Studies** (BANTUGENT) represents a transdisciplinary approach to the past and present of Bantu languages, Bantu speech communities and their material worlds. The research starts from the data-driven study of language and/or material culture and is combined with methods and theoretical insights from (historical) linguistics, archaeology,

(historical) anthropology, art history, (ethno)history, ethnobotany, ethnozoology, genetics, etc. This research group aims to continue and to broaden the work undertaken within the ERC-funded KongoKing and BantuFirst projects, the BELSPO-funded CongoConnect project, as well as associated projects within the field of Bantu Studies.

The Bioethics Institute Ghent (BIG) is a meeting place for academics doing research on bioethical issues, e.g. in medicine, health care, and biotechnology. The institute will (1) give shape to scientific research in bioethics, (2) educate and inform students, professionals, policy makers and the general public about bioethical issues, (3) serve as an observatory for bioethical developments at the regional, national and international level, (4) serve as an interface between researchers, medical practitioners and ethicists, (5) facilitate interdisciplinary discussion about bioethics, and (6) contribute to the policy debate on bioethics.

The Centre for Anthropological Research on Affect and Materiality (CARAM) offers a forum to humanities and social sciences researchers applying the methodology of ethnographic fieldwork and employing the central concepts of sociocultural anthropology. The centre promotes studies utilizing participant observation to obtain a detailed and intimate understanding of the context of social action and relations. With affect and materiality as pivotal concepts, CARAM adds theoretical vibrancy to the ongoing debates on culture, identity, religion, ethnicity, art and agency. Exchanging knowledge on different regions of the world in past and present is in our view key to advancing anthropology, the study of human diversity.

The research group **Centre for the Study of 19th-Century Literature (CEL19)** brings together scholars from different sections of the Department of Literary Studies who are working on nineteenth-century literature. Its aim is to foster collaborations in comparative research across linguistic and cultural borders in order to contribute to a better understanding of the international relevance of major events in literary and cultural history. This research group also functions

as a platform from whence to liaise with scholars working in nineteenth century studies at other institutions, both in Belgium and abroad.

Our **Centre for Ethics and Value Inquiry (CEVI)** carries out research on the ethics of globalization and on ethics under the conditions of globalisation. The centre specializes in researching current sense-making of globalisation phenomena, in particular the 'language of ethics' and its 'existentials' (Edel). The centre is involved in several international networks and platforms and is a founding member of the International Global Ethics Association (IGEA). Being an academic stakeholder, CEVI maintains good and collaborative relations with the civil and the professional community.

The **Centre for Gender Studies (CGS)** is an interdisciplinary centre dedicated to the study of constructions and meanings of femininity and masculinity, and the impact of sex differences on the development and production of knowledge. The basis is that research is not necessarily confined to the boundaries of one's own field. Theories, methods and insights are deployed from other disciplines and collaboration across field specialisms is striven for. The centre has its own peer-reviewed interdisciplinary journal (DiGeSt).

The **Centre for Literature in Translation (CLIV)** is a UGent/VUB alliance research group. CLIV's main line of research concerns the discursive presence or absence of the translation instance as it manifests itself on different levels (poetical, ideological, ethical,...) in certain areas of literary texts (such as paratexts, retranslations or adaptations) and, at the macro level, around the text (through translation sociological research or research into the relevance of translation for literary theory as well as for literary history).

The **Centre for Logic and Philosophy of Science (CLPS)** was founded in 1993 and is part of the Department of Philosophy and Moral Sciences. The research group has about 25 researchers and is active in five lines of research: (1) non-classical logics for defeasible reasoning processes, (2) formal analysis of human

reasoning, (3) philosophy of scientific practice, (4) social epistemology, and (5) integrated history and philosophy of science.

The **Cultural Memory Studies Initiative** (CMSI) brings together scholars from across the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy whose research revolves around memory and trauma as mediated through culture. Founded in 2007 as the Centre for Literature and Trauma (LITRA), CMSI assumed its current name in 2014 to reflect the widening scope of its members' research interests. Cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary in orientation, CMSI is one of the foremost research initiatives in memory and trauma studies in Europe.

The **Centre for Research on Culture and Gender** (CRCG) is hosted by the Department of Languages and Cultures and supports research and scholarly exchange on questions of identity, difference and diversity in a globalized world from the perspective of critical inquiry and qualitative research methodology. The centre brings together scholars and students with various disciplinary backgrounds in the arts, humanities and social sciences interested in the study of culture in intersection with gender and/or other identity markers such as sexuality, ethnicity, class, nation and religion.

The **Centre for the Study of Christian Traditions** (CSCT) is a research group studying Christian tradition, be it ancient, medieval or modern, be it Catholic, Protestant or Orthodox. The scholars are members of different departments, using different methodologies. To give just a few examples: this can be linguistic research on Christian languages (Greek, Latin, Syriac, Russian,...), literary approaches to Christian religious texts, history, art history, archaeology, philosophy, comparative religious studies, or other approaches.

The research group **Diachronic and Diatopic Linguistics** (DIALING) carries out research in the field of historical and diatopic linguistics. The research contributes to these disciplines by (i) language description and documentation through the creation and dissemination of various types of descriptive tools (e.g.

dictionaries, grammars, corpora, text editions, databases, etc.) and by (ii) the advancement of linguistic theory, which is informed by empirically-grounded studies. Diverse theoretical viewpoints on language variation and change (e.g. Construction Grammar, Cartography, Dynamic Syntax, etc.) are explored for the genesis and development of a variety of linguistic phenomena.

Our research group **East Asian Culture in Perspective: Identity - Historical Consciousness - Modernity** (EACP) aims at embedding theoretically established notions as history, culture, tradition, or 'the classical' and putting these notions into perspective. Such re-conceptualization helps to overcome the particular conceptual shortcomings and blind spots that have resulted from the paradigmatic shifts in the intellectual and scholarly debates in and about Asia. Think e.g. of the postmodern and postcolonial critique of 'grand narratives' and 'Eurocentric' views on historical change, and of the emphasis on national identity and cultural diversity.

The research group **Economies, Comparisons, Connections** (ECC) brings together historians and social scientists who study the interaction of historical processes at varying geographical, social, political, environmental and economic scales. Attention is paid to different units of analysis (households, regions, economies, societies, states, landscapes, networks etc.), to bottom-up regional research (including anthropological methods and field-work), and to methods to investigate processes on wider and global scales (comparative analysis, system-analysis, network-analysis).

Our research group **Empirical and Quantitative Translation and Interpreting Studies** (EQTIS) specializes in quantitative corpus-based and process-based research of language use in different translation modes (regular written translations, audiovisual translations and oral translations by interpreters). The research group has a specific focus on the linguistic and contextual factors determining translation choices. Language use is compared to that in source texts and non-translated texts and is statistically analysed and interpreted. On this basis, a better knowledge is acquired of the socio-cognitive and discursive

mechanisms that control both the translation product and the translation process.

The **Ghent Centre for Buddhist Studies** (GCBS) is rooted in a long tradition of expertise in many buddhological fields. The GCBS aims to enable scholars and students to research and study philosophical, doctrinal and socio-cultural aspects of Asian Buddhist traditions. The researchers are working interdisciplinary as well as on very specialized topics. The centre offers a forum for international discussion on research methods and findings, and intends to unlock the current academic discourse on Buddhism both to (international) colleagues as to a wider audience.

The **Ghent Centre for Slavic and East European Research** (GCSEES) has been set up to coordinate the various strands of research represented by the members of the Slavic section of the Department of Languages and Cultures. In addition, the intention is to make Ghent's Slavic research more visible to a wider academic public in the field of Slavic studies. The research on Slavic and East European topics focusses on four broadly defined fields of investigation: (1) Balkan Studies, (2) Ethnolinguistics and folklore, (3) Palaeoslavica (medieval and premodern Slavic Language and text studies), and (4) Studies in Modern Russian Literature.

The research carried out by the **Group for Early Modern Studies** (GEMS) is marked by its focus on the early modern period, but also by a shared concern for methodological reflection. Central in this respect is the historical tension that can be perceived between the investigated early modern phenomena and the late-modern theoretical framework by which the research is guided. The historical relationship between the object of investigation and the method of investigation is one of the central concerns of this research group.

The **Ghent Centre for Digital Humanities** (GHENTCDH) is an interdisciplinary research centre facilitating digitally-enabled research in the arts and humanities at Ghent University and beyond. In line with European standards and best

practices (ESFRI-projects), the GhentCDH focuses on the evaluation and development of a portfolio of tools and services in four domains: (1) collaborative databases, (2) digital text annotation and analysis, (3) geospatial analysis and data visualisation and (4) project-related advice and guidance regarding digital humanities research methods.

The research group **Ghent Interdisciplinary Centre for Art and Science** (GICAS) is a collaboration between members of the Faculties of Arts and Philosophy (Art History, Archaeology, History), Sciences (Analytical Chemistry) and Architecture and Engineering (Image Processing). Research concentrates on material aspects of works of art, with special focus on painting from the Low Countries (15th -17th centuries). The Centre applies both imaging as image processing techniques, as well as material analysis with respect to art historical questions and applications in conservation and restoration.

The **Ghent Institute for Classical Studies** (GIKS) gathers scholars working in different fields linked to Classical Antiquity. The members of GIKS are drawn from the departments of Archaeology, Literary Studies, Linguistics, History of Law, Philosophy and History. Their expertise covers the Greek and Roman world in all its aspects from its beginnings to its reception in the contemporary Greek world. The research group facilitates interdisciplinary collaboration, coordinates various programmes of studies, organizes research seminars and conferences, and adequately informs the wider world of its research results.

Research conducted by the **Ghent Research Team on Linguistic Meaning and Structure** (GLIMS) deals with 'grammar' in the broad sense of the term: (morpho)syntax and semantics, including the interfaces with the lexicon and lexical morphology on the one hand and with discourse on the other hand. The following research areas are central: (1) the grammar of the clause and the verbal and nominal group, (2) grammatical alternations, (3) aspect and modality / evidentiality, (4) clause combining/embedding, and (5) discourse markers and the impact of information structure.

The **Ghent Urban Studies Team** (GUST) is an interdisciplinary research group studying the contemporary city and its literary and artistic representations in Western Europe and North America. The team was founded in 1995 and consists of several members of the UGent Department of Architecture and Urban Planning in addition to our literary experts. The members of GUST publish widely in the field of urban studies, both individually and in group.

The **Centre for History of Philosophy and Continental Philosophy** (HICO) aims to foster research in continental philosophy and in the history of philosophy. The centre coordinates, promotes and supervises research on the history of philosophy from antiquity to the present day. It also hosts research in contemporary continental philosophy that focuses on politics, religion, art, aesthetics, culture, psychology, science, ... and that engages in a critical and interdisciplinary dialogue with the history of Western and non-Western philosophy.

The **Henri Pirenne Institute for Medieval Studies** (HPIMS) is a cross-disciplinary research group that brings together all medievalists, staff and students from different faculties and departments. The institute fosters cross-disciplinary research into the medieval period and advances knowledge exchange both between different fields of study, as well as towards the general public. Fundamental critical research of original source materials is the core business, but HPIMS also houses expertise in 'digital humanities'. Apart from supporting the many initiatives of its members, the institute also annually organizes the *Medieval Seminar Series*, at which a wide range of topics is presented to an interdisciplinary audience.

Henri Pirenne Institute for Medieval Studies - Department of History (HPIMSDH) is the group name for the researchers of the Department of History involved in the study of medieval society and culture. Their research covers a broad range of interests, including diplomatics and palaeography, socio-economic processes and the study of medieval landscapes, religious culture and

society, gender, ritual, institutional history and state formation, political ideology and discourse, and the development of Digital Humanities-applications.

The **Institute for Early Modern History (IEMH)** is a UGent/VUB alliance research group linking historians of the Early Modern Period. The group organizes scientific gatherings and acts as an interactive forum for PhD students of Early Modern history. The study of the transformational processes marking the beginning and end of the period, and developments in specific social areas across the era, forms the common thread in its members' work.

The **Institute for Psycho-acoustics and Electronic Music (IPEM)** is the research centre of the Musicology Section of Ghent University. IPEM provides a scientific basis for the cultural and creative sector, in casu music and performance arts, and carries out pioneering research work on the relationship between music, body movement and new technologies. Interdisciplinary methods are developed based on music theory, performer-inspired analysis, advanced behavioural and neuroscience empirical experimentation, statistics, and computer modelling. Findings are applied in several domains: music education, rehabilitation, sports activities, and arts.

Our **Language and Translation Technology Team (LT3)** conducts fundamental and applied research in the domain of language and translation technology and has extensive expertise in the use of machine learning for a wide range of language technology problems. The group performs text analysis and uses deep syntactic and semantic representations of language, for example, in the form of syntactic analysis trees, semantic roles and coreference resolution. Most research is corpus-based. Major themes are terminology, translation technology and sentiment detection.

Based at the Department of Literary Studies, the **Centre for Media and Periodical Studies (MAPS)** is a platform for researchers working on periodicals and other print media from the early eighteenth to the early twentieth century.

Research group members approach their object of study from a variety of perspectives, including literary studies, history, art history, women's history and gender studies.

Our **Research Centre for Multilingual Practices and Language Learning in Society** (MULTIPLES) is concerned with the study of language use and communication as aspects of social life. It engages with the applied dimensions of this field, broadly defined, and does so with particular reference to contexts and processes of language learning, language use in institutional contexts and multilingualism. The research group hosts researchers with backgrounds in various linguistic disciplines, including sociolinguistics, language acquisition (first, second and foreign language), language teaching and learning, language in education, discourse analysis, linguistic anthropology, and translation and interpreting studies.

The research group **Philosophy, Ethology, Politics and Performance** (PEPPER) hosts an international research network on the emerging interdisciplinary field of philosophy, ethology, politics and performance. Starting point is the recent politico-philosophical turn in contemporary performance theory and practice. The research group aims to develop a new approach for the way in which performing arts are redistributing the political. This so-called 'politico-philosophical turn' also sheds a new light on ethics and ecology, referred to as 'ethology'.

The research group **Authorship Studies** (RAP) aims to re-examine material conditions and historical views of literary authorship in the light of recent theoretical developments concerning authorship, authority and agency, such as the theory of cultural performance and performativity. The group has taken as its starting point the gap between a 'strong' concept of authorship (agency, creativity and intellectual ownership) and a 'weak' concept (authorship as a product of cultural networks). Yet, it is not dedicated solely to charting concepts of authorship from a history-of-ideas perspective; rather, it aims to write a history of discourses and media.

The **Research Centre Vergelijkende Cultuurwetenschap** (RCVC) starts from the question what makes a difference between human beings into a cultural difference, rather than a social, psychological or biological difference. Many current theories in the social sciences and humanities transform non-Western cultures into variants of Western culture, with their own religion, belief system, norms and values. How can we study cultures and cultural differences in a different way? The focus of the research group concerns the comparative study of Europe and India in several domains: religion and tradition, politics and law, ethics and society, etc.

Our research group **Researchers of European Literary Identities, Cosmopolitanism and the Schools** (RELICS) studies historical literatures and the dynamics that shape a common, European literary identity. This literary identity can be seen as particularly negotiated through languages that reached a cosmopolitan status due to fixed schooling systems (Latin, Greek and Arabic), and in their interaction with vernacular literatures. From a diachronic perspective, unity is sought within the ever more diverse literary Europe, from the first to the eighteenth century. The aim is to transgress national boundaries and to look for a European literary identity.

The **Roman Society Research Centre** (RSRC) is a UGent/VUB alliance research group. The aim is to promote studies in the history of the Roman World in all its various aspects: the study of economic, social, political, cultural and mentality history from the dawn of Roman history to the end of Late Antiquity. Disciplines such as archaeology, philology, ancient philology and law help shape the research. Epigraphy, papyrology and numismatics are auxiliary disciplines.

The interdisciplinary **South Asia Network Ghent** (SANGH) offers a platform for interaction between researchers working on South Asia. It focuses on varied aspects of South Asian society and culture: its rich literary history, its diverse religious traditions, its numerous languages, its rapid developments in cinema and performing arts, etc. Studies address both historical and contemporary issues, from local as well as transnational perspectives, using diverse research

methods and theoretical backgrounds of the humanities and social sciences. Much attention is paid to primary sources, particularly in Sanskrit and Hindi.

The **Sarton Centre for History of Science** (SARTON) is an interdisciplinary research centre, founded in 2003, exploring the history of knowledge acquisition, circulation and foundation. It is made up of researchers across many different departments and faculties at Ghent University. The research projects of its members span several centuries, regions and cultures, as well as disciplines and fields.

The **Centre for the Study of Experimental Literature** (SEL) is a UGent/VUB alliance research group that focuses on innovative literature from the end of the nineteenth century until the present. The centre stimulates research into unconventional literature which seeks formal innovation. Central points of interest are Dutch and Flemish texts from symbolism, the historical avant-garde, the neo-avant-garde, and postmodernism. The research group also investigates the literary genres in which the experiment likes to manifest itself, such as prose poetry, cycles of novels and 'paraprose'.

The research group **Social History since 1750** (SOCIALHISTORY) places social change at the centre of its analyses and relates history to contemporary society. Social history calls for a pre-eminently integrated approach that aims to interconnect historical circumstances, structures and processes with human agency, experience and subjectivity, discourse and perceptions, ideas and practices. Social history transcends history in compartments – economy, politics, culture – and aims at historical synthesis and interdisciplinarity. Research programmes include (1) movements, protest and contention, (2) war, crisis and society, and (3) meta history and public history.

The research group **Studies in Performing Arts and Media** (S:PAM) has a five-fold focus in theatre and performance studies. Within 'technologies' modern and new media are studied, as well as their impact on the performing arts.

'Memories, traumas and conflicts' investigates how performing arts 'act out' and 'work through' violent conflicts and traumatic events. How performing arts deal with repertoire in general and classical tragedies in particular, is studied within 'histories'. A fourth focus is on the study of 'dramaturgies' with their intermediary role to the public. 'Practices', finally, focuses on the dialogue between the performing arts practice and the development of theories.

Interplay of Theatre, Literature and Media in Performance (THALIA) aims at collective, intellectual exchange with regard to intermedial constellations of theatre, text and performance. Focusing on both contemporary performance art and history, the projects of this UGent/VUB alliance research group fit into one or more of the following research topics: (1) theatre texts and text theatricality, (2) dramaturgy, (3) (inter)mediality, and (4) performativity. These topics are investigated from the perspectives of literary studies, theatre studies, performance studies and media studies.

The research group **The Inside Story. Art, Interior Design and Architecture 1750-1950 (THIS)** investigates the role and place of art within the context of interior design and architecture between ca. 1750 and 1950, and on the history of interiors and decorative arts. Geographically, the focus is on Belgium, albeit in an international context. The research starts from the art object and its place within architecture and historic interiors. Major topics are: (1) fine arts for, in and depicting interiors and architecture, (2) decorative arts and design, and (3) historic interiors.

The research group **Textual Scholarship Literature in Flanders (TLIV)** focuses on the publication of literary heritage in Flanders. Dutch-language literature of Belgium (1900-1970) is made available to an interested audience by means of scholarly editions. The research team works with partners in the academic and cultural field to organise conferences and workshops on the theory and practice of scholarly editions.

The Moral Brain (TMB) is an interdisciplinary research community that unites scholars who study moral and immoral behaviour, moral emotions and the development of ethical judgments from a neuroscientific and evolutionary perspective. Besides doing research inspired by contemporary insights gained from the neurosciences, evolutionary psychology, behavioural economy, anthropology and other disciplines, the group also highlights current developments and innovative insights in international research. Research topics include cheating detection, empathy, critical thinking, sibling incest, free will, religion, art, irrational beliefs, etc.

Research within **Translation and Culture (TRACE)** draws on methodologies from the interdisciplinary field of translation studies and focuses on translations of literary and other texts that serve as a cultural product. The group works in close collaboration with the Centre for Literature in Translation (CLIV). Members of the group analyse the discursive traces that translators leave in translation, both in terms of textual and paratextual shifts (prefaces, footnotes, annotations). Studies also consider the specific role of translators as cultural mediators in a given period and the interaction between the agents involved in the editorial and translation process.

The research group **Urban History (URBANHISTORY)** builds on decades of expertise in research into the histories of cities. The research group focuses on the late Middle Ages and Early Modern period and has a broad interest in questions related to the socio-economic, political and cultural dimensions of the urban life in the historical Low Countries (present-day Belgium, the Netherlands and Northern France) and beyond. There is a strong collaboration with archaeologists, art historians and literary historians and with urban historians of other Belgian and foreign universities and research institutions, sustained by Belgian and Flemish research funds.

The Faculty of Arts and Philosophy is one of the founding faculties of Ghent University, which was founded by King William I of Orange in 1817. Besides our faculty, Ghent University includes ten other faculties. The university is among the world's 100 best universities, it has over 41,000 students and approximately 9,000 employees.

The Faculty of Arts and Philosophy is responsible for education, research and services in the Humanities. The faculty organizes 10 different undergraduate programmes, 15 master's programmes, 5 advanced master's programmes and various postgraduate courses. The faculty has 9 departments:

- . Archaeology
- . Art history, musicology and theatre studies
- . Comparative sciences of culture
- . History
- . Languages and cultures
- . Linguistics
- . Literary studies
- . Philosophy and moral sciences
- . Translation, interpretation and communication

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