

University of Göttingen

Summer School in Digital Palaeography

Your Guide to the Summer School and the Course Schedule

Göttingen, Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek, 8° Cod. MS philol. 115, 5r



Horacius. Iov. & Rosij. & theodosij sotieret.
s. & coenobij. & scipio his. a. eustachij lib. expositois.
Hinc plato his et eiussonis libri.
quos de. a. p. utr. unq. reliquias stat. eustachi
fili in uite dulcedo. parit & gla. h. int. e. pri
ma fronte p. spexim. q. ille rem. p. ordinauit.
h. retulit. Alt. qualis e. debuit. alt. qualis e. et.
amorib; instituta dilleruit. In h. t. maxime
opus similitudine seruauit imitatio. q. cum
plato in uoluminis occlusioe a quodam ui
te reddito. qm reliquias uidebatur. indica
ri faciat. qm exutae corporib; stat anima
rum. his addita. quadam spar. ul. sicim. n. ociosa
descriptione. rerum, dissimilia significans. a
tulliano scipione p. quietem sibi ingesta narra
tur. s; quid l. illi comto tali. l. huic tali s. op. n.
in his potissimum lib. op. fuerit. in quib; de re

About the Summer School

This summer school spans ten full days, with two additional days allocated for traveling and one weekend. On Day 0, participants will arrive on campus to collect their accommodation keys and settle in. After some time to freshen up, we will gather for a welcome dinner to get to know each other and start the week on a friendly note.

Each day of the official programme begins at 9:00 am and consists of four 90-minute sessions: two in the morning and two in the afternoon. Between sessions, there will be 15-minute coffee breaks with coffee, tea, sparkling water, fresh fruits, and cookies provided. The lunch break lasts 90 minutes, during which you are welcome to enjoy a warm meal at the university's Mensa using your guest or debit card. Please remember to check the daily schedule in advance and plan enough time to travel to the designated classroom. The day concludes at 5 pm, allowing you to explore Göttingen and enjoy a coffee or gelato with your peers afterwards.

At the end of the programme, please remember to return your Mensa guest card and complete the Summer School feedback survey. We look forward to a fun and rewarding time together!



Around the Campus

 **SUB**

Historisches Gebäude der SUB Göttingen
Papendiek 14, 37073 Göttingen

 **IfDH**

Institut für Digital Humanities
Nikolausberger Weg, 23, 37073 Göttingen

 **KWZ**

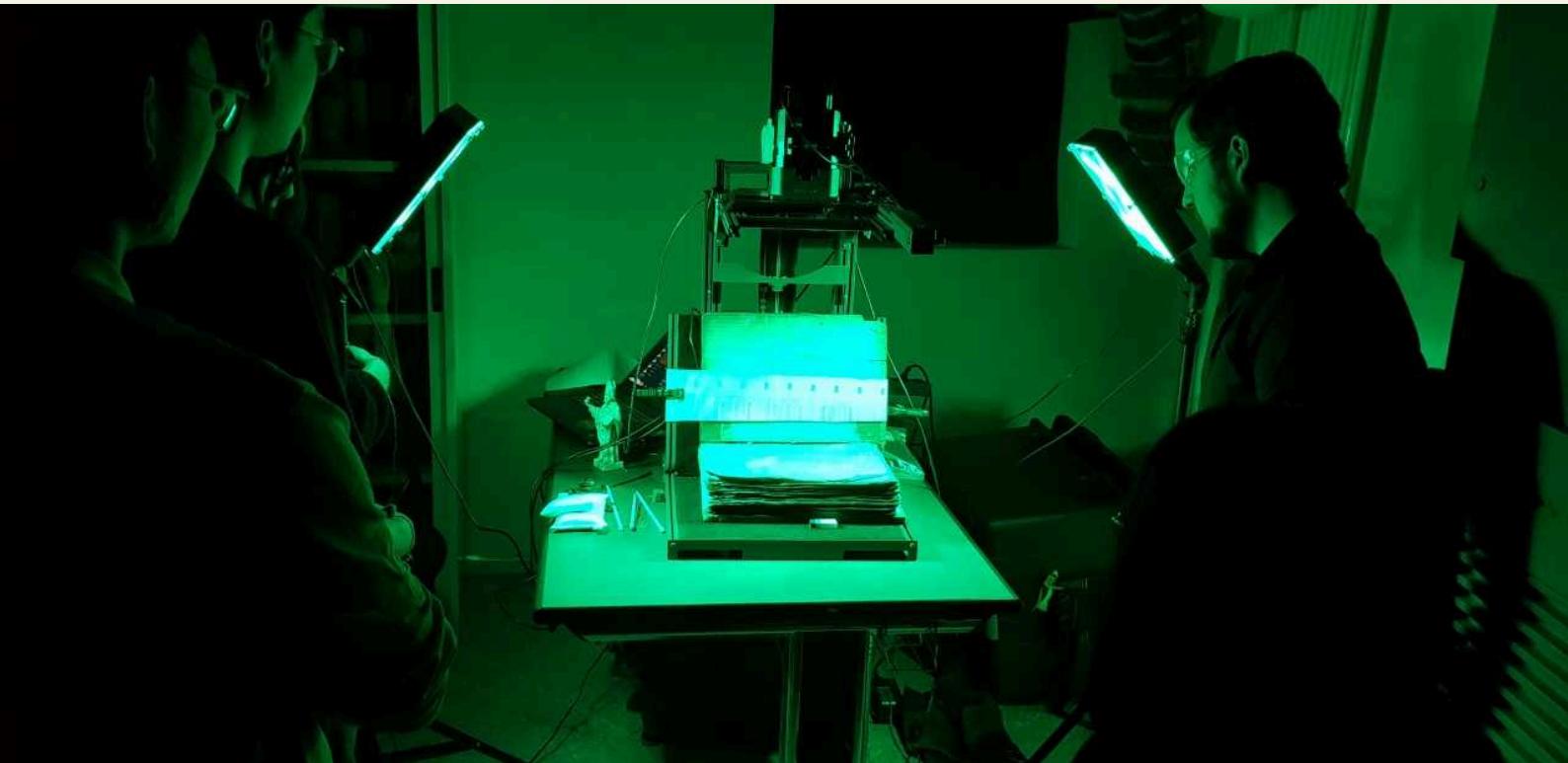
Kulturwissenschaftliches Zentrum
Heinrich-Düker-Weg 14, 37073 Göttingen

 **HAB**

Herzog August Bibliothek
Lessingplatz 1, 38304 Wolfenbüttel



The summer school sessions will take place at various locations across the university. Participants are advised to review the schedule prior to the course start and plan sufficient travel time. You can access the university map by scanning the QR code on the left.



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Team and Projects



Founding Director & Lead Instructors



Dr. Anna Dorofeeva Head of Digital Palaeography

✉ anna.dorofeeva@uni-goettingen.de

Anna Dorofeeva is the head of Digital Palaeography at the University of Göttingen Institute for Digital Humanities, Germany. An expert in early medieval history, Latin palaeography, codicology, and compilation/miscellany manuscripts, she completed her PhD on early Latin bestiary manuscripts at the University of Cambridge in 2016. She has held research fellowships at the University of Frankfurt, University College Dublin, Durham University, and the Free University of Berlin.



Dr. Jeremy Thompson Assistant Lecturer

✉ jeremy.thompson@uni-goettingen.de

Jeremy Thompson is a palaeography researcher with the eManuSkript team, focusing on the intellectual history of medieval Europe. He specializes in the spiritual use of musical and arithmetical thinking in the Latin Middle Ages, the spread of Latin New Testament paratexts, the hidden medieval legacy of melancholy and acedia through Romanticism, and the symbolic interplay of head and hand central to today's VR/AR debates. He completed his BA and MA in Classical Philology before receiving his PhD in Medieval History from the University of Chicago in 2014.

Guest Lecturers



Dr. William Duba Research Associate

✉ william.duba@unifr.ch

William Duba is managing editor of the Journal for the Study of Medieval Manuscript Fragments and oversees the e-codices and Fragmentarium platforms. His research focuses on Scotus and medieval Franciscan thought, the history of medieval universities, and Greek–Latin interactions in the Middle Ages. He earned his B.A. at Oberlin College, an M.A. and Ph.D. in History from the University of Iowa, and completed a Habilitation in Philosophy at the University of Fribourg in 2017.



Dr. Evina Stein Postdoctoral Researcher

✉ evina.steinova@gmail.com

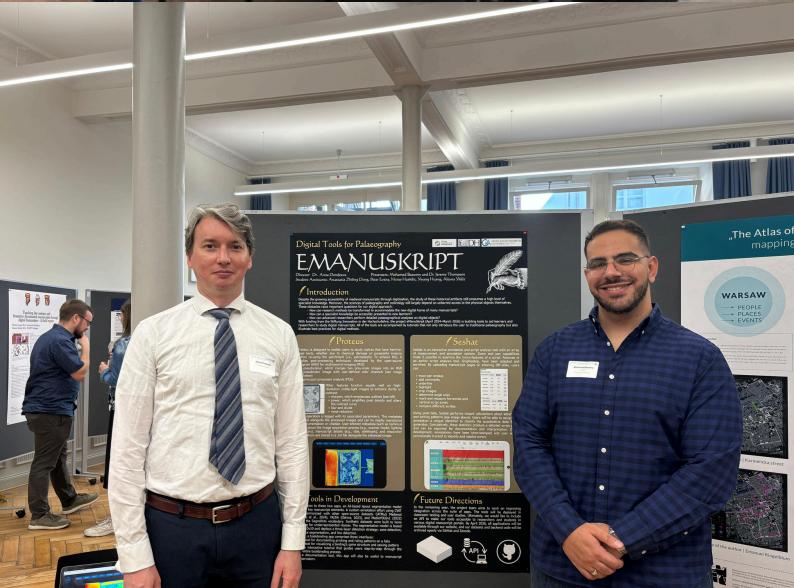
Evina Stein is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Pavia. Her research interests lie in database development, digital editing, network analysis, and computational methods. She studied Classical and Medieval Latin at Masaryk University in Brno and Medieval Studies at Utrecht University, where she also completed her PhD. She spent a year as a Mellon Fellow at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies in Toronto and led a three-year VENI project on Isidore of Seville at the Huygens Institute in Amsterdam.



Digital Palaeography Blog



The Digital Palaeography blog is a collaborative platform authored by students and scholars who have taken part in our semester seminars, spring schools, and summer schools at the Institute for Digital Humanities. It showcases ongoing projects by sharing discoveries and developments with manuscript enthusiasts. We are building user-friendly digital tools to make it easy for anyone to begin their palaeographical explorations. We also welcome summer school participants to contribute their experiences by writing blog posts.



Digital Tools for Palaeography

eManuSkript

Director: Dr. Anna Dorofeeva

Team Leads: Dr. Jeremy Thompson and Mohamed Basuony

Student Assistants: Hasan Aldhahi, Emna Bahr, Anastasia Zhiling Dong, Peter Evans, Nuray Haskilic, Yiyang Huang, Ashina Aleyna Yıldız

Despite the growing accessibility of medieval manuscripts through digitisation, the study of these historical artifacts still presumes a high level of specialist knowledge. Moreover, the sciences of paleography and codicology still largely depend on unbarred access to the physical objects themselves. These obstacles raise important questions for our digital approach:

- How can research methods be transformed to accommodate the new digital home of many manuscripts?
- How can specialist knowledge be accessibly presented to new learners?
- How can advanced researchers perform detailed palaeographical analyses on digital objects?

With funding from the Stiftung Innovation in der Hochschullehre, the project eManuSkript (April 2024–March 2026) is building tools for learners and researchers to study digital manuscripts. All of the tools are accompanied by tutorials that not only introduce the user to traditional palaeography but also illustrate best practices for digital methods.



Proteus

Proteus is designed to enable users to study codices that have hard-to-read texts, whether due to chemical damage or purposeful erasure before re-using the parchment (i.e., palimpsests). To achieve this, it applies post-processing techniques developed by the open-source program HOKU for multispectral imaging (MSI):

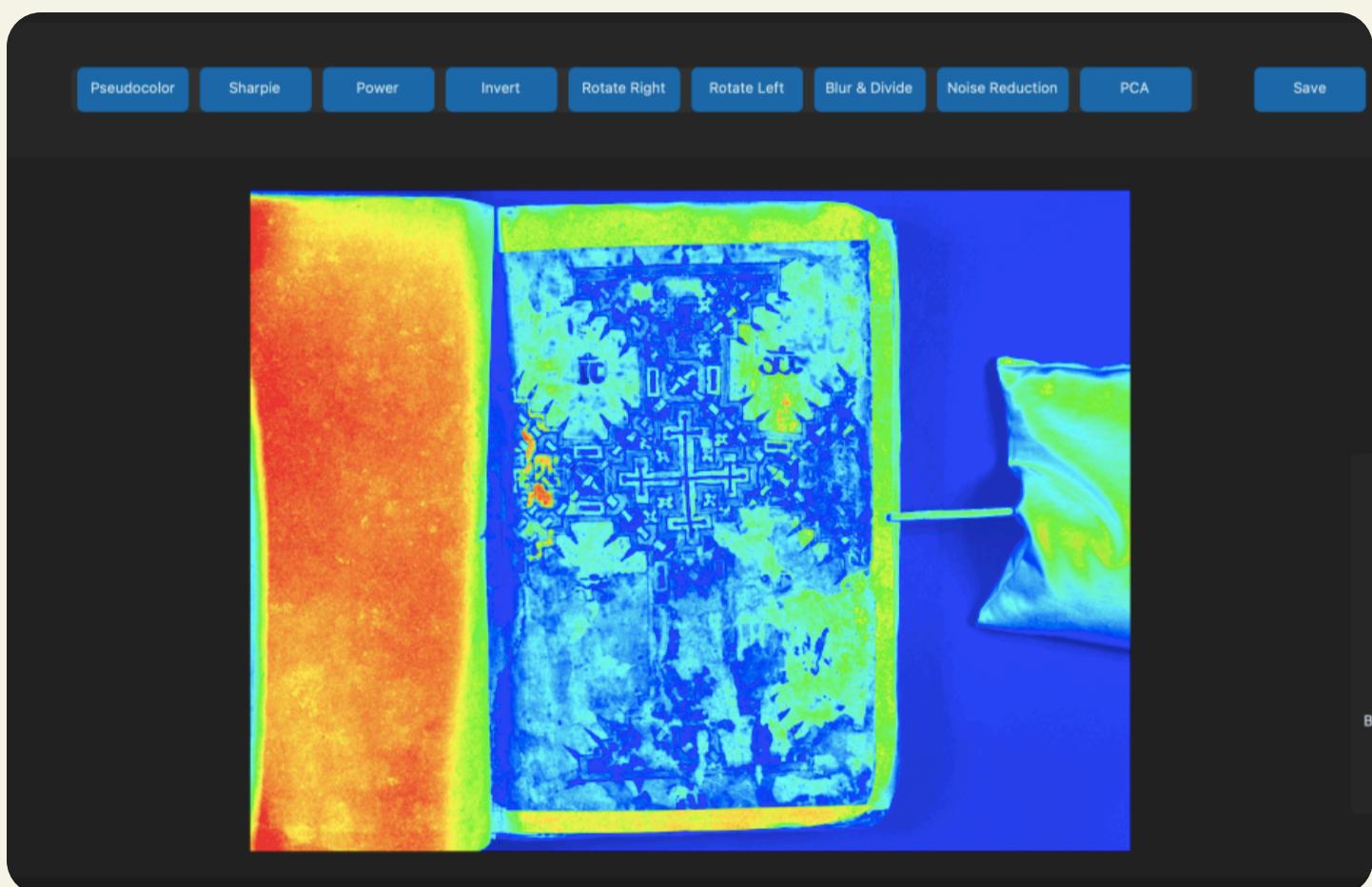
- pseudocolour, which merges two grey-scale images into an RGB pseudocolor image with user-defined color channels (see image below)
- principal component analysis (PCA).



Other features function equally well on high-resolution visible-light images to enhance clarity or contrast:

- sharpen, which emphasizes outlines
- power, which amplifies pixel density and alters the contrast curve
- blur and divide
- noise reduction

Every operation is logged with its associated parameters. This metadata is saved alongside the processed images and can be readily reproduced for documentation or citation. User-entered metadata—such as technical details about the image acquisition process (e.g., scanner model, lighting conditions), manuscript details (e.g., title, shelfmark), and researcher information—are stored in a .txt file alongside the enhanced image.

A screenshot of the Proteus software interface. At the top, there is a toolbar with ten buttons: Pseudocolor, Sharpen, Power, Invert, Rotate Right, Rotate Left, Blur & Divide, Noise Reduction, PCA, and Save. Below the toolbar is a large image window displaying a pseudocolored version of an open manuscript. The image shows the text on both pages in a vibrant, multi-colored format (red, green, blue, yellow) against a black background. The software has a dark-themed interface with a black header and a dark gray background for the main workspace.

Seshat

Seshat is an interactive annotation and script analysis tool with an array of measurement and annotation options. Zoom and pan capabilities make it possible to examine the micro-features of a script. Features in an earlier script analysis tool, Graphoskop, have been adapted and enriched. By uploading manuscript pages or entering IIIF-links, users can: trace pen strokes, add comments, underline highlight, crop images & determine angle sizes, mark and measure horizontal and vertical script zones, compare different scribes.

Using pixel data, Seshat performs instant calculations about letterforms and writing patterns (see image above). Users will be able to assign each annotation a unique identifier to classify the quantitative data Seshat generates. Cumulatively, these statistics produce a detailed script profile and can be exported for documentation and interpretation. During development, annotations have been time-stamped and user actions provisionally tracked to identify and resolve errors.

Statistics			
Horizontal Lengths			
Measurement	Average	Standard Deviation	Mode
ascenders	13.50	0.50	No mode
descenders	13.50	2.50	No mode
interlinear	41.00	2.83	43.00
upperMargin	103.00	0.00	No mode
lowerMargin	76.00	0.00	No mode
lineHeight	41.33	1.25	No mode

Vertical Lengths			
Measurement	Average	Standard Deviation	Mode
internalMargin	164.00	0.00	No mode
intercolumnSpaces	21.00	1.00	No mode

The screenshot shows the Seshat interface with a manuscript page. The top navigation bar includes: a logo, 'Highlight', 'Underline', 'Comment', 'Trace', 'Measure Angle', 'Horizontal Bands', 'Vertical Bands', 'Crop', 'Generate Statistics', 'Save', and 'Clear'. Below the navigation is a search bar with 'Page: 1 / 1'. The manuscript page features several horizontal bands of different colors (teal, green, brown, purple, orange) with annotations: 'upperMargin: 99px', 'ascenders: 28px', 'internalMargin: 178px', 'ascenders: 28px', 'lineHeight: 68px', and 'interlinear: 36px'. The text in the manuscript is in a cursive script, and the background is a textured parchment.

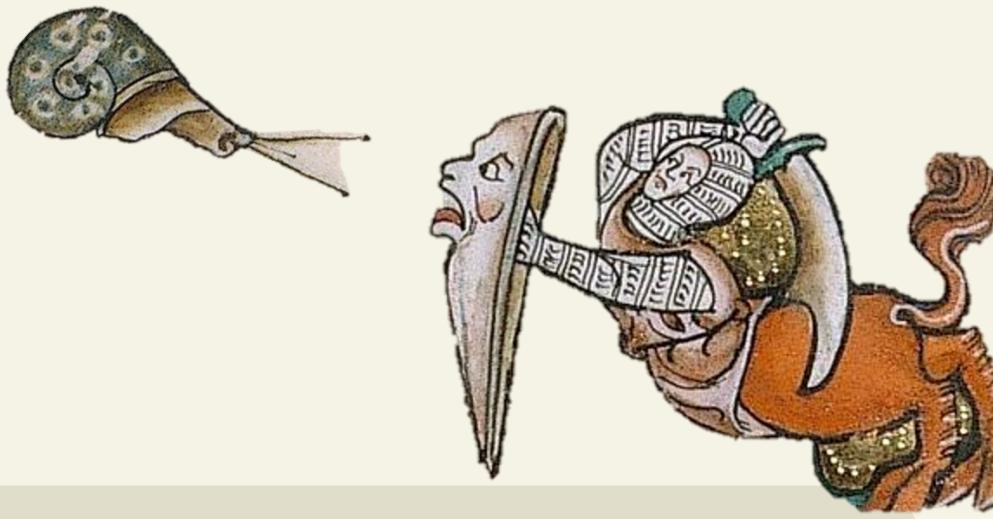
02

Course Schedule

*Littera me pavit nec quid sit littera novi:
In libris vixi nec sum studiosior inde;
Exedi Musas nec adhuc tamen ipsa profeci.*



Course Schedule



Sunday 10.08.2025



Upon Arrival

Once you arrive in Göttingen, you can reach the accommodations by taking bus 180 or enjoying a 10-minute walk.

Campus Apartments Fabrikweg 2A, 37075 Göttingen



Welcome dinner at 19:00

Kartoffelhaus Goethe-Allee 8, 37073 Göttingen

The participants will be split into two groups to attend both sessions.

Monday 11.08.2025

09:15-9:30 IfDH	Introduction to the Course and Welcome Dr. Anna Dorofeeva, Lecturer in Digital Palaeography, & team
10:00-11:30 SUB	Introduction to the Göttingen State and University Library Dr. Mona Kirsch, Deputy Head of Special Collections 
11:30-13:00 SUB	Introduction to the Conservation Department Cornelia Ripplinger, Head of Conservation 
14:30-16:30 IfDH	“Getting to know you” Presentations Each participant to present themselves to the group.

Tuesday 12.08.2025

09:00-10:30 IfDH	Introduction to Palaeography and Capital Scripts Dr. Jeremy Thompson
10:45-12:15 IfDH	Old and New Roman Cursive Dr. Jeremy Thompson
13:45-15:15 SUB	Introduction to Multispectral Imaging Dr. Alexander Zawacki, Imaging Scientist 
15:15-17:00 SUB	Personal Manuscript Research Dr. Anna Dorofeeva 

 The participants will be split into two groups to attend both sessions

Wednesday 13.08.2025

09:00-10:30 IfDH	Uncial and Half-Uncial Dr. Jeremy Thompson
10:45-12:15 IfDH	Cataloguing Medieval Manuscript Dr. Tom Hall, Project Associate
13:45-15:15 SUB	Fragmentology Dr. Anna Dorofeeva
15:30-17:00 SUB	Fragmentology Dr. Anna Dorofeeva

Thursday 14.08.2025

09:00-10:30 IfDH	Network Analysis Dr. Evina Stein
10:45-12:15 IfDH	Network Analysis Dr. Evina Stein
13:45-15:15 IfDH	Working with Digital Images Dr. William Duba
15:30-17:00 IfDH	Working with Digital Images Dr. William Duba

 The participants will be split into two groups to attend both sessions

Friday 15.08.2025

09:00-10:30 IfDH	Introduction to Codicology Dr. Anna Dorofeeva and Cornelia Ripplinger, Head of Conservation
10:45-12:15 IfDH	Practical Codicology Dr. Anna Dorofeeva and Cornelia Ripplinger, Head of Conservation
13:45-15:15 SUB	Book Binding Cornelia Ripplinger, Head of Conservation 
15:30-17:00 SUB	Digital Microscopy Dr. Alexander Zawacki, Imaging Scientist 

Monday 18.08.2025

Trip to Wolfenbüttel

We will travel to Wolfenbüttel by train from Göttingen Hauptbahnhof. The exact gathering time will be announced on Signal during the program.

10:00-12:00 HAB	Tour of the Library and Digitisation Studio Dr. Christian Heitzmann, Head of the Manuscript Department
12:00-13:00 HAB	Presentation of Projects in Wolfenbüttel Dr. Christian Heitzmann, Head of the Manuscript Department
14:15-17:00 HAB	Work in the Manuscript Reading Room Participants will have the opportunity to write original fragment descriptions for publication on Fragmentarium

Tuesday 19.08.2025

09:00-10:30 IfDH	Palaeography and the Visual Cortex Dr. Anna Dorofeeva
10:45-12:15 IfDH	Working with IIIF Dr. Anna Dorofeeva
13:45-15:15 SUB	Image Post-Processing Dr. Alexander Zawacki, Imaging Scientist
15:30-17:00 SUB	Image Post-Processing Dr. Alexander Zawacki, Imaging Scientist

Wednesday 20.08.2025

09:00-10:30 IfDH	Alemannic Script Dr. Jeremy Thompson
10:45-12:15 IfDH	Carolingian Script Dr. Jeremy Thompson
13:45-15:15 SUB	Insular Script Prof. Winfried Rudolf
15:30-17:00 SUB	Insular Script Prof. Winfried Rudolf

Thursday 21.08.2025

9:00-10:30 IfDH	TEI XML: Principles and Practice in Digital Texts Dr. Paul Langeslag
10:45-12:15 IfDH	TEI XML: Principles and Practice in Digital Texts Dr. Paul Langeslag
13:45-15:15 IfDH	Merovingian Script Dr. Jeremy Thompson
15:30-17:00 IfDH	Visigothic and Beneventan Scripts Dr. Jeremy Thompson

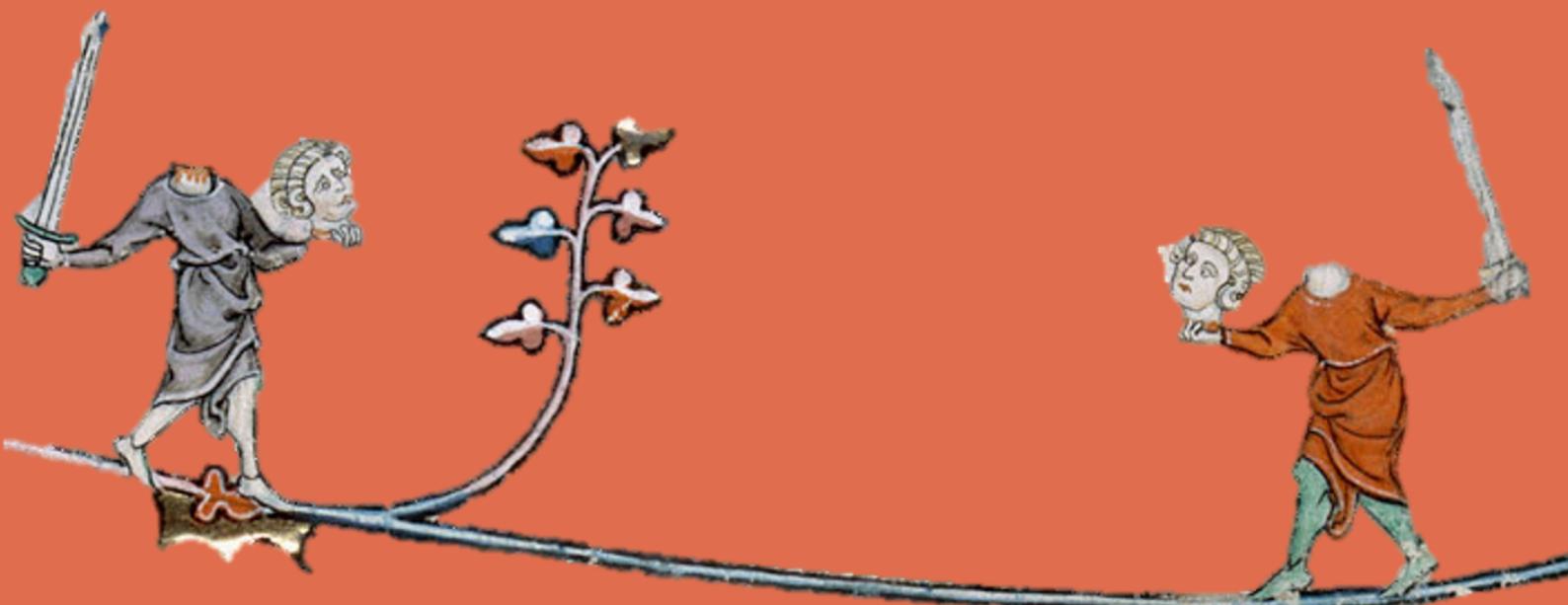
Friday 22.08.2025

09:00 - 10:30 IfDH	Image Annotation and Segmentation Dr. Jeremy Thompson and Mohamed Basuony, Research Assistant
10:45 - 12:15 IfDH	Image Annotation and Segmentation Dr. Jeremy Thompson and Mohamed Basuony, Research Assistant
13:45 - 15:15 IfDH	Manuscript Annotation Hackathon Dr. Anna Dorofeeva with Student Assistants Yiyang Huang and Ashina Aleyna Yıldız
15:30 - 17:00 IfDH	Manuscript Annotation Hackathon Dr. Anna Dorofeeva with Student Assistants Yiyang Huang and Ashina Aleyna Yıldız



03

Farewell



Studium palaeographiae hac aestate in Universitate Gottingensi optimum est.

Survey and Feedback



Link to the survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdDHO6Csu3hxz_y8xVoWK6XUdM8P6xw5xaKp1pBWdWjC_Qxdw/viewform?usp=header

Your insights can help us improve the program and give future applicants a clearer picture of what to expect.

Interested in Writing a Blog Post?

We would love to hear from you!

Share your experience of this summer school: what did you learn, what stood out, and what made it meaningful for you?

Please send your draft to student assistant Anastasia Zhiling Dong (zhi-ling.dong@uni-goettingen.de).





Designed by Anastasia Zhiling Dong