

PHD STUDENT IN THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL – CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Position: PhD student in literary studies

Unit of the project realization: Faculty of Humanities – University of Silesia in Katowice

Unit realizing the PhD student education: Doctoral School at the University of Silesia in Katowice

The successful candidate will prepare a doctoral thesis on Byzantine cultural entomology and more precisely on the transformation on ancient entomological heritage. They will also take part in preparing, together with the PhD advisor, prof. Przemysław Marciniak, a dictionary of Byzantine insects.

Research will be carried out in the frame of the project “Byzantine cultural entomology: Transformation of the Ancient Heritage (5th-15th centuries)” NCN Preludium Bis 2021/43/O/HS2/00280 under management of Prof. Dr. Przemysław Marciniak.

Duration of the scholarship: 48 months

Scholarship amount: 5000 PLN (for the first 24 months), 6000 PLN (for the last 24 months)

Project description:

While the “animal turn” has not been overlooked in Byzantine studies, it has certainly not attracted the same level of attention there as it has in classics and western medieval studies. More specifically, one group of living creatures remains particularly neglected by Byzantine scholars: insects (ancient, late antique, and medieval entomology entails the study of “insects,” but ancient and medieval taxonomies are not consistent with a modern Linnaean system of classification). Even though, as confirmed by Byzantine writers throughout centuries, creepy-crawlers were (very much unwanted) part of everyday life, they did not attract the attention of scholars. Therefore, this project intends to explore Byzantine cultural entomology. Cultural entomology focuses on the influence of insects and other terrestrial arthropods in literature, language, music, the arts, history, etc. This project will explore a change in metaphorical meanings of insects as the Greek world shifted from a classical to a Christian worldview. In other words, it will investigate how Byzantine writers used insect imagery to promote their own, Christian agenda. For instance, leech could signify the Devil; silkworms were

used as symbols of resurrection due to their ability to transform into moths. The successful candidate will also take part in preparing a first draft of the “insect dictionary” (ByzIns) which will record various instances of using insect imagery in Byzantine literature.

Requirements:

1. MA/MPhil diploma in Classics/History/Byzantine studies
2. Knowledge of ancient Greek
3. Fluency in English

Required documents:

1. Motivation list with a description of the scientific interests
2. CV
3. List of scientific publications
4. Copy of the MA/MPhil diploma

Candidates should register in IRK system and select „Doctoral School – admission to a grant“.

Documents should be delivered until **31.08.2022** to an e-mail: **przemyslaw.marciniak@us.edu.pl**

In case of any questions, before the formal application please contact to the grant leader for the e-mail address given above.

Documents will be rated by the commission, led by the project leader. Admission will be carried out according to the NCN regulations. Admission can be carried out both in Polish and in English. Meeting will be organized on **September, 12 ???** on-line. Final decision will be sent to candidates via e-mail till **September, 15**.