

**Kontakt:**

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## Middle English Texts – The York Corpus Christi Plays

From the late 14th century until at least 1569, annual performances of a cycle of mystery plays took place in York. Staging and financing were the responsibility of the city's craft guilds. The episodes were staged on pageant wagons that followed a preset route through the city, each stopping at some 12 stations to perform its play. All biblical in content and serving what we would call 'infotainment', the whole York cycle of plays encompasses the medieval Christian view on the history of the world, from the Fall of the Angels to the Last Judgment.

MA-students will present the results of their close reading and linguistic analysis of the following guilds and plays: "*The Playsterers*" (The Creation), "*The Parchemyngers and Bokebynders*" (Abraham and Isaac), "*The Cordewaners*" (The Agony in the Garden and the Betrayal), and "*The Pynners*" (The Crucifixion), exploring the plays' word fields, pronouns, paradigms, different spellings, and sound patterns. In effect, the investigations demonstrate the relevance of such a close linguistic reading by pointing at universal and general linguistic processes of language change.

The cycle as such and the chosen plays will be explained; video clips of the revived 2010 performance in York may serve for illustration.

So, as one soldier in The York Play of the Crucifixion says, "Panne is goode tyme þat we begynne."

**Zeit: Donnerstag, 07. Juli 2011, 19.00 Uhr**

**Ort : GWZ, Raum 4.315**

Leitung: Dr. Sylvia Reuter

Alle Interessenten sind herzlich eingeladen!