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HERMES

Hermeneutic Exempla:

Retracing Medieval Exegetic Strategies

Austrian Science Fund (FWF)

Stand-Alone Project
10.55776/PAT1459224

Budget
656,226.00 Euro

Duration
2026–2031

Principle Investigator
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Mario Klarer

The *Gesta Romanorum*: This compilation is one of the most popular literary texts of the Middle Ages. It contains 240 exempla – stories or parables with allegorical meaning.

Legacy: The *Gesta Romanorum* inspired authors from William Shakespeare to Thomas Mann and has survived in hundreds of manuscripts – the oldest being housed in the University Library of Innsbruck, Austria.

Hermeneutics and Exegesis: The art of interpretation is at the heart of the *Gesta Romanorum*. Each of its unusual stories is coupled with a Christian moralizing explanation.

Interpretive narratology: The project analyzes the allegorical explanations of the *Gesta Romanorum* to establish “historical interpretive narratology” as a new discipline.

Editions: The Latin version of the *Gesta Romanorum* was translated immediately into English and German. The project prepares two critical editions of the oldest Latin and vernacular manuscripts for the first time.

