



Petra Mutlová
(Masaryk University, Brno)

Jan Hus and Recommendation Speeches at Medieval Prague University

Was Jan Hus a mediocre theologian but a gifted preacher? Was he a tedious writer but an inspiring teacher? How well do we know his Latin writings? This lecture will address several questions related to Hus's literary activity. As the main representative and indeed the symbol of the 15th-century Bohemian Reformation, Hus's destiny is well known. His works, however, are a different story.



Between 1398 and 1410, Hus authored and delivered about two dozen university sermons, student recommendations and rector's positions in Prague. These texts show that Hus was not only a successful critic of the morals of the clergy but also an engaged and witty teacher. In this talk I will present Hus's academic speeches in detail, illustrating the colourfulness of Hussite literature. As will be shown, the literary production of the Hussite period – traditionally considered to have been in decline as opposed to the progressive tendencies of contemporary European literatures – still awaits an unbiased and contextual appraisal.