



HISTORY OF SCIENCE IN THE MEDIEVAL WORLD SUMMER SCHOOL ЛЯТНА ШКОЛА ПО ИСТОРИЯ НА НАУКАТА В СРЕДНОВЕКОВНИЯ СВЯТ

organized by University of Veliko Tarnovo “Sts. Cyril and Methodius” with
Academic Theatre Ikaros, in cooperation with
the International Summer Seminar in Bulgarian Language and Culture

Pilot edition: **18–22 July 2022**, Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria

Format: The morning **lecture** sessions will be conducted in a **hybrid** way, whereas the afternoon **workshops**, Covid-permitting, will be **in person**.

Web: <https://www.uni-vt.bg/eng/pages/?page=5928&zid=144>

Organizers

Dr **Divna Manolova** (Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science); Associate Professor **Nikolay Kanev** (Department of History, University of Veliko Tarnovo “Sts. Cyril and Methodius”); Professor Dr **Dimitar Dimitrov** (Department of History, University of Veliko Tarnovo “Sts. Cyril and Methodius”); Associate Professor **Angel Nikolov** (Department of History, Sofia University “St. Kliment of Ohrid”).

Summer School Philosophy and Vision

The School studies the wider medieval world of Afro-Eurasia and aims to shed light on Byzantium and the Slavonic world, and their intellectual heritage as agents in the development of medieval science, which, though significant, nevertheless remain largely unknown to the scholarly community. Even though current scholarship is focused on the so-called ‘Global Medieval’, the medieval Slavonic, Byzantine and Black Sea regions remain a blind spot for both the researchers and the general public outside of Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe. Thus, the School aims at positioning Byzantium and the Slavonic world on the map of history of medieval science, thus offering the participants the rare opportunity to get acquainted with their respective heritage.

In its pilot edition, the Summer School will problematize the medieval manuscript and approach it as a space and as a territory. Building upon this conceptual premise, the School will also introduce students to the medieval epistemic fields (sciences) which study the natural world (the *kosmos*) as a space, namely geography, cosmography and astronomy. Students will acquire fundamental knowledge concerning the place and role of the sciences in the intellectual world of the Middle Ages. They will also develop an understanding of premodern science as a spectrum of disciplines wider than the late antique framework of the four mathematical

sciences (arithmetic, music, geometry, and astronomy) and inclusive of all epistemic domains dedicated to the intellectual exploration of the natural world (the *kosmos*) and of humanity. The School relies on a discussion-based and experiential / experimental format. That is, the School includes workshops, which will guide the students into the use of medieval instruments and maps as preserved in the surviving manuscripts.

The common discussion language of the School will be **English**.

If the participants know a medieval scholarly language (for this pilot edition: Latin, Greek and/or Old Church Slavonic, but in the future also Persian, Arabic, Chinese, Classical Armenian, and so forth), this would be an advantage, but it is not an essential requirement for participation.

During the selection process, preference will be given to **MA and PhD students**, but researchers with interest in the Middle Ages and / or History of Science can also apply.

Available places: The School offers **twelve places** for in-person participants wishing to attend both the morning (lectures) and afternoon (workshops) sessions.

There is no limit for the number of online participants, but their registration is restricted solely to the morning sessions.

We cannot offer any financial support to cover travel and accommodation expenses.

There is no registration fee.

In order to apply, please send a **short bio** and **description** of what **motivates** your application (maximum **one page** altogether). Please indicate in your application whether you would like to attend the Summer School in person or online.

Please address your informal inquiries and your application materials to Dr Divna Manolova at dvmanolova@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de.

Application Deadline: 29 April 2022.

SCHEDULE

Morning Sessions: 11:00–13:00 EEST

Afternoon Sessions: 15:30–17:30 EEST

All morning sessions have a hybrid format. The afternoon sessions will be held in person (with the exception of the hybrid workshop led by Rosa M. Rodríguez Porto) and will include practical exercises.

18 July 2022, Monday Morning

Rosa M. Rodríguez Porto (online): *Images as Cognitive Tools in Medieval Manuscripts*

Hanna Vorholt (online): *World Maps in the ‘Global’ Middle Ages*

18 July 2022, Monday Afternoon

Workshop with **Rosa M. Rodríguez Porto**: *Medieval Scientific Miscellanies: A User’s Manual*

By leafing through the pages of three medieval scientific miscellanies, we will try to understand how some “technologies of the page” were developed in the Middle Ages and how medieval readers interacted with these manuscripts and their illustrations.

19 July 2022, Tuesday Morning

Chiara D’Agostini, *Byzantine Geography, or a Matter of Definitions and Boundaries*

Aneta Dimitrova, *Scientific Language in Medieval Bulgaria*

19 July 2022, Tuesday Afternoon

Chiara D’Agostini, *“Representing the Earth”: From Texts to Maps and Vice Versa*

Workshop with geographical maps: we will understand first how to draft a map in accordance with the instructions of the source text (e.g. Ptolemy’s list of place names and the different projections used to represent the world), thus appreciating the process a medieval scribe had to go through. Second, we will discuss how to approach and read a medieval geographical map starting from a few Byzantine examples.

20 July 2022, Wednesday Morning

Angel Nikolov, *Worldview and Geographical Knowledge among the Orthodox Slavs (9th–14th Centuries)*

Dimitar Dimitrov, *Magic and Magical Practices in Byzantium*

20 July 2022, Wednesday Afternoon

Workshop with **Aneta Dimitrova**, *What is This? (“Scientific” Description in the Medieval Bulgarian Literature)*

We will read and translate short Old Church Slavonic definitions or descriptions from the scientific literature (of the human body, of animals and celestial bodies, etc.), trying to guess the described object. We will discuss the use of *termini technici*, borrowed terms and Slavic vocabulary. All the texts will be provided with an English translation.

21 July 2022, Thursday Morning

Paul Magdalino, *Science Fiction in Byzantine Historiography and Exegesis*

Divna Manolova, *To Imagine and Calculate the Cosmos: An Introduction to the Byzantine Astronomical Tradition*

21 July 2022, Thursday Afternoon

Calculating the Medieval Cosmos: Workshop with **Divna Manolova** on using a medieval portable sundial and a medieval astrolabe. With the help of both paper instruments and diagrams preserved in Late Byzantine manuscripts, the participants will familiarize themselves with the construction of both instruments and will practice performing elementary calculations, such as determining the precise time of sunrise and sunset.

22 July 2022, Friday. Excursion / Departure

Optional excursion lead by Angel Nikolov to **Hotalich** (<http://www.hotalich.bg/>).