

Dicta mea sunt dicta patrum.

In the 11th and 12th centuries, there was an unprecedented awakening in the world of Benedictine monasteries: Bernard of Clairvaux, Peter the Venerable, and others struggled for the correct interpretation of the Rule of Benedict. New associations emerged within Benedictine monasticism: Gorze and Cluny suddenly belonged to the old reformers, and the Cistercians referred to the common patristic tradition.

The resulting debates about the correct historical hermeneutics had an impact far beyond the boundaries of Benedictine monasticism, shaping biblical exegesis and playing a decisive role in determining the relationship to one's own past.

This connection has been extensively researched with regard to France. However, there are only a few studies on monasteries in what is now Germany and Poland. A comprehensive perspective has never been ventured, but is certainly worthwhile not only for understanding Benedictine monasticism, but also in the context of the long-standing debates on the relationship to one's own past in Germany and Poland, which continue to shape the present.

Information

Conference location

Faculty of Protestant Theology
Seminar Room 1
Liebermeisterstraße 18
Tuebingen Germany

Date

04.–05.09.2026

Registration

For registration please contact Dr. Jan Reitzner (jan.reitzner@uni-tuebingen.de).

Contact:

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Bebenhausen Abbey (1683), Andreas Kieser.

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Using Patristic Literature for the Reform of Benedictine Monasticism during the 11th and 12th Centuries.

Friday, 04.09.26

- 09:15 Arrival and registration
- 09:30 Opening and introduction
- 09:50 **Prof. Dr. Stanisław Adamiak** (Toruń)
Pre-Benedictine Roots of Western Monasticism
- 10:30 **Dr. Jerzy Szafranowski** (Warsaw)
Why Early Medieval Monastic Rules Flourished in the Central Middle Ages Despite Their Silence on the Frequency of Mass
- 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:30 **Dr. Tomasz Dalewski** (Warsaw)
Abbots, Tyrants, and Carolingian Monastic Reform: The Notion of Tyranny and Its Sources in the Gesta abbatum Fontanellensium
- 12:00 **Antoni Żrebiec** (Warsaw)
The Silent Chant. The Reception of Pseudo-Dionysius in Latin Monasticism in the 10th and 11th Centuries
- 12:30 Lunch at the University
- 13:45 **Dr. Jan Reitzner** (Tuebingen)
The Verba Seniorum as a common source of authority in the 12th century
- 14:15 **Graeme Ward** (Tuebingen)
Hunc libellum collegi ex sanctorum scriptis. Honorius Augustodunensis, Amalarius of Metz, and the Boundaries of Patristic Authority
- 14:45 **Derek Benson** (Tuebingen)
Interpreting Labor Manuum: Lay Brothers and the Evolution of Cistercian Reform Ideology
- 15:15 Coffee break
- 15:30 **Samuel Schatz** (Tuebingen)
The Conservative Reform. A Clerical Perspective from Olomouc
- 16:00 **Dr. Tomasz Mantyk** (Toruń)
Benedictine miracle stories from Poland

- 16:30 **Dr. David Burkhart Janssen** (Tuebingen)
Walking tour through medieval Tuebingen
- 18:00 **Prof. Dr. Agnieszka Kijewska** (Lublin)
John of Fécamp quasi "alter Augustinus?" Augustinian Motives in the Confessio Theologica
- 19:00 Evening meal in Tuebingen

Saturday, 05.09.26

- 09:15 Arrival
- 09:30 **Karolina Białas** (Warsaw)
Benedict in the Eyes of Gregory: The influence of Gregory the Great on the Works of Abbo of Fleury in the Context of the Tenth-Century Monastic Reform
- 10:00 **Dr. Christoph Haack** (Tuebingen)
The Authority of Martyrdom: Aimo's Vita Abbonis (c. 1005).
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 11:00 **Dr. Miłosz Sosnowski** (Poznań)
Toward the Glorious Dead End: Bruno of Querfurt's Monastic Project and its Patristic Authorities
- 11:30 **Maksymilian Sas** (Warsaw)
Petre, amas me? Pasce oves meas!: The Activities of Bruno of Querfurt and Other Early Medieval Monk-Missionaries in the Light of Patristic Exegetical Commentaries
- 12:00 Lunch at the Faculty
- 13:00 Excursion to Bebenhausen
- 17:00 **Prof. Dr. Christian V. Witt** (Tuebingen)
Dicta mea sunt dicta Sanctorum. Reflections on the legitimising interests behind the Legenda Aurea
- 18:00 Plenary Discussion: Closing remarks.
- 19:30 Conference Dinner

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