

Wim Verbaal

Wilhelmus Marinus Verbaal, 27-07-1960

Affiliatie

Universiteit Gent

Vakgroep Letterkunde: Latijn

Privé

Kongostraat 26

9000 Gent

Tel: 09.264.40.38

gsm: 0479.831.613

Mail: Wim.Verbaal@UGent.be

<https://research.flw.ugent.be/en/wim.verbaal>

<https://ugent.academia.edu/WimVerbaal>

<https://www.ugent.be/pirenne/en>

<https://relicsresearch.com>

Orcid: [0000-0002-5059-2169](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5059-2169)



PROFILE

Latinist and cultural scholar from the perspective of Latin as a European Language and Literature with experience in international and cross-disciplinary collaboration. I may state that I have a strong sense of responsibility and a very great sense of integrity, both as a scholarly and as a person.

EDUCATION

Relevant academic grades.

<i>year</i>	<i>diplom</i>	<i>institution</i>	<i>grade</i>
2000	PhD Language and Literature: Latin and Greek	Ghent University	summa cum laude
1992	Diplôme européen d'études médiévales (60 ECTS)	Fédération internationale des études médiévales (FIDEM) / Università della Sapienza di Roma	not applicable
1991	Masters in Classical Philology (120 ECTS)	National University of Ghent	summa cum laude

PROFESSIONAL

Last academic functions.

<i>years</i>	<i>function</i>	<i>institute</i>	<i>content</i>
2011-	Associate Professor(100%)	Ghent University	Field of Latin Language and Literature
2006-2011	Assistent Professor (100%)	Ghent University	Field of Latin Language and Literature

LANGUAGES

Active skills:

Dutch	Mother tongue	
French	Excellent	Speaking skill on academic level; Writing skill good
German	Excellent	Speaking and Writing skill almost level of second language
English	Excelent	Speaking and Writing skill on academic level
Italian	Very Good	Speaking skill very good; Writing skill good

Passive skills:

Spanish	Smooth	Reading skills without problems
Latin	Excellent	
Old Greek	Very good	Reading skills without problems

I have experience in academic teaching on Latin in English, French and Italian. My publications are in Dutch, English, French, German.

RESEARCH

My publications show the accents in my research. Bernard of Clairvaux was the starting point, together with the impact he had on the political, intellectual, spiritual, architectural, musical and artistic fields. As he did not write any poetry I was directed towards a broader view on Latin and literary poetics of the 12th century and the period before, which opened my interest in the dialogues between Latin and the national languages. This inter-literary and inter-medium aspect became central to my research focus and forms the foundation for more recent research on the question why writers should make the choice for Latin or for their other tongue (Milton, Holberg) and what may be the consequences of the co-existence of literature in Latin and in the mother tongue (fiction). I always tried to link these elements to the aesthetic fields to which Latin belonged (Trachtenberg's Building-in-Time to understand the poetry of Alain of Lille; Carolingian classicism in architecture and poetry).

In my research I attain high importance to interdisciplinary collaboration, such as I came to value in the context of *Interfaces* with historians, art historians, literary scholars of divergent literatures (<https://riviste.unimi.it/interfaces/index>) and in that of *Topos and Topography* with historians, historians of architecture, literary scholars of different periods

(http://www.isvroma.it/public/New/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=331&Itemid=238).

Besides, I see it as an important task to support and accompany younger scholars. I consider the foundation by my PhD students of the international research group RELICS (<https://relicsresearch.com>) with an own online journal JOLCEL (<https://jolcel.ugent.be>) as one of my more important achievements.

For the moment, I try to finish a monography on the Loire poets (end 11th century) and prepare another monography on the cosmopolitan interest of Latin literature in Europe.

TEACHING

A survey of my entire teaching experience shows the broad spectrum of my expertise and that I am not afraid of the load this entails: from 2005 to 2009 my teaching involved an average of 17 hours a week! For those starting their Latin education, I developed a proper reading method, the positional method that was elaborated in collaboration with Kristien Hulstaert and starts to be introduced in secondary schools in the Netherlands and Flanders (<https://www.kdg.be/latijn-lezen>). The method has become the subject of specific didactical studies in the Netherlands. For the undergraduates and graduates, my teaching takes the form of research seminars and offers insight in current research at Ghent University. This means that the topic may change every year. As far as possible I try to involve PhD students in these courses, thus combining their coaching with the responsibility of the course itself. In Ba3, the students have to prepare a teaching course as given and expected in secondary schools, while in the MA the students conclude the course by giving a poster presentation on the topic of their dissertation. They are evaluated by their and my colleagues. It may be clear that teaching is to my opinion a fundamental part of the academic vocation.

ACADEMICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICE

I have always been involved in the administration of the Faculty of Arts, first as a representative of the assisting academic employees, later as a professor. In 2014, however, I consciously left all my administrative tasks as a protest against the neoliberal politics of university and faculty, because of the manifold intellectual and human abuses it introduced. I kept myself informed on the strategies and politics and have never refused to intervene as in a campaign against incorrect co-publications or misuse of authority. My action made the Department of Literary Studies adopt a charter against possible abuses.

As an academician, I think one is responsible to make the results of one's research known also outside Academia. As such I am often asked to give courses or lectures on Bernard of Clairvaux and other topics concerning my domains, to be member of editorial boards of non-scholarly journals, to give advice to people working in the cultural sector (theatre makers, writers, exposition makers...) and to write in newspapers or journals. I am president of a committee in Ghent, organizing papers and conferences for a broad public on divergent actual topics and from different points of view.

PUBLICATIONS

A diversified selection from my more recent publications:

- "*Discretionis libra* (With the Scales of Discernment): Allegorical Writing and the Concealment of etymologia." In *Etymology and Wordplay in Medieval Literature*. Ed. Mikael Males. Turnhout: Brepols. *Disputatio* 30. [2018]. 41-68. (in press)
- "Europa's droom. Koen Ottenheym & Karl Enekel, *Oudheid als ambitie*; Krishan Kumar, *Visions of Empire*; Mariëtte Haverman & Annemiek Overbeek, *Het reizende detail*." In *De Nederlandse Boekengids* 2 (2018): 32-33.
- "Voicing your Voice: The Fiction of a Life. Early 12th-century letter collections and the case of Bernard of Clairvaux." *Interfaces* 4. 2017 (<https://riviste.unimi.it/interfaces/issue/view/4>) 103-124.
- "*Vitam carmine dicam*. Re/Writing Saints' Lives in the School of the Loire." *Felici curiositate. Studies in Latin Literature and Textual Criticism from Antiquity to the Twentieth Century, in Honour of Rita Beyers*. Ed. by Guy Guldentops, Christian Laes & Gert Partoens. Turnhout: Brepols. *Instrumenta Patristica et Mediaevalia* 72. 2017. 495-514.
- "*Properas extrorsum introrsus eundo*. Epiek en anti-epiek in de *Ysengrimus*." *Lampas* 49.4, Special issue *Middeleeuws epos*, ed. by Piet Gerbrandy & Christoph Pieper (2016): 378-391.