



Annina Seiler is Research Associate at the English Seminar, University of Zurich. Her general research interests include: history of the English language, Old and Middle English language and literature, the West Germanic languages, orality and literacy in the Middle Ages, the functions of writing and the connections between roman and runic script. Currently, she works on a glossaries and lexicography in the English Middle Ages. In particular, she is interested in the role of English in medieval lexicography and its relation to other languages, most notably Latin and French.

We invite you to an open lecture

by Dr Annina Seiler

(University of Zurich)

on

John of Garland's *Dictionarius*: Learning Latin in the Middle Ages

to be held online on **May 13th 2022 at 3 p.m. CET.**

Everyone can attend, but the number of attendees is limited.

Please register at:

<https://forms.office.com/r/93QMgMzaDF>

John of Garland's *Dictionarius* is a thirteenth-century Latin lexicographic work, which was originally conceived as a tool for teaching Latin through the medium of French. It survives in at least twenty-six manuscript copies disseminated across England and the Continent. The text immediately attracted glosses in other vernacular languages, as is attested in many of the surviving copies. The *Dictionarius* is by no means a dictionary in the regular sense of the word; rather, it presents vocabulary in context. To engage his pupils' interests, John takes them on a virtual walk through Paris and names the different objects one encounters there. Later copyists of the text not only added glosses in different vernacular languages, most notably Middle English, but also adjusted the layout to their different needs. The lecture introduces this engaging text and explores its complex multilingual makeup. It focuses particularly on the different layers of glosses, their functions and their relation to the base text. The text provides insights into medieval language learning and teaching and sheds light on the multilingual textual communities in England and on the Continent.