objective 2 and employing the NOTAE-Database. Starting from the purpose to know 'who drew what', 'when and where', 'how and why', the project aims to historicizing graphic symbols as material traces left by human hands on the border between written and oral culture, educated literacy and poor graphic abilities of illiterates.

Beyond the four objectives mentioned above, significant contributions are expected about two unsolved problems in the specific field of Palaeography: the meaning of the complex graphic symbol, consisting of tachographic notes and crossed lines drawn as interlocking pieces, which appears in the notarial subscriptions of tachographic notes and Tironian notes in the pragmatic literacy of the post-Roman West. The NOTAE project will impact greatly also on the studies in diplomatic semiotics of the high middle Ages; it will make clear the historical background of the symbols of that later period, in which there is no more 'vertical communication' in latin language between literate elites and the illiterates. And finally the NOTAE Database as final result will represent a repository of graphic symbols collected in original documentary sources from Late Antiquity to early Middle Ages: an evidence-based historical and dynamic Atlas of a graphic inheritance from the past, which will be available to all those scholars, who will be somehow interested in these historical objects and in what they can still say as historical sources. NOTAE is an ERC funded Project (ERC-2017 Advanced Grant, n° 786172) hosted in Sapientia University of Rome, Department of 'History Cultures Religions', led by Antonella Ghignoli as Principal Investigator. – Antonella Ghignoli, Università di Roma La Sapienza.

9 Medieval Publishing from c. 1000 to 1500 (ERC Starting Grant project 716538) – The project is setting out to discover how Latin authors in the West published their works during the period from roughly 1000 to 1500. The project is funded by the European Research Council, is based at the University of Helsinki, runs for five years, and will conclude in 2022. Its research hypothesis is that publication strategies were not a constant but were liable to change, and that different literary, social, institutional, and technical milieus fostered different approaches to publishing. That proposition is encapsulated in the different approaches taken by Ralph the Monk, towards the start of our period, and Leonardo Bruni towards the end. Ralph the Monk, an author from Normandy who ended his career in England in the early twelfth century, possessed limited control over the publication of his treatise De poecatore. The work was initially circulated without his permission. When Ralph subsequently reclaimed authorial ownership and formally published the work, publication was a petty event within only a small circle of monks. That experience contrasts profoundly with that of the publication of Hilarianus Florentini Historiae libri XIII by Leonardo Bruni (†1444). Bruni published his work in instalments. These acts constituted grand municipal events, sometimes associated with major civic festivities. So, where publishing might be mainly a semi-private business in the eleventh century, it could be a grand affair in the fifteenth. The act of publishing evolved over time, reacting to changes in the wider world.

We seek to make two contributions. The first concerns the study of Latin literature. The act of publishing completes the authorial process, and if one fails to appreciate that act, one's understanding of the literature from any period will remain defective. The project, therefore, seeks to establish the key parameters for the process of publishing during its medieval period. Our investigations focus on the activities of authors, and secondarily of their circles, as they made preparations for the primary stages of circulation. Our case-studies build on the relevant historical record, text-critical evidence, and the physical evidence of manuscripts. Autograph manuscripts and their primary copies are of especial significance as their combined evidence can reveal physical realities of the act of publication at first-hand. The project's time-frame, c. 1000–1500, is decided in part by the rate of the survival of such manuscripts; only a very few autographs and primary copies by authors' associates survive from the early-medieval period. Furthermore, our time-frame embraces Latin literary culture in its high-medieval maturity and its more complex late-medieval developments, down to the end of the incunable period, to allow some investigation of the ways in which publication strategies were changed by the arrival of print.

Our secondary aim is to complement the perception of societal and cultural changes that took place during the period from c. 1000 and 1500. For the purposes of that undertaking, we define 'publishing' as a social act, involving at least two parties, an author and an audience, not necessarily always brought together. The former prepares a literary work and then makes it available to the latter. Medieval publishing was probably more often a complex process. It could engage more parties than the two, such as commentators, dedications, and commissioners. The social status of these networks ranged from mediocrity to grand. They could consist of otherwise unknown monks; or they could include popes and emperors. We propose that the composition of such literary networks was broadly reactive to large-scale societal and cultural changes. If so, networks of publishing can serve as a vantage point for the observation of continuity and change in medieval societies. We shall identify and analyse publishing networks in various contexts in order to trace how their composition might have reflected the wider world.

The data of publishing networks will be made available in an online database, the working title of which is Medieval Publication Database. This database assembles agents of publishing, predominantly authors, dedicatees, and commissioners, but also other parties, such as commentators and copyists. They are identified by the attributes of name, time, place, social status, and professional and religious affiliation. The time-frame is set to encompass the medieval period in its entirety. The first goal is to include the said data from Britain and Ireland, a distinct geographical whole, whose medieval bibliography has been established in toto with considerable precision and coherence. The database will be searchable by means of the said attributes, providing for statistical analysis of publishing networks.

The project team currently comprises Samu Niinikangas (PI), Jakub Kujawinski, Lauri Leinonen, and Jaakko Tahkokallio. The project website, to which a link to the Medieval Publication Database will be added in due course, can be found at the address https://www.helsinki.fi/en/researchgroups/medieval-publishing. The undersigned will be pleased to respond to any further enquires. – Samu Niinikangas, Associate Professor of Medieval History, University of Helsinki.