

TOWARD A "POSTMODERN" MIDDLE AGES: ON NEW WAYS OF READING OLD TEXTS

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The present article explores the applicability of innovative, postmodern methods for the study of the Middle Ages with reference to the examples provided by the so-called "New Philology" and the first two volumes of Peter Czerwinski's *Habilitationschrift* "Examples from the History of Perception." After a short introduction concerning the necessity, problems and issues of transdisciplinary approaches, the author reports on the two main theses of the "New Philology." These consist of the assumption that, firstly, the question of the medieval author is not justified and that, secondly, every manuscript has equal value in the science of editing. Furthermore, editing according to the principle that some manuscripts are more important than others must be seen as a scientific anachronism; instead, new ways ahead will be forged with studies of the history of textual transmission and new medial techniques. Finally, a transdiscipline approach is demonstrated with the example of Czerwinski's study. This new approach points to the historicity of our modern concept of signs and the aggregative perception of time and space in the Middle Ages. Further, the author highlights the contradictions which Czerwinski's work has uncovered in established research.