

## Digital Philology and Quantitative Criticism of Medieval Literature

### Unconventional Approaches to Medieval Latin Literature II

by Francesco Stella

#### DESCRIPTION:

Building on *The Carolingian Revolution: Unconventional Approaches to Medieval Latin Literature I*, this is the second of two volumes proposing ways of reading medieval Latin texts which, up to now, have had little or no attention within literary studies. This volume is founded on the belief that 'the unprecedented empirical power of digital tools and archives offers a unique chance to rethink the categories of literary study' (F. Moretti).

The book's first section presents cases studies applying 'quantitative' criticism based on the linguistic and stylistic use of frequency wordlists which, thanks to digital tools and to a larger literature, are becoming more easily accessible and more powerful. The chapters of this section lead the reader from an application of stylometry within a traditional critical exercise, via the structured use of frequency indexing as a warning light for cultural or stylistic phenomena undetectable to the naked eye, to more technical corpus analysis experiments based on linguistic evolution or authorship attribution. The second section explores the encoding problems the author has faced when working on the realisation of digital editing projects such as the *Corpus Rhythmorum Musicum*, the *Archivio della Latinità Italiana del Medioevo (ALIM)*, *Lexicon*, and the *Eurasian Latin Archive (ELA)*, and proposes reflections on the typology of digital philological editions.

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