



**Historický ústav AV ČR, v. v. i.**

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Vás srdečně zve na přednášku

**NINON DUBOURG**

***Disability and Religion in the Late Middle Ages  
Giving and Receiving the Sacraments when Disabled***

která proběhne  
na Fakultě humanitních studií UK  
Pátkova 2137/5  
182 00 Praha 8 – Libeň  
**učebna 2.41.**

**8. října 2026 od 16:00 do 17:20 hodin**

What was life like for people with disabilities in the Middle Ages? Were they all beggars, as is sometimes claimed, gathered at the doors of churches? Or were they able to pursue prestigious careers and participate fully in medieval Christian society?

Drawing on petitions received by the popes and the letters they sent in reply, this lecture will show how people with disabilities could become or remain clerics, and how they could take advantage of adjustments to religious prohibitions and obligations to continue leading irreproachable Christian lives. These 13th- to 15th-century documents, drawn from the Vatican Apostolic Archives and the Apostolic Penitentiary, offer insight into the lives of people with disabilities by shedding light on what they could or could not do and what they wanted or did not want to do.

**DR NINON DUBOURG**, author of *Disabled Clerics in the Late Middle Ages: Un/suitable for Divine Service?* is currently a postdoctoral researcher funded by an Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship and based at the University of Cologne. She holds a PhD from the University of Paris Cité in France and was a postdoctoral fellow funded by the FRS-FNRS in Liège, Belgium, for three years (2021–2024). Her research focuses on old age and physical and mental disabilities in secular and clerical contexts in medieval Europe (12th–16th centuries).



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