**Pronominal gaps in Middle Low German**

**Melissa Farasyn (UGent)**

This talk will focus on null pronominal arguments in Middle Low German (MLG), particularly on referential null subjects, of which two types can be detected in MLG. One type appears in SpecCP (1) (topic drop), while the other type is a null clitic in the Wackernagel position (2) (genuine pro).

(1) Se [...] vunden de iukfrowe schaffen in deme huseken. Vnde [pro] erschrak sere van deme seltzen gaste

 ‘They [...] found the virgin working in the little house and [she] got very frightened by the strange visitor.’

 (*Griseldis*, Hamburg 1502)

(2) *heuet* [pro] *ene ane buͦrghe ghelaten so mach hey dat selue doyn*

 ‘If he/one left himi without a bailiff, hei may do that himself.’

(*Soester Schrae*, Soest, 1367)

Furthermore, the talk will focus on agreement patterns in MLG non-restrictive relative clauses, particulary in relative clauses with a first or second person antecedent. This implies the following kind of structures, in which agreement has to be achieved between antecedent, relative pronoun and VfinRel. The second kind of null clitics found in the Wackernagel position can also account for these kinds of gaps, in which we can find a null resumptive, and for relative clauses with the complementizer *alse* (4).

(3) dat=tu mijn vader woldest wesen **de mijn schepper bist**

 ‘that thou wouldst be my father, who [thou] art my creator’

(*Dat myrren bundeken*, Münster, 1480)

(4) Un(de) [se wolden ene vorbosmen un(de) vortughen]i , alze [pro]i des ammetes recht is

 ’and [they wanted to claim him as a serf and testify], as [it] is the authority’s right’

(*Herforder Rechtsbuch*, Herford 1375)