Call for Papers: Low German and Dutch in contact

The 133th annual meeting of the Society for Low German Studies (Verein für niederdeutsche Sprachforschung, VndS) will concentrate on the manifold, centuries-old contacts between Low German and Dutch from a methodologically diverse perspective including topics in contact linguistics, the history of language and literature, as well as cultural and literary studies. The main focus are new findings on the questions whether the contacts are asymmetric, or whether they are symmetric after all.

From the perspective of language history, the influence of Flemish settlers on the development of East Low German dialects, the Low German-Dutch contact situation in the context of the Hanseatic trade in Bruges, or the role of Dutch as church language in some West Low German regions could be considered. A further possible topic is the emergence of a Dutch-German language border in connection to the rise of nation-states, and the interruption of the dialectal continuum in its wake.

Since the Middle Ages, there has been an important cultural transfer from the Dutch to the Low German language area. In this context, the connections between Middle Dutch and Middle Low German literature come into focus, for instance concerning the traditions of courtly poetry, or in the context of the Devotio Moderna. Besides, we also welcome contributions on contemporary connections between Low German and Dutch (dialect) literature.

Abstracts are welcome until 15 October 2019. Please send a title and abstract (max. 500 words) to the chair of the Society for Low German Studies, Prof. Dr. Michael Elmentaler (elmentaler@germsem.uni-kiel.de). Lectures may be held in German or English. Notification of acceptance will be given by the end of the year. We are looking forward to your contributions!

The board of the VndS