Transfer, translation, transgression.
Studying Medieval Translation in Textual and Prosopographic Networks

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Levels of Analysis

Micro: Intertextual
Intertextual links are being established and analyzed philologically. Allusions to i.e. Ovid are important markers in linking translated text and source context.

Meso: Literary context
Links to other Old Norse texts are being established. Both, contents and lexical aspects play an important role in establishing an Old Norse literary polysystem.

Macro: Cultural context
Prosopographic data and information on scribal activity in Northern Europe are linked to manuscripts to establish a network of translation and transfer between different literary systems.

Pamphilus saga/de Amore
Translated from Medieval Latin Pamphilus, de Amore, it sits rather awkwardly in its context of translated courtly literature. Deemed a comedy in the literature, the Latin text is seen as having inspired Chaucer and the Roman de la rose. Many topoi from classical antiquity are found in the poem, whose author must have possessed intimate knowledge of Ovid and Vergil. The Old Norse text is preserved in the manuscript De La Gardie 4-7, written in the area around Bergen, Norway, ca. 1270.

Polysystem Theory
Based on the work of literary scholar Itamar Even-Zohar. It frames literature in general as a large and dynamic system consisting of multiple subsystems (e.g. genre etc.), which in turn again consist of multiple subsystems. It also provides theoretical approaches to literature which is central, and thereby a shaping influence in any literary system, and peripheral texts. This theoretical framework is made productive using the graph database neo4j and drawn on to interpret the results of network analysis.

Preliminary results
The translation of Pamphilus is part of a significant influx of medieval Latin concepts and ideas into Northern Europe. All levels do in general show a great familiarity with these ideas and reveal an established polysystem of contemporary central European literature in Old Norse. Network analysis reveals a tightly meshed network with Pamphilus in an interlinked, but not per se central position.