



# ACADEMIA EUROPAEA

*The Academy of Europe*

FROM KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION APPLICATION

- Title:** *A new edition of a late Roman manual: Mustio's Gynaecia*
- MAE/YAE Investigator(s):** Gerd V. M. Haverling, (MAE, CLASS A, Classics and Oriental Studies; [gerd.haverling@lingfil.uu.se](mailto:gerd.haverling@lingfil.uu.se))
- Other investigators:** Micaela Brembilla (main investigator, postdoc, Uppsala university, Sweden, [micaela.brembilla@lingfil.uu.se](mailto:micaela.brembilla@lingfil.uu.se))
- Category:** From Curiosity to Career (especially but not only)
- Problem (max. 50 words):**  
Brembilla has in her dissertation, *Prolegomena to a New Critical Edition of Mustio's Gynaecia*, studied the very complex manuscript tradition to Mustio's *Gynaecia*, a treatise on Gynaecology probably written in North Africa in the 6<sup>th</sup> c. She now wants to complete this work finalizing the edition of the whole text.
- Unmet Need (max. 50 words):**  
Previous attempts to deal with the contradictory evidence found in the manuscripts have failed. In some of these the Latin language is more vulgar and in some it is less so. The problem is then which phenomena shall be ascribed to the author and which shall be ascribed to copyists.
- Project Description (max. 200 words):**  
Mustio's *Gynaecia* is a translation and adaptation of the *Gynaecia* written in Greek in the 2<sup>nd</sup> c. by the famous physician Soranus. The later Latin version was, as the author himself tells us, written for midwives who did not understand Greek, but who needed access to the information provided by such a manual. This Latin version transmitted the ancient knowledge in the field of gynaecology to the European Middle Ages and is therefore of considerable historical importance. A new edition is needed because of the failure of previous editors to deal in a sensible way with the contradictory evidence in the manuscripts as far as regards the kind of Latin written by Mustio: this is often the case in technical texts from Late Antiquity, especially in manuals translated from Greek. Brembilla discusses this problem in her dissertation, in which she edits some important passages with translation and commentary. In this new project she wants to continue this work and edit the whole text with a translation and a commentary. A new edition of this text would not only improve our knowledge of a very important Late Roman treatise but also of "technical" Latin in the Late Roman period.
- Hypothesis (25 words):**  
Mustio's Late Latin is rather elegant, especially in the preface, but in the manual he uses a rather simple – but by no means vulgar! – style.
- Implication for Practice (50 words):**  
A new edition of this text would give us a better understanding of how to deal with very complex manuscript traditions like this one, where we have some manuscripts which seem to present a corrupt form of Late Latin and others which have a more correct form of Late Latin.
- Implication for Research (50 words):**  
A new edition of this text would give us a more reliable text and make Mustio's treatise available for studies on Late Latin in general and on technical Late Latin in particular — and it would improve our knowledge of a historically very important Late Roman treatise.



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No revision