

DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

The study of the history of science and philosophy plays a crucial role in the study of Western civilization. Medieval science has a special place here not only because of its role in transmitting ancient traditions that laid the groundwork for modern science, but also because of its own ingenious and inspiring ideas. It is only been recently that this aspect has come to light after centuries of neglect and derision. In some areas, such as discussions on the nature of sensory cognition and the mind-body relationship, medieval thinkers made significant contributions. Their ideas and solutions, however, still require doctrinal studies and evaluation, mainly because their works still remain in manuscripts only and so are hardly available for modern scholars.

The project is aimed at studying Geoffrey of Aspill's theory of sensual cognition presented in his *Quaestiones super De sensu et sensato Aristotelis*, a commentary written in Oxford at the earliest stage of the reception of Aristotle's *De sensu*, around the middle of the thirteenth century. Beyond comparison, Aspill's work is the longest, most developed, and most detailed Latin commentary on this treatise in the thirteenth century. It is also the first commentary on that treatise containing questions composed in the Latin West.

This project will involve the preparation of critical editions of source texts and detailed analyses devoted to psychological and physiological problems, focusing on Aspill's views in the mind-body relationship, and reconstructing his theory of sensual cognition. It will include information from other Aspill's works, most notably his *On the Soul (De anima)* commentary, and other scientific writings of his times. This will enable the research team to present an overview of the thirteenth century opinions on those topics, which are relatively obscure for modern scholars. Thus, the studies will expand our historical knowledge about Western civilization's development and progress in sciences in the high Middle Ages and early modern times.