

**Miriam Edlich-Muth, Düsseldorf: Tried or Trusted? Actions that Speak and Speech
that Fails in the *Naissance du Chevalier au Cygne* Tradition**

This paper undertakes a comparative analysis of the accusations against the mother of the Swan Children in late medieval Latin, Old French, and Middle English versions of the *Naissance du Chevalier au Cygne*. It examines the ways in which the tension between speech and action creates space for calumny, as well as the differing roles that speech and action play in eventually vindicating the falsely accused Queen. In doing so, the study highlights the gendered conventions shaping the characterisation of the Queen and her main accuser, the Mother-in-Law, while tracing the evolving ways that supporting male and female characters intervene in this dynamic.