

** With apologies for cross-posting **

Call for Papers

Alternative Routes. The Spread of Liturgical Chant in post-Carolingian Europe (900–1100)

Department of Musicology and Cultural Heritage, University of Pavia, Cremona, 12–13 January 2026

This two-day conference marks the midpoint of the five-year ERC-funded project *SCRIBEMUS: Scribes of Musical Cultures. Decoding Early Technologies of Music Writing in Latin Europe (ca. 900–1100)* <https://scribemus.unipv.it>. The project investigates the early medieval diffusion of music writing during a period marked by the emergence of diverse notational systems, each with distinct graphic conventions. These music scripts were interconnected through intricate networks of communication and knowledge-exchange among various communities of scribes. By examining the transregional networks of cultural transmission—within which chant, liturgy, and notation played a central role — *SCRIBEMUS* aims to reconstruct the largely unknown dynamics of how music writing was transmitted, learned, and practiced following the initial spread of notational families in the 9th century.

The conference will be mainly focused on dissemination of liturgical chant in the early Middle Ages, but we are also interested in papers dealing more broadly with the subjects of intellectual exchange between regions, interregional transmission networks, diffusion of knowledge, and scribal mobility. Therefore, we welcome papers related, but not limited to the following areas:

- Liturgy and chant repertoires
- Art history
- Hagiography
- Palaeography and codicology of liturgical books
- Linguistics and philology
- Soundscape studies
- Computational musicology
- Digital humanities
- Vocal performance

We invite proposals (250 words) for 20-minute papers to be sent to giovanni.cunego@unipv.it by 1st of August 2025. Speakers will be notified by early September.

The conference will be held at the Department of Musicology and Cultural Heritage in Cremona on 12th and 13th of January 2026. While it will be possible to audit the conference remotely, we encourage attendance in person. Remote presentation of papers may only be considered in exceptional circumstances. We have limited funds available to assist with travel and accommodation expenses for those who do not have access to other avenues of funding.

We hope you will join us for this interdisciplinary conference on the spread of liturgical chant in Early Medieval Europe and look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

The SCRIBEMUS project team, Giovanni Varelli (PI), Giovanni Cunego, Alessandra Ignesti, Marcus Jones, Patrick Marschner, Francesco Orio, Evina Stein, and Sara Vrdoljak.

For more information:

<https://scribemus.unipv.it>

<https://mbc.dip.unipv.it/it>

Founded in 1361, the University of Pavia is one of the oldest higher education institutions in the world.

<https://en.unipv.it/en>