

Preface

This volume originates from the DFG-funded project *manicula* (“Nikolaus von Kues als Leser Platons und Aristoteles’: Edition und Studie der Cusanus-Marginalien”, no. 503202801), which has been based at the University of Siegen since August 2023. The aim of the project is to produce a critical edition of Nicholas of Cusa’s marginal notes and glosses on the Latin translations of Plato and Aristotle, and to investigate Cusanus’ reading practices within the broader context of fifteenth-century engagement with ancient philosophy.

The idea for this book, which does not directly focus on Cusanus, arose from the desire to situate the project’s primary object of research in a wider perspective – by comparing it with other case studies and reflecting on methodological and interpretative questions related to the study of marginalia, and philosophical marginalia in particular. The book seeks to explore the reading and writing practices that shaped these textual and paratextual documents in their diverse functions and contexts.

About half of the contributions collected here were presented and discussed at the 16th *Dies Quodlibetalis*, the annual conference of the Gesellschaft für Philosophie des Mittelalters und der Renaissance (GPMR), held at the University of Siegen on 29 and 30 September 2023, under the title “Denken am Seitenrand. Marginalien in der Philosophie des Mittelalters und der Renaissance”. Sincere thanks go to the board of the Society, in particular to Isabelle Mandrella (LMU Munich) and Matthias Perkams (University of Jena), for their support of this initiative, as well as to the members of my project team – Luca Burzelli, Olivia Jabbour, and Fabian Marx – who helped to organise the event. Further contributions were developed in dialogue with the authors in the context of the *Philosophiehistorisches Kolloquium* and the *AG Philosophiegeschichte* im Gespräch at the University of Siegen. In this sense, the book is not a conventional conference volume, but rather the result of lively academic exchange within a network of researchers who, in recent years, have engaged with related questions and approaches in – and about – the margins.

Dustin V. Saynisch, a philosophy student at the University of Siegen, contributed to the completion of the manuscript with great care, reliability, and expertise. He revised the footnotes, compiled the final bibliographies, and frequently went above and beyond his duties to support the editorial work and help the editor avoid error.

Markus Friedrich (University of Hamburg), editor of the series *Cultures and Practices of Knowledge in History*, kindly accepted this volume for publication and followed the project with interest and encouragement. Bettina Neuhoff at De Gruyter oversaw the production process with rare professionalism and commit-

ment, providing patient support throughout every stage of the work. Florian Ruppenstein's editorial assistance throughout the proofreading significantly enhanced the final version of this volume. The content of this book has also greatly benefited from the insightful feedback of the anonymous reviewers, to whom I extend my sincere thanks. The publisher is gratefully acknowledged for including this book in the Open Access Transformation Package in History 2025.

This book is dedicated to the memory of Hans Gerhard Senger (1936–2023), former head of the Cusanus-Forschungsstelle at the Thomas-Institut of the University of Cologne. As a gifted editor and subtle interpreter of Cusanus' marginalia, he inspired this project from the beginning, as a colleague and friend, his example continues to shape its unfolding.

Mario Meliadò
Wiesbaden, 8 April 2025