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## Johannes Magnus and the Language of Polemics

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# Johannes Magnus and the Language of Polemics:

Anti-Lutheran invective in the *Historia metropolitanae ecclesiae Upsalensis* (1557)

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My paper focuses on a previously unstudied Latin work: Johannes Magnus' (1488–1544) *Historia metropolitanae ecclesiae Upsalensis*, finished in 1536, but not published until 1557. The work describes the history of the Swedish archdiocese of Uppsala, arranged as a series of biographies of archbishops ending with Johannes himself. It is interspersed with anti-Lutheran invective.

The early Reformation, up to the start of the Tridentine Council in 1545, the period when the work was written, could be described as a network of negotiations. Numerous individuals, Catholics and Protestants alike, debated a range of religious issues, but the confessionalisation process was not yet in full swing. This multifaceted debate contained attacks on individual opponents and their ideas, and the *Historia metropolitanae* was part of it.

The polemical language of the *Historia metropolitanae* is analysed as a first stage of a broader study of the work. This paper focuses on how invective is expressed, what rhetorical domains can be discerned, and how the findings relate to the polemical language of other contributions to the same religious debate. The aim is to place the *Historia metropolitanae* into its contemporary context through the language of polemics.