Thomas Bradwardine (ca. 1290-1349) was an outstanding theologian, Oxford Calculator, and archbishop of Canterbury whose major theological writing, De causa Dei contra Pelagium et de virtute causarum (1344), exerted significant influence. In this work, Bradwardine reacted to contemporaneous problems of freedom and necessity and shaped central notions around them. De causa Dei remains accessible in approximately 50 manuscripts spread over Europe and in a printed edition dated 1618.

Bradwardine's ideas reached Central Europe soon after their publication. Evidence suggests that they circulated at the young university of Vienna. The early existence of the University of Vienna is a remarkably innovative period, several aspects of which are still to be explored. Moreover, the city stands out as possessing a remarkable collection of De causa Dei-manuscripts in the National Library, Dominikanerkloster, Schottenkloster, and in Klosterneuberg. Eleven manuscripts contain De causa Dei, and several unique adaptations, including abbreviations and extracts from De causa Dei as well as exemplars of Bradwardine's scientific writings, are to be found in Vienna's libraries. The reception of Bradwardine in Vienna appears therefore as a rich, but as yet unexplored field.

This project aims at describing the manuscripts related to De causa Dei in the context of the Viennese textual and intellectual tradition and at establishing a reception-specific critical edition. This philological work has not yet been attempted, despite the ever-growing need for a manuscript-survey and critical edition of Bradwardine's De causa Dei. The writings issued from De causa Dei - the abbreviations and extracts - also need to be described and analyzed in order to both clarify and complete the confused lists of manuscripts we possess, and to place them in the context of the related history of the University of Vienna and of the philosophy in Vienna of the 14th-15th centuries.