

DER DEKAN DER HISTORISCH-KULTURWISSENSCHAFTLICHEN FAKULTÄT  
DER UNIVERSITÄT WIEN

und

DAS INSTITUT FÜR ALTE GESCHICHTE UND ALTERTUMSKUNDE,  
PAPYROLOGIE UND EPIGRAPHIK

und

DAS INSTITUT FÜR MITTELALTERFORSCHUNG  
DER ÖSTERREICHISCHEN AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN

laden zu dem Gastvortrag von

**Prof. Dr. Ralph W. Mathisen**

(Universität of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

# Cultural Encounters between Barbarians and Romans in Late Antiquity

## How the Barbarians Preserved Classical Civilization

Mittwoch, 6. Juni 2012, um 18 Uhr s.t.,

im **Übungsraum** des Instituts für Alte Geschichte & Altertumskunde, Papyrologie & Epigraphik  
Hauptgebäude der Universität Wien, Dr. Karl Lueger-Ring 1, 1010 Wien

### A VISIGOTH EXPLAINS HIMSELF



In the past, barbarian invaders have been blamed not only for causing the decline and fall of the western Roman Empire but also for creating a period of cultural decline known as the "Dark Ages." More recently, however, it has been suggested that the barbarian settlement was not nearly as catastrophic as once believed, and that perceptions of barbarians as "destroyers of civilization" are more reflective of ancient -- and modern -- stereotypes than of reality. This presentation will suggest not only that there were far fewer incompatibilities between Romans and barbarians than previously has been thought, but also that during the fourth through sixth centuries the barbarian settlers and their descendents played an active role in the preservation of classical culture.

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Walter Pohl

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Fritz Mitthof  
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Michael Viktor Schwarz

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Bernhard Palme