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## **MULTIPLYING MIDDLE AGES.**

### **New methods and approaches for the study of the multiplicity of the Middle Ages in a global perspective (3rd-16th CE)**

**International Conference at the Division of Byzantine Research of the Institute for  
Medieval Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences,  
Vienna, November 8th-9th 2012**

**Venue: Institut für Mittelalterforschung, Wohllebengasse 12-14, 1040 Wien**

*“Historia multiplex est.”* (Sancti Hieronymi Chronicon, Praefatio)

In the last decades, the study of the centuries between 3rd and 16th century CE, which in European historical tradition are called „Middle Ages“, has been significantly modified in various aspects: the comparative view across disciplinary borders has opened new perspectives on transcultural phenomena and the „hybridity“ of cultures. The analysis of linkages and networks between individuals, communities, institutions, localities or polities has highlighted the actual complexity of pre-modern societies. And the implementation of digital methods of Historical Geographic Information Systems (*HGIS*) has allowed a better reconstruction of the organisation and perception of space during these centuries.

In general, it has become clear that the cultural, religious and political transformations that have altered Europe and the neighbouring regions by the end of antiquity to the early modern period (4th-16th century) with significant impacts to the present time can be captured globally beyond the Western European Middle Ages only with a view on the “other Middle Ages” in Southeastern and Eastern Europe, in the Eastern Mediterranean and beyond in Central Asia, China, Japan, India and Africa.

With the Division of Byzantine Research ([www.oeaw.ac.at/byzanz](http://www.oeaw.ac.at/byzanz)) within the Institute for Medieval Research (<http://www.oeaw.ac.at/imafo/>), which in its totality is worldwide

renowned and has been awarded numerous high ranking research grants, the Austrian Academy of Sciences possesses a unique (in Europe and internationally) institution that covers exactly this temporal and geographical transition zone. The projects of the Division examine these processes of transformation in their entirety on the cultural, religious, linguistic, political and economic level, both in their temporal and spatial dimension. The processing and analysis of the sources and monument evidence is combined with new methods of cultural, social, language, information and complexity sciences.

Thus, the Division of Byzantine Research of the Institute for Medieval Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in the last years has become a hub within a wider network of scholars applying new methods for the study of these phenomena; a most important cooperation has been established with the Institute of Transylvanian Studies of the Romanian Academy of Sciences in Cluj-Napoca ([www.centruldestudiitransilvane.ro](http://www.centruldestudiitransilvane.ro)), which is also main partner for the organisation of this conference.

“Multiplying Middle Ages” aims at a general discussion of the implications of these developments as well as at a presentation of significant case-studies for the new explanatory power of these approaches.

The conference is organised in three sections:

**Comparisons** – new views on transcultural phenomena (using the example of medieval monasticism) – Organiser: Ekaterini Mitsiou ([Ekaterini.Mitsiou@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:Ekaterini.Mitsiou@oeaw.ac.at))

**Complexities** – new methods for the analysis of social, political, economic and cultural networks – Organiser: Johannes Preiser-Kapeller ([Johannes.Preiser-Kapeller@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:Johannes.Preiser-Kapeller@oeaw.ac.at))

**Spaces** – new approaches for the study of the geographic dimension of medieval history – Organiser: Mihailo Popović ([Mihailo.Popovic@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:Mihailo.Popovic@oeaw.ac.at))



To turn the medieval world upside down: Tabula Rogeriana of the Arab geographer al-Idrisi, 1154  
(Bibliothèque nationale de France [MSO Arabe 2221])

# PROGRAMME

**Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2012**

## **09:00 Opening remarks**

Prof. Claudia Rapp (University of Vienna), Head of the Division of Byzantine Research

## **09:30-10:30 “Spaces – new approaches for the study of the geographic dimension of medieval history, I”;**

### **Chair: Karel Kriz (Universität Wien)**

- Evangelos Livieratos (School of Rural and Surveying Engineering, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)  
*Deploying of the Digital for Unveiling Spatial Elements of Medieval Maps*
- Bogumił Szady and Jarosław Suproniuk (The Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences)  
*The Historical Atlas of Poland in the Second Half of the 16th Century (GIS as an Instrument of Source Edition)*

10:30-10:45 Coffee break

## **10:45-13:00 “Spaces – new approaches for the study of the geographic dimension of medieval history, II”;**

### **Chair: Karel Kriz (Universität Wien)**

- Cinzia Tavernari (Visiting Research Scholar, Aga Khan Program in Islamic Architecture at Harvard and MIT)  
*Travelling along Old Roads, Discovering New Paths: Studying Syrian Middle Age Caravanserais’ Networks*
- Markus Breier (Department for Geography and Regional Research, University of Vienna)  
*Getting Around in the Past – An Approach to Historical Road Modelling*
- Mihailo Popović (Institut für Mittelalterforschung, Abteilung für Byzanzforschung, ÖAW)  
*Towards a GIS Cookbook in Byzantine Studies: Computer Modelling is not as Easy as It Seems*

13:00-14:00 Lunch break

## **14:00-15:15 “Complexities – new methods for the analysis of social, political, economic and cultural networks, I”;**

### **Chair: Christina Lutter (Universität Wien)**

- Elisabeth Gruber (Institut für Geschichte, Universität Wien; SFB „VISCOM“)  
*To be connected, or not: Family, kinship and religious practices in Upper Austrian towns (1400-1500)*
- David Natal Villazala (School of Arts, Histories and Cultures, University of Manchester)  
*Ties that bound: networks and scale change in the fourth-century Western Church*
- Robert Gramsch (Historisches Institut, Friedrich-Schiller Universität Jena)  
*Konflikte als strukturbildende Kraft: Die Königsherrschaft Heinrichs (VII.) (1225-1235) in netzwerkanalytischer Perspektive*

15:15-15:30 Coffee break

## **15:30-17:30 “Complexities – new methods for the analysis of social, political, economic and cultural networks, II”;**

### **Chair: Christina Lutter (Universität Wien)**

- Wolfgang Neurath (Bundesministerium für Wissenschaft und Forschung) and Albert Müller (Institut für Zeitgeschichte, Universität Wien)  
*Complexity - networks working in a second order cybernetic perspective*
- Rudolf Hanel (Section for Science of Complex Systems, Medizinische Universität Wien)  
*The scientific process and the evolution of knowledge: a systemic perspective*
- Johannes Preiser-Kapeller (Institut f. Mittelalterforschung, Abteilung für Byzanzforschung, ÖAW)  
*From quantitative to qualitative and back again. The interplay between structure and culture and the analysis of networks in pre-modern societies*

**Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2012**

**09:00-10:00 “Comparisons – new views on transcultural phenomena, I”;** Chair: Claudia Rapp (Universität Wien; Institut für Mittelalterforschung, Abteilung für Byzanzforschung, ÖAW)

- Taisiya Belyakova (Moscow State University/Russian Academy of Science)  
*Women - patrons of monasticism in medieval Balkan states (comparative models)*
- Julia Dücker (Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften)  
*Man and Nature. 13th century perspectives on modes of social organization*

10:00-10:15 Coffee break

**10:15-12:30 “Comparisons – new views on transcultural phenomena, II”;** Chair: Claudia Rapp (Universität Wien; Institut für Mittelalterforschung, Abteilung für Byzanzforschung, ÖAW)

- Nicki Tsougarakis (National & Kapodistrian University of Athens)  
*Heretical networks between East and West: the case of the Fraticelli*
- Ekaterini Mitsiou (National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF), Institute of Historical Research, Department of Byzantine Research)  
*The silence of the nuns: a Byzantine picture*
- Gert Melville (Direktor der Forschungsstelle für Vergleichende Ordensgeschichte, Technische Universität Dresden)  
Title of presentation to be announced

12:30-12:45 Coffee break

**12:45-13:45 Final discussion “New methods and approaches for the study of the multiplicity of Middle Ages in a global perspective”;** Moderation: Ekaterini Mitsiou, Mihailo Popović, Johannes Preiser-Kapeller