

Linking the Mediterranean

Regional and Trans-Regional Interactions in Times of Fragmentation (300 - 800 CE)



Vienna 11th-13th December 2014

International Workshop

Sponsored by:



The political fragmentation of the Roman Empire also meant a reduction in the scope of economic, social and cultural relationships that had developed across different hierarchical levels and between distant places. New social and cultural relationships developed in the polities that followed the Roman Empire. Nonetheless, the survival of regional and interregional interactions assured a certain homogeneity in political, cultural and social forms across post-Roman Europe. This phenomenon has been the topic of exciting academic debate in the last decade and different interpretations and methodological approaches have been proposed.

In this workshop we intend to focus discussion especially on the issue of interactions beyond the local level between 300 and 800 CE in order to assess 1) to what extent these interactions were affected by the end of the Roman Empire as a political entity, and 2) how these connections contributed to lasting patterns that shaped the post-Roman world in economic, cultural and political terms.

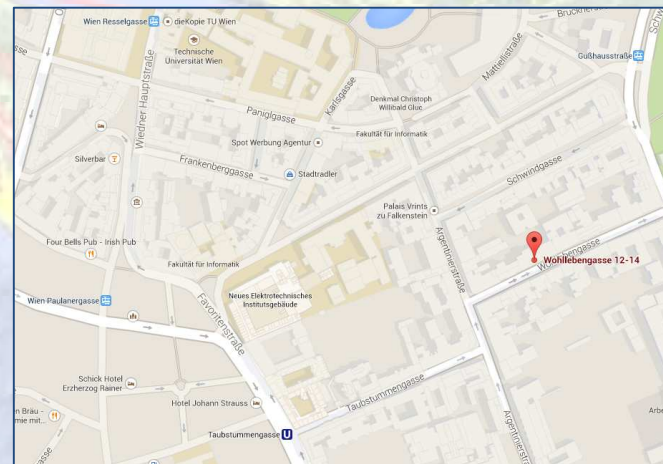
The papers presented in this workshop explore long distance and regional connections along the Mediterranean and far beyond the former Roman Empire. Scholars will analyse textual and archaeological evidence from a variety of disciplines and approaches, including isotopic and GIS analysis, network theory, post-colonial theory and thorough textual and theological analysis. The main goal is provide a comprehensive assessment of the developments of regional and interregional interactions in the long period that goes roughly from the last two centuries of the Roman Empire to the rise of the Abbasid and Carolingian Empires.

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The theme of this workshop has grown out of research undertaken through the ENFLAWE project ('Episcopal Networks and Fragmentation in Late Antique Western Europe'). Funded by the EU-Marie Curie Actions and hosted at the Division for Byzantine Research (Institute for Medieval Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences-OEAW), this project analyses episcopal interactions in the late fourth and fifth century from a social network approach.

Venue:

Seminar Room (Ground floor)
Austrian Academy of Sciences
12-14, Wohllebengasse
1040
Vienna



Transport:

U-Bahn (Underground), Taubstummengasse (Line U1)
Karlsplatz (lines U2/U4)
Straßenbahn (Tram), Gußhausstraße (Line D)
Paulanergasse (Lines 1, 62)

Any other enquiries, please contact:

david.natal@oeaw.ac.at

Thursday 11th December

17.30 Keynote Speech: 'Did the saints link the post-Roman world?' Bryan WARD-PERKINS (Oxford)

Friday 12th December

8.30-9.00 Welcome coffee

9.00-11.00 *Imagined Geography in times of fragmentation*

Discussant: Katharina MEINECKE (Vienna)

Charles STANG (Harvard Divinity School) 'Centres and Peripheries between the Eastern Mediterranean and the Silk Road'

Johannes PREISER-KAPPELLER (OEAW, Vienna) 'Peaches to Samarkand. Long distance-connectivity, small worlds and socio-cultural dynamics across Eurasia, 300-800 CE'

Jonathan CONANT (Brown) 'Romanness and the limits of the Empire'

11.00-11.30 Coffee Break

11.30-13.15 *Universal Church & Shrinking Polities.*

Discussant: Geoffrey DUNN (ACU Brisbane)

Francesca CONSELVAN & Philipp DÖRLER (Vienna) 'The 'Greek' Monastery of San Saba: its Oriental Identity and its Political Strategies of Balance'

Julia HILLNER (Sheffield) "'Rationalising' Christian asylum: monastic exile and forced clerical ordination under Justinian'

Yuri MARANO (Collège de France) 'Church-Initiated Markets and Fairs in Late Antique Italy: an Economic and Social Reappraisal'

13.15-14.45 Lunch

14.45-16.30 *Changing Political Horizons in the post-Roman World*

Discussant: Max DIESENBERGER (OEAW, Vienna)

Glenn McDORMAN (Princeton) 'Diplomatic Networks and the Rules of War in the post-Imperial West'

Clemens GANTNER (OEAW, Vienna), 'Demarcating Rome: The papal strategy of Othering and the re-invention of Greeks'

Santiago CASTELLANOS (León), 'From Rome to Merida: political interactions in the Visigothic hagiography'

16.30-17.00 Coffee Break

17.00-18.45 *Ecclesiastical Networks in Late Antiquity*

Discussant: Kate COOPER (Manchester)

Veronika WIESER (OEAW, Vienna), '*Joined in friendship and faith: The ascetic communities of Primuliacum and Nola as spiritual crossroads*'

David NATAL (OEAW, Vienna), 'Relics, geographical imaginations and episcopal networks in Victricius of Rouen'

Carmen CVETKOVIĆ (Göttingen) 'Niceta of Remesiana and pro-Nicene Christianity in the last decades of fourth-century Illyricum'

Saturday 13th December.

8.30-9.00 Coffee

9.00-11.00 *Long-distance Trade and Fragmentation*

Discussant: Bryan WARD-PERKINS (Oxford)

Thomas J. MacMASTER (Edinburgh) 'Slave-trading between centre and periphery in the seventh century: a crucial commerce?'

Norman WETZIG (Bonn) 'The East-West trade in the Late Antique Mediterranean and the "herds" of oriental merchants. A reassessment of the written and archaeological sources'.

Katie HEMER (Sheffield) 'On the utmost border of the earth': Long-distance trade and contact with early medieval western Britain'

Jacopo TURCHETTO (Padova) 'Changing Roads and interactions in Byzantine Cappadocia (Turkey): An Archaeological and GIS-based verification'.

11.00-11.30 Coffee break

11.30-13.15 *The Migration of Belief*

Discussant: Danuta SHANZER (Vienna)

Marianne SÁGHY (CEU-Budapest) 'Holy Commerce: Eastern Migrants, Models, Networks in Late Antique Gaul'

Andra JUGĂNARU (CEU-Budapest) 'Linking Cappadocian Monasticism to the Latin West. The Transmission of Basil's *Asketikon*'

Anthony DUPONT (Leuven) 'Regional or Transregional Development of the Patristic Theology of Grace? The North African Theological Tradition and Augustine as Case Study of Theological Regional Diversity'

13.15-15.00 Lunch

15.00-16.00 Concluding Remarks: Claudia Rapp (Vienna)