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MULTIPLYING MIDDLE AGES.

**New methods and approaches for the study of the multiplicity
of 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**

"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. 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. „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)

Complexities – new methods for the analysis of social, political, economic and cultural networks –
Organiser: Johannes Preiser-Kapeller (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)

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 8th 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)
Conflicts as structure-building force: The reign of Henry (VII) (1225-1235) in network-analytic perspective

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, 9th 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