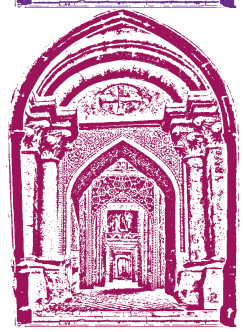
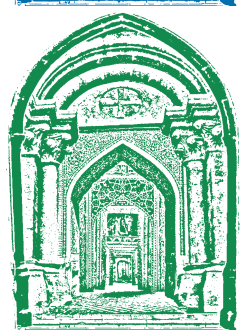
VISIONS of COMMUNITY

Publications

of the Special Research Programme (SFB F42-G18)

Online Edition





PREFACE

The collaborative project 'Visions of Community: Comparative Approaches to Ethnicity, Region and Empire in Christianity, Islam and Buddhism (400-1600 CE)' explores the impact of the three major 'universal' religions on the formation of particular communities. It addresses the relationship and the productive tension between religions on the one hand and empires, regional, ethnic and urban communities on the other. Five exemplary in-depth case studies deal with post-Roman Europe, medieval Islamic South Arabia, early Tibet, late medieval Central Europe, and Dalmatia. On this basis, we have conducted broad cross-cultural comparative studies of visions and practices of community along specific lines of comparison, involving the project team as well as many guest researchers. These comparative ventures include urban communities, monastic or similar enclaves of learning, relations between local and overarching communities, eschatological hopes and fears, constructions of identity in historiography, ethnic origin narratives or the dissolution or resilience of empires. Such studies compromises reflections on practices and methods of global comparative research. The following pages give an overview of the main results of the project.

The project, running from 2011 to 2019, is based in Vienna, funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) and hosted by the University of Vienna and the Austrian Academy of Sciences. This booklet presents the collaborative publications and monographs that have already been published or are forthcoming (as of summer 2019), as well as an overview of the most relevant articles of all researchers involved in the individual sub projects.

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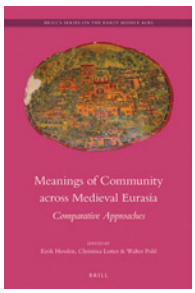

MEANINGS OF COMMUNITY ACROSS MEDIEVAL EURASIA

Comparative Approaches

Eirik Hovden, Christina Lutter, Walter Pohl (Eds.)

Brill's Series on the Early Middle Ages
Leiden 2016

https://brill.com/view/title/32570

This volume explores some of the many different meanings of community across medieval Eurasia. The studies assembled here in thematic clusters address the terminology of community, genealogies, urban communities, and monasteries or 'enclaves of learning': in particular in early medieval Europe, medieval South Arabia and Tibet, and late medieval Central Europe and Dalmatia. It includes works by medieval historians, social anthropologists, and Asian Studies scholars. The volume presents the results of in-depth comparative research from the 'Visions of Community' project in Vienna, and of a dialogue with guests, offering new and exciting perspectives on the emerging field of comparative medieval history.

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KULTURGESCHICHTE DER ÜBERLIEFERUNG IM MITTELALTER

Quellen und Methoden zur Geschichte Mittel- und Südosteuropas

Elisabeth Gruber, Christina Lutter, Oliver Schmitt (Co-Authored Book)

UTB Geschichte, Böhlau
Wien 2017

http://www.utb-shop.de/kulturgeschichte-der-uberlieferung-im-mittelalter-8982.html

This volume aims at providing an introduction to the many different types of medieval source material from Central and South-Eastern Europe. Its focus is on treating methodological problems connected with the transmission and study of medieval texts, images and other sources; in doing so it will not only provide new perspectives on the medieval history of the area of interest, but also present source material that has hitherto been absent from introductory literature. Moreover, contrary to other German-language literature on this subject, it focuses specifically on South-Eastern Europe and the adjacent parts of the Holy Roman Empire – from the Crusader States and the Balkans to present-day Austria and Bohemia. As such, this volume will introduce students to an interesting region in a highly dynamic era, and in the process guide them through discussions ranging from periodization and genre identification to different research traditions and institutional backgrounds of both sources and interpretations. Reflecting the common research interests of all European project parts of VISCOM, this volume is a collaboration between the projects studying High Medieval Central Europe and Late Medieval Dalmatia specifically, and it will tap the expertise of many external specialists as well.

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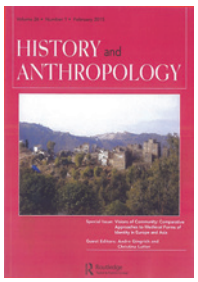

VISIONS OF COMMUNITY

Comparative Approaches to Medieval Forms of Identity in Europe and Asia

Andre Gingrich,
Christina Lutter (Eds.)

History and Anthropology, Special Issue Vol. 26 (2015)
Taylor & Francis, Published online: 26 June 2014

https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/ghan20/26/1?nav=tocList

Following the VISCOM Opening Conference in January 2012, the co-editors, Andre Gingrich and Christina Lutter, have gathered the most challenging contributions for a special issue of the peer-reviewed journal 'History and Anthropology'. The goal of this collection has been to show the limits and possibilities connected with the development of new methods of comparison in the social and historical sciences, such as those attempted by the members of 'Visions of Community'. A truly collaborative effort, the contributions highlight many of the methodological questions and concepts central to the project, and offer various perspectives on how to tackle them; the authors have not only reflected on comparative research as such, but also on the added challenge of inter- and transdisciplinary intersections.

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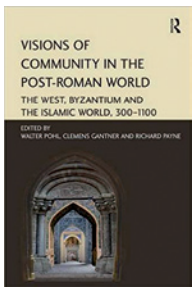

VISIONS OF COMMUNITY IN THE POST-ROMAN WORLD

The West, Byzantium and the Islamic World, 300-1100

Walter Pohl, Clemens Gantner, Richard Payne (Eds.)

Routledge Taylor & Francis Group London 2012

https://www.routledge.com/Visions-of-Community-in-the-Post-Roman-World-The-West-Byzantium-and-the/Gantner-Pohl/p/book/9781409427094

This volume looks at 'visions of community' in a comparative perspective, from Late Antiquity to the dawning of the age of crusades. It addresses the question of why and how distinctive new political cultures developed after the disintegration of the Roman World, and to what degree their differences had already emerged in the first post-Roman centuries. The Latin West, Orthodox Byzantium and its Slavic periphery, and the Islamic world each retained different parts of the Graeco-Roman heritage, while introducing new elements. For instance, ethnicity became a legitimizing element of rulership in the West, remained a structural element of the imperial periphery in Byzantium, and contributed to the inner dynamic of Islamic states without becoming a resource of political integration. Similarly, the political role of religion also differed between the emerging post-Roman worlds. The contributions to the volume explore this new line of research and look at different aspects of the process, with leading western Medievalists, Byzantinists and Islamicists covering a wide range of pertinent topics. At a closer look, some of the apparent differences between the West and the Islamic world seem less distinctive, and the inner variety of all post-Roman societies becomes more marked. At the same time, new variations in the discourse of community and the practice of power emerge. Anybody interested in the development of the post-Roman Mediterranean, but also in the relationship between the Islamic World and the West, will gain new insights from these studies on the political role of ethnicity and religion in the post-Roman Mediterranean.

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TRANSVERSAL WORKING GROUPS & CROSS-CUTTING WORKING GROUPS

Tribes and Ethnicity

NARRATIVES OF ETHNIC ORIGINS

Eurasian Perspectives

Walter Pohl, Daniel Mahoney (Eds.)

The Medieval History Journal 21/2 (2018): Special Issue
SAGE Publications, Los Angeles/London/New Delhi

Origin myths of Eurasian peoples have long been a topic for literary and mythological studies, as well as key texts in nationalist historiographies. Around the middle of the twentieth century, nationalist, irrationalist, mythographic and structuralist concerns with them prompted lively debates and great syntheses. But in the late twentieth-century, critique of national myths and postmodern deconstructivism largely disqualified origin stories as historical sources. Nonetheless, they are valuable indicators of how these origins were perceived at a latter point in time and space and what they may have meant for their respective communities. This journal issue, influenced by recent research on cultural memory and the 'uses of the past', focuses on the way in which rewritings, competing variants and new syntheses reflect contemporary interests in several exemplary medieval Eurasian contexts: Europe, the Mediterranean, Central Asia, South Arabia and Tibet.

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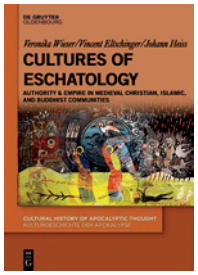
In Preparation:

ETHNICITY AND RELIGION

Walter Pohl, Gerda Heydemann, Ingrid Hartl (Eds.)

Brill 2020

End of Times



CULTURES OF ESCHATOLOGY Vol.1

Worldly Empires and Scriptural Authorities in Medieval Christian, Islamic, and Buddhist Communities

Veronika Wieser, Vincent Eltschinger (Eds.)

De Gruyter, München
Publication Date: June 2019

In Eastern and Western past societies, ideas about the present and the future were shaped by the expectations that all things must end. This belief in the Last Things has an integral place in Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism. The aim of the two volumes 'Cultures of Eschatology' is to come to a more nuanced understanding of how eschatological thought influenced and factored into the political and religious perception and self-definition of medieval communities. How did notions of an imminent end shape a community's identity, the perception of other communities and an individual's perspective towards life and the world?

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CULTURES OF ESCHATOLOGY Vol. 2

Time, Death and Afterlife in Medieval Christian, Islamic, and Buddhist Communities

Veronika Wieser, Vincent Eltschinger, Johann Heiss (Eds.)

Publication Date: June 2019

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Empires, States and Communities

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

SHADOWS OF EMPIRE
Imperial Peripheries in Early Medieval Eurasia

Walter Pohl, Veronika Wieser (Eds.)
Cambridge University Press
Expected Publication Date: 2019

When empires lost their grip on peripheral areas, new political communities could emerge. Often, military elites from outside the empire, who had been more or less involved with its defence system, ruled them. Frequently, a political landscape of the 'middle ground' evolved, with several competing political centres and considerable extension into the barbarian fringes of the imperial system. These 'sub-imperial' powers could remain in an unstable balance with the empire, they could eventually replace it, or be drawn into the imperial sphere again.

Such new political powers usually faced similar challenges, but relied on rather different structures, with widely different outcomes. The most obvious differences lay in their self-representation and outside perception. Many relied on dynastic legitimacy, many on ethnic identification, often also in combination. All of them sought imperial legitimation, though to very different degrees; a few also claimed imperial status themselves. Most of these polities where rather short-lived, either because the central imperial power recovered or because new 'barbarian' groups replaced them.

Comparing a number of late antique and medieval Eurasian test cases may offer insights into the dynamics of such constellations and their effect on the new configuration of the empire.

The publication aims at a comparison between six cases:

- The Later Roman Empire and the post-Roman kingdoms in the West
- Byzantium and the peripheral states in the orthodox world
- The Carolingian Empire and the emerging states in its Northern and Eastern periphery
- The Inner Asian fringes of the Sasanid empire
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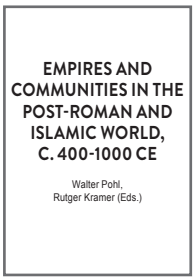

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

EMPIRES AND COMMUNITIES IN THE POST-ROMAN AND ISLAMIC WORLD, C. 400-1000 CE

Walter Pohl, Rutger Kramer (Eds.)
Oxford University Press
Expected Publication Date: 2019

This book deals with the ways empires affect smaller communities – for instance, ethnic groups, religious communities, and local or peripheral populations. The time frame is roughly the fifth to tenth centuries CE, a period with a particular dynamic of empires in Europe and the Mediterranean. While successive parts of the Roman Empire eroded, its Byzantine core areas showed a surprising resilience. Islamic expansion led to a succession of caliphates in a wide area previously dominated by the Roman and Sasanian empires. The Franks attempted to recreate a Western Roman Empire, albeit with limited success. The period is thus exceptionally well suited to study the various expansive and erosive dynamics of empires, and their interaction with somehow smaller communities.

The emerging questions are best addressed from a comparative perspective. The volume does not aim at an overall model, but at mid-range comparison that does not take the West (and its notions of empire) as a conceptual bench-mark. What also distinguishes this book from many other comparative contributions is that it is the work of an international research group uniting some of the best scholars in their respective fields, who came together in yearly meetings between 2013 and 2017 to develop the research questions and discuss successive drafts of the papers. The chapters are in-depth studies written in full awareness of the other contributions; taken together, they constitute a major contribution to the advancement of comparative studies on pre-modern empires.

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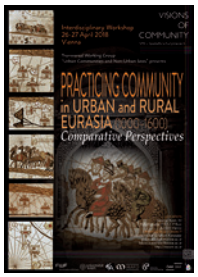
Urban Communities and Non-Urban Sites and Centres



PRACTICING COMMUNITY IN URBAN AND RURAL EURASIA (1000–1600)

Comparative Perspectives & Interdisciplinary Approaches

Fabian Kümmeler, Eirik Hovden, Judit Majorossy (Eds.)

Brill, Leiden
Expected Publication Date: 2019

This volume explores the social practices of framing, building, and enacting community in urban-rural relations by comparing case studies from Central and Southeast Europe through the Mediterranean and the Arabian Peninsula to Central Asia and Tibet. Choosing an interdisciplinary and comparative approach, the contributions focus on a broad spectrum of social practices, discursive and symbolical framing of communities, as well as expressions of community in performance and material culture in different regional and cultural contexts. Conceiving urban and rural communities as being composed of 'multiple layers of communitarian belonging', the contributions refer to (and apply) a series of research questions elaborated in a series of international workshops aimed at a coherent linking of the meaning, ideas and discourses about the concept of "communities" in the Middle Ages. As communities emerge, are strengthened and changed by the social practices of its members and in the interaction with external groups, the authors scrutinize practical aspects of communal life in urban-rural relation against the background of power politics, legal systems and visions of community in the respective cultural and geographical contexts, by focusing on four dimensions:

1) The practical aspect of sustaining a community in and throughout urban-rural relations by the management of resources, infrastructure, exchange of goods, administration and information, etc.

2) The forms of representing, symbolizing and enacting community through public buildings and performative culture in a spatial setting.

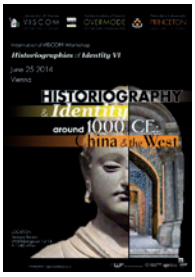
3) The practices of integration and differentiation in a long-term perspective by scrutinizing various forms of endowments dedicated to specific purposes in order to serve the common good.

4) The enactment of community in a spatial perspective by analysing processes of integration and differentiation via the practice of religious and secular processions. The volume is a result of continuously challenging the discussion of urban and non-urban communities within the framework of VISCOM.

With contributions from:

Maaike VAN BERKEL, Hubert FEIGLSTORFER, Andre GINGRICH, Károly GODA, Elisabeth GRUBER, Johann HEISS, Kateřina HORNÍČKOVÁ, Eirik HOVDEN, Christian JAHODA, Christiane KALANTARI, Hugh KENNEDY, Odile KOMMER, Fabian KÜMMELER, Christina LUTTER, Judit MAJOROSSY, Ermanno ORLANDO, Noha SADEK, Oliver Jens SCHMITT

Narratives of Community



HISTORIOGRAPHY & IDENTITY VOL 4

WRITING HISTORY ACROSS MEDIEVAL EURASIA

Walter Pohl, Daniel Mahoney (Eds.)

Brepols, Turnhout
Publication Date: 2020

This volume examines the social function of historical writing across various world regions from Europe through the Islamic world to China during the medieval period. These chapters explore how historiographical works in these diverse contexts construct and shape identities, as well as communicate 'visions of community' and legitimate political claims.

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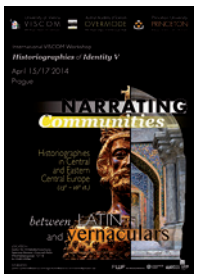

HISTORIOGRAPHY & IDENTITY VOL 6

HISTORIOGRAPHIES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN CENTRAL EUROPE BETWEEN LATIN AND VERNACULARS, 13th–16th Ct.

Pavlína Rychterová , David Kalhous (Eds.)

Brepols, Turnhout
Expected Publication Date: 2020

BREPOLS PUBLISHERS

The volume discusses Central European and Eastern Central European historiographies of the High and Late Middle Ages. It deals with histories written in a time which brought about a profound differentiation of medieval societies in these regions. The demand for reassuring identifications grew the more pressing as new social strata achieved their share of economic and political power. Narratives of identification produced and reproduced by historiography were tailored specifically for distinct social groups often using their languages: the vernaculars instead of the universal language of elite education, Latin.

The focus of the volume is on the strategies of identification that individual works developed to balance many alternative modes of identification. Of an eminent interest is the interplay between the languages – in the area under scrutiny that was, apart from Latin, mainly German and Czech. In this interplay, orality and literacy interacted, with mutual effects on each other. The publication offers deep insights in these and related questions and herewith fills a significant scholarly gap.

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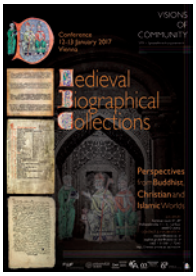
Medieval Biographical Collections



BRILL

MEDIEVAL BIOGRAPHICAL COLLECTIONS IN COMPARISON

Perspectives from the Buddhist, Christian and Islamic Worlds

Daniel Mahoney, Diarmuid Ó Riain, Giorgia Vocino (Eds.)

Brill, Leiden
Expected Publication Date: 2020

This book is a product of the Medieval Biographical Collections working group and will offer a comparative approach to collections of biographical texts emanating from the Buddhist, Christian and Islamic worlds in the period 400-1600 CE. Throughout history, remarkable men and women stood out in a way that triggered an often-complex process of retelling their lives and preserving their memory through written narratives, and could thus became examples and sources of inspiration and identification for communities. This volume looks at instances where such stories were preserved and presented within wider collections of biographies, where they could acquire new meanings and significance within an over-arching narrative. Within a comparative framework, the volume will examine the writing and compilation strategies behind the works, their reception, audience and use, and the contexts and communities that gave rise to them.

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Forthcoming

KINSHIP AND GENDER: Comparative Perspectives on Practices of Exchange and Belonging

Andre Gingrich and Christina Lutter (Eds.)

History and Anthropology, Special Issue (2020), forthcoming
Taylor & Francis

CROSS PUBLICATIONS • Articles

Eirik HOVDEN, Rutger KRAMER, Wondering about Comparison: Enclaves of Learning in Medieval Europe and South Arabia – Prolegomena to an Intercultural Comparative Research Project, in: Networks and Neighbours 1 (2014) 20-45.

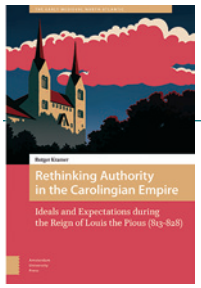
Odile KOMMER, Salvatore LICCARDO and Andrea NOWAK, Comparative Approaches to Ethnonyms: The Case of the Persians, in: Hungarian Historical Review 7/1 (2018) 18-56.

Walter POHL, Andre GINGRICH, Medieval Worlds – Introduction to the First Issue: Visions of Community. Comparative Approaches to Ethnicity, Region and Empire in Christianity, Islam and Buddhism (400-1600 CE), in: Medieval Worlds 1 (2015) 2-4, 138-147.

PUBLICATIONS OF EACH RESEARCH FOCUS

CHRISTIAN DISCOURSE AND POLITICAL IDENTITIES IN EARLY MEDIEVAL EUROPE

BOOKS



RETHINKING AUTHORITY IN THE CAROLINGIAN EMPIRE

Ideals and Expectations during the Reign of Louis the Pious (813-828)

Rutger Kramer

Amsterdam University Press
Publication Date: February 2019

https://www.aup.nl/en/book/9789462982642/rethinking-authority-in-the-carolingian-empire

This book sheds new light on the ecclesiastical reforms undertaken under Louis the Pious by combining several different interpretations of the powers and responsibilities of the Carolingian emperors from different vantage points.

By the early ninth century, the Carolingian dynasty ruling over the Frankish Empire had assumed full responsibility for the social, religious and political reforms that had become an integral part of their policy. This became especially clear when, in 813/4, Louis the Pious and his court seized the momentum generated by their predecessors, and broadened the scope of these reforms ever further. Those involved knew they constituted a movement greater than the sum of its parts; the interdependence of imperial authority and ecclesiastical reformers was driven by comprehensive, yet surprisingly diverse expectations.

Taking this diversity as a starting point, this book takes a fresh look at the optimistic years between 813 and 828. Extrapolating from a series of detailed case studies rather than presenting a grand narrative, it offers new interpretations of contemporary theories of reform, and demonstrates how vital it is to take into account the self-awareness of its main instigators as they pondered what it meant to be a good Christian in a good Christian empire.

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Epilogue: Imperial Responsibilities and the Discourse of Reforms

HISTORIOGRAPHY & IDENTITY VOL 3

SOURCES AND THEIR LIMITS

Rutger Kramer, Graeme Ward, Helmut Reimitz (Eds.)

Brepols, Turnhout
Publication Date: 2019

'Carolingian Convergence and its Limits' focuses on the question to what extent the reinstitution of the Empire in Western Europe brought about new ways of reconciling the multitude of post-Roman identities with the way the past was shaped in historiographical narratives. From universal histories to local chronicles, and from narratives that support Carolingian rule to histories with a more local focus, the centralization of power and authority in the course of the 8th and 9th centuries forced those who engaged with their own past and that of their community to acknowledge the new situation, and situate themselves in it. The contributions in this volume each depart from a single source or community, and relate their findings to the broader issue of whether the rise of the multi-ethnic Carolingian court allowed for more inclusive narratives to be shaped, or if their self-proclaimed place at the centre of the Frankish world actually created a context in which local communities were given new tools to assert themselves.

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BREPOLS PUBLISHERS

CATEGORISING THE CHURCH

Monastic Communities, Canonical Clergy and Episcopal Authority in the Carolingian World

Rutger Kramer, Emilie Kurdziel, Graeme Ward (Eds.)

Brepols, Turnhout
Expected Publication Date: 2019

In the years 816-819, a series of councils was held at the imperial palace in Aachen. The goal of the meetings was to settle a number of questions about ecclesiastical organisation. These issues were hotly debated throughout the Christian Roman Empire of fourth and fifth centuries, and then reinvigorated by the renewal of empire under Charlemagne and his son Louis the Pious. At the centre of the ensuing debate stood the distinction between monks and monastic communities on the one hand, and the so-called *clerici canonici* and their communities on the other. Many other reforms were proposed in its wake: the position of the episcopacy needed to be renegotiated, the role of the imperial court needed to be consolidated, and the place of every Christian within the renewed Carolingian Church needed to be redefined. What started out as a seemingly straightforward reorganisation of the religious communities that dotted the Frankish ecclesiastical landscape thus quickly turned into a broad movement that necessitated an almost complete categorisation of the orders of the Church. The contributions to this volume each zoom in on various aspects of these negotiations: their prehistory, their implementation, and their influence. In doing so, previously held assumptions about the scope, the goals, and the impact of the 'Carolingian Church Reforms' will be re-assessed as well.

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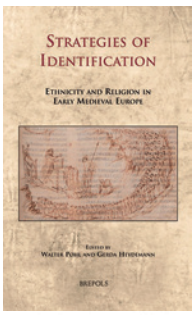

BREPOLS PUBLISHERS

STRATEGIES OF IDENTIFICATION

Ethnicity and Religion in Early Medieval Europe

Walter Pohl, Gerda Heydemann (Eds.)

Cultural Encounters in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages 13
Brepols, Turnhout 2013

http://www.brepols.net/Pages/ShowProduct.aspx?prod_id=IS-9782503533841-1

This volume traces the creation of ethnic and religious identities in the Early Middle Ages in a wide range of sources.

How were identities created in the early Middle Ages and when did they matter? This book explores different types of sources to understand the ways in which they contributed to making ethnic and religious communities meaningful: historiography and hagiography, biblical exegesis and works of theology, sermons and letters. Thus, it sets out to widen the horizon of current debates on ethnicity and identity. The Christianization and dissolution of the Roman Empire had provoked a crisis of traditional identities and opened new spaces for identification. What were the textual resources on which new communities could rely, however precariously? Biblical models and Christian discourses could be used for a variety of aims and identifications, and the volume provides some exemplary analyses of these distinct voices. Barbarian polities developed in a rich and varied framework of textual 'strategies of identification'. The contributions reconstruct some of this discursive matrix and its development from the age of Augustine to the Carolingians. In the course of this process, ethnicity and religion were amalgamated in a new way that became fundamental for European history, and acquired an important political role in the post-Roman kingdoms. The extensive introduction not only draws together the individual studies, but also addresses fundamental issues of the definition of ethnicity, and of the relationship between discourses and practices of identity. It offers a methodological basis that is valid for studies of identity in general.

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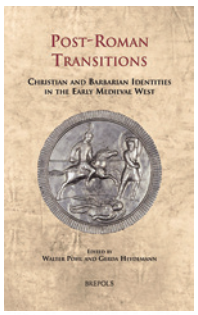

POST-ROMAN TRANSITIONS

Christian and Barbarian Identities in the Early Medieval West

Walter Pohl, Gerda Heydemann (Eds.)

Cultural Encounters in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages 14
Brepols, Turnhout 2013

http://www.brepols.net/Pages/ShowProduct.aspx?prod_id=IS-9782503543277-

This volume looks at changing identities during the transition from the Roman Empire to a political world defined by different kingdoms and peoples in western Europe. It addresses 'ethnicity' in the context of alternative modes of identification, mainly Christianity and Romanness. To widen the horizon of current debates, it shows that the ancient dichotomy between barbarians and Romans is hardly helpful in understanding the complex transitions to a post-imperial age in the West. In a broad sweep of regional examples, from Spain and North Africa to Dalmatia and the British Isles, the book follows the unfolding of Christian and barbarian identities: How were both the Roman and the barbarian past used for the formation and legitimation of new identities?

The 'scripts of Romanness' changed in the early Middle Ages, and so did the significance of othering pagans, heretics, or barbarians. The contributions trace the tenacity and the ambiguity of traditional narratives and signs of distinction: manuscripts and material remains, costume and epigraphy, historiography and hagiography were used in creative ways to shape civic, local, or religious communities. Many of the contributions show the fundamental importance of Christian 'strategies of identification' for creating a stronger political role for ethnicity in the post-Roman kingdoms. As such, they follow a line of argument that has also been explored in the book's companion volume in this series, 'Strategies of Identification: Ethnicity and Religion in Early Medieval Europe' (CELAMA 13).

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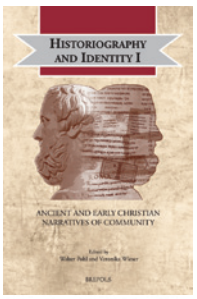

HISTORIOGRAPHY & IDENTITY VOL.1

ANCIENT AND EARLY CHRISTIAN NARRATIVES OF COMMUNITY

Walter Pohl, Veronika Wieser (Eds.)

Brepols, Turnhout
Publication Date: 2019

http://www.brepols.net/pages/ShowProduct.aspx?prod_id=IS-9782503581576-1

This is the first volume of a series of six volumes addressing the many ways in which identities were constructed in late antique and medieval historiography. This volume offers a general introduction to the series, and then deals with classical and early Christian models and their ways of building or questioning identities. It presents in-depth studies about how history writing could create a sense of community, thereby shedding light on the links between authorial strategies, processes of identification and cultural memory. The contributions explore the importance of regional, ethnic, cultural and imperial identities to the process of history writing, embedding the works in the changing political landscape.

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HISTORIOGRAPHY & IDENTITY VOL 5

THE EMERGENCE OF NEW PEOPLES AND POLITIES, C. 1000-1300

Walter Pohl, Francesco Borri (Eds.)

Brepols, Turnhout
Expected Publication Date: 2019

BREPOLS PUBLISHERS

This volume deals with some of the earliest histories narrating the past of the new polities that had emerged after 1000 in Northern, East Central and Eastern Europe, as well as in the Adriatic regions. They have often be understood as 'national histories'; but a closer look brings out the differences in their aims and construction. One question addressed here is to what extent these historians built on models of identification developed in earlier historiography. The volume provides an overview of several fundamental texts in which identities in the new Christian kingdoms were negotiated, and of recent research on these texts.

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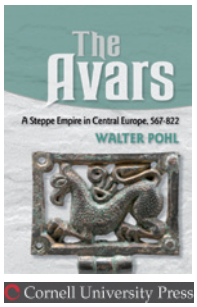

THE AVARS

A Steppe Empire in Central Europe, 567-822

Walter Pohl

Ithaca: Cornell University Press 2018

http://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/?GCOI=80140103214450

The Avars arrived in Europe from the Central Asian steppes in the mid-sixth century CE and dominated much of Central and Eastern Europe for almost 250 years. Fierce warriors and canny power brokers, the Avars were more influential and durable than Attila's Huns, yet have remained hidden in history. Walter Pohl's epic narrative, translated into English for the first time, restores them to their rightful place in the story of early medieval Europe.

The Avars offers a comprehensive overview of their history, tracing the Avars from the construction of their steppe empire in the center of Europe; their wars and alliances with the Byzantines, Slavs, Lombards, and others; their apex as the first so-called barbarian power to besiege Constantinople (in 626); to their fall under the Frankish armies of Charlemagne and subsequent disappearance as a distinct cultural group. Pohl uncovers the secrets of their society, synthesizing the rich archaeological record recovered from more than 60,000 graves of the period, as well as accounts of the Avars by Byzantine and other chroniclers.

In recovering the story of the fascinating encounter between Eurasian nomads who established an empire in the heart of Europe and the post-Roman Christian cultures of Europe, this book provides a new perspective on the origins of medieval Europe itself.

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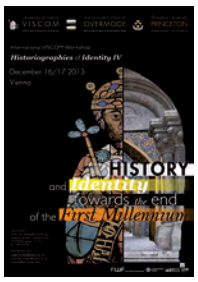

BREPOLS PUBLISHERS

HISTORIOGRAPHY & IDENTITY VOL 2

POST-ROMAN MULTIPLICITY AND NEW POLITICAL IDENTITIES

Helmut Reimitz, Gerda Heydemann (Eds.)

Brepols, Turnhout
Publication Date: 2019

This volume studies the social function of historiography in the Justinianic age and the post-Roman kingdoms of the West. The papers explore how writers in Constantinople and in the various kingdoms from Italy to Britain adopted the late antique historiographical traditions and adapted them in response to the new needs and challenges created by the transformation of the political and social order. What was the significance of their choices between different models (or their creation of new ones) for their 'vision of community'? The volume provides a representative analysis of the historiographical resources of ethnic, political, and religious identifications created in the various Western kingdoms. In doing so, it seeks to understand the extant works as part of a once much wider and more polyphonic historiographical debate.

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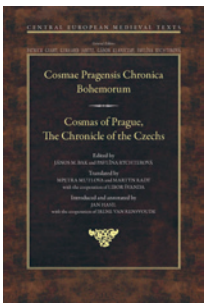

CEU PRESS | CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

COSMAS OF PRAGUE

The Chronicle of the Czechs – Cosmae Pragensis Chronica Bohemorum

Pavlína Rychterová, Janos Bak (Eds.)

Central European Medieval Texts 7
Budapest: CEU Press 2018

http://ceupress.com/book/cosmas-prague

The Latin-English bilingual volume presents the text of The Chronicle of the Czechs by Cosmas of Prague. Cosmas was born around 1045, educated in Liège, upon his return to Bohemia, he got married as well as became a priest. In 1086 he was appointed prebendary, a senior member of clergy in Prague. He completed the first book of the Chronicle in 1119, starting with the creation of the world and the earliest deeds of the Czechs up to Saint Adalbert. In the second and third books Cosmas presents the preceding century in the history of Bohemia, and succeeds in reporting about events up to 1125, the year when he died.

The English translation was done by Petra Mutlova and Martyn Rady with the cooperation of Libor Švanda. The introduction and the explanatory notes were written by Jan Hasil with the cooperation of Irene van Rensvoude.

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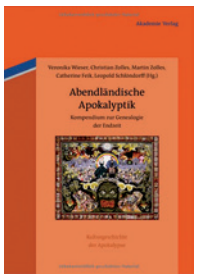

ABENDLÄNDISCHE APOKALYPTIK

Kompendium zur Genealogie der Endzeit

Catherine Feik, Leopold Schlöndorff,
Veronika Wieser, Christian Zolles, Martin Zolles (Eds.)

Kulturgeschichte der Apokalypse
De Gruyter, Berlin 2013

https://www.degruyter.com/view/product/224242

The authors in this volume have studied the ever-changing perceptions of the End of Time and the Apocalypse from Late Antiquity until the early 21st century. Long associated with specifically biblical themes which were first shaped by the *Book of Revelation* in the New Testament, the main goal of the contributors has been to trace the social dynamics and discursive strategies behind the different visions of the end times in various eras. Such descriptions and the world-views they exemplified were, after all, important factors in the formation of identities and communities. Ranging from modern times to the early modern, medieval and late antique periods, the socio-cultural approaches pioneered by the contributors take into account questions of medial and representational strategies, as well as the identities and cosmologies that gave rise to the depictions under scrutiny.

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In Preparation:

ETHNIC TERMINOLOGIES

Walter Pohl, Cinzia Grifoni, Sophie Gruber (Eds.)

Brill 2020

ARTICLES

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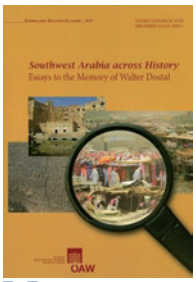
SOUTH ARABIA BETWEEN LATE ANTIQUITY AND EARLY MODERNITY

BOOKS



VERLAG DER ÖSTERREICHISCHEN AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN

SOUTHWEST ARABIA ACROSS HISTORY
Essays to the Memory of Walter Dostal

Andre Gingrich, Siegfried Haas (Eds.)

Sammlung Eduard Glaser
ÖAW Verlag, Wien 2015

https://verlag.oeaw.ac.at/southwest-arabia-across-history

Southwest Arabia across History honors the legacy of Walter Dostal as one of Continental Europe's most eminent scholars in the fields of social and historical anthropology, by offering innovative contributions in the interdisciplinary fields of South Arabian studies. These texts are presented by experts in pre-Islamic epigraphy and archeology, regional geography and Islamic historical studies, as well as contemporary history and socio-cultural anthropology. They discuss central riddles and key issues in South Arabian studies, such as interrelations between texts and contexts, environment and economy, water management and law, conflict and mediation for peace, or tribalism and state constellations. Beyond its relevance for regional historical and contemporary expertise, this volume also represents a lively and fresh contribution to methods and practices of interdisciplinarity in the humanities and the social sciences.

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SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COMMUNITIES IN LATE MEDIEVAL CENTRAL EUROPE

BOOKS

DAS WIENER HANDWERKSORDNUNGS-BUCH (1364–1555)

Edition und Kommentar

Markus Gneiß (ed.)
Vienna: Böhlau 2017
http://www.boehlau-verlag.com/978-3-205-20418-3.html

Das im Jahr 1430 durch den Stadtschreiber Ulrich Hirssauer angelegte Wiener Handwerksordnungsbuch zeichnet ein vielfältiges Bild vom täglichen Leben im Wien des 15. und 16. Jahrhunderts. Neben Ordnungen für eine große Zahl von Wiener Handwerken enthält die umfangreiche Handschrift auch Statuten zur Organisation der städtischen Märkte, zur Stadtsicherung sowie zum Weinanbau und Weinausschank. Darüber hinaus bieten diverse Amts-, Bürger- und Treueide Einblick in die städtische Verwaltung sowie in die wechselvolle politische Geschichte des spätmittelalterlichen Wiens. Die Edition bietet nicht nur alle im Handwerksordnungsbuch enthaltenen Texte, sondern kontextualisiert diese auch in Form einer Einleitung und erleichtert ihre Benutzung durch ein Glossar sowie ein umfassendes Namen- und Sachregister.

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PROCESSIONAL CULTURES OF THE EUCHARIST

Vienna and her Central European Counterparts (ca. 1300-1550)

Károly Goda
Olomouc: OUP 2015

The main research question addressed in this international comparative analysis of Károly Goda was how to interpret the socio-cultural and political role of late medieval Eucharistic marches in the context of four, Central European, both residential and capital urban communities. One might emphasize in the case of Vienna that concerning the form of Eucharistic processions the regulations and orders of marches always involved acts of power from external authorities imposing their political, social and cultural agenda on non-individualized groups of people. Concerning the Czech cult of the Host, following the Luxemburg-era dynastic grandeur & gloire, in the bi-confessional context of the Prague Cities the strong Utraquist domination after the mid-1430s was later followed by religious modus vivendi during the Catholic Jagiellonian dynasty. As Goda's monograph revealed the Polish late medieval capital, Cracow demonstrated the key role of bishopric and later royal initiatives in establishing & maintaining the cult of Corpus Christi highlighting key political interests in Catholic forms. Finally, in the case of the Kingdom of Hungary in the city of Buda secular civic and royal intentions had by the 1420s inscribed their agendas into the religious cult. The form of the processional veneration of the Host was, among others, mobilised for unifying the Latin and Greek Christian churches, fighting against the Czech Hussite movement and facing the growing Islamic threat of the Ottoman Empire.

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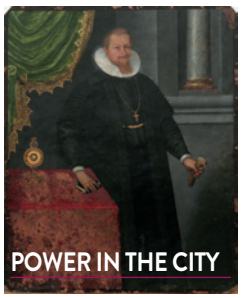

POWER IN THE CITY

The Political Elites of Late Medieval Sopron/Ödenburg, ca. 1200-1600

Károly Goda

Oxford: OUP 2019

In his monograph Károly Goda put under intensive and curious academic scrutiny the uniqueness of the institutional local politics and elite formation patterns of the town of Sopron/Ödenburg in the contexts of the medieval and Renaissance Holy Roman Empire and the Kingdom of Hungary. As his study suprisingly revealed the structure of internal and successive power relations showed an unprecedented variety of different patterns. The turn of the 15th –16th centuries for example demonstrated a manyfold pluralistic world of local internal power relations. Finally, the local civic elite was almost always at least partially open to integrate successful local craftsmen and highly ambitious new-comers. The latter features provided Sopron/Ödenburg a special position in the urban elite-formation phenomena within the Carpathian basin, which at the local level of the Western-Hungarian town preceded, in a sense even prepared the economic and cultural success of the early 17th-century "golden era".

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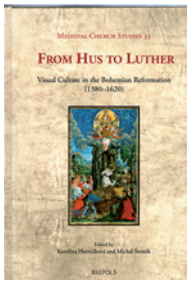
STAGING THE MIGHTY

Solemn Processions and Festive Entries in Central European Residential Capital Cities

Károly Goda

Cambridge: CUP 2020

The key point of investigation in this research monograph on Vienna, Prague, Cracow, and Buda/Ofen addressed medieval festive lordly entries and Eucharistic marches in a comparative perspective. Using in the double interface contexts key variables such as source bias, participation patterns, solemn topographies and contents of staging, Károly Goda successfully (re)constructed an open-end, multi-vocal, comparative approach to festive continuity and change. As complex, hierarchical interfaces of ecclesiastical, urban & noble/courtly interactions, on the one hand, Corpus Christi processions in general (and esp. around 1500 in Vienna) were more negotiated-consensual forms of community building with mostly inclusive participation patterns. On the other hand, festive lordly entries remained hierarchically structured events, yet offering almost all-inclusive participatory options. Notwithstanding the Christian origins of both traditions, *adventus* in order to propagate lordly power offered a less sacred and thus socially more open vision of community (the lord as *pars pro toto* of a "proto-state"), successful even in the bi/multi-confessional contexts of the 15th & 16th centuries. As a summary, during the transitional autumn of the Middle Ages the Eucharistic processio became the key articulation form of co-ordinated, mostly exclusive, often belligerent confessional/religious visions of community, while the *adventus* announced with its form and content the advent of strongly hierarchical still highly inclusive (early) modern secular political rituals.



BREPOLS PUBLISHERS

FROM HUS TO LUTHER

Visual Culture in the Bohemian Reformation (1380-1620)

Kateřina Horníčková, Michal Šroněk (Eds.)

Brepols, Turnhout 2016

http://www.brepols.net/Pages/ShowProduct.aspx?prod_id=IS-9782503548050-1

This book portrays a little-known phenomenon in Bohemian cultural and political history – the visual culture that grew up in the environment of Reformation churches in Bohemia from the time of the Hussites until the defeat of the Estates by the Habsburg coalition at White Mountain in 1620. It provides the first comprehensive overview of a forgotten era of artistic production over a period of approximately two hundred years, when most of the population of Bohemia professed non-Catholic faiths.

During the 15th and 16th centuries a unique situation arose in Bohemia, with five main Christian denominations (Utraquists, Lutherans, the Unity of Brethren, Calvinists, and Catholics) gradually coming to function alongside each other, with a number of other religious groups also active. The main churches, which had a fundamental influence on political stability in the state, were the majority Utraquists and the minority Catholics. Yet the essays of this book establish that despite the particularities of the Bohemian situation, the religious trends of Bohemia were an integral part of the process of Reformation across Europe.

Featuring over fifty illustrations including manuscript illumination, panel painting, and architecture, the book also presents the surviving cultural products of the four non-Catholic Christian denominations, ranging from the more moderate to radical Reformation cultures. The book also analyses the attitudes of these denominations to religious representations, and illuminates their uses of visual media in religious and confessional communication. The book thus opens up both the Reformation culture of Bohemia and its artistic heritage to an international audience.

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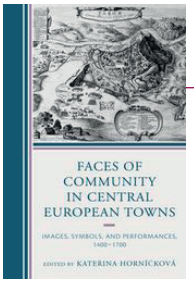

ROWMAN & LITTLEFIELD

FACES OF COMMUNITY IN CENTRAL EUROPEAN TOWNS

Images, Symbols, and Performances, 1400–1700

Kateřina Horníčková (Ed.)

Rowman and Littlefield/Lexington Books Publication Date: September 2018

https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781498551137/Faces-of-Community-in-Central-European-Towns-Images-Symbols-and-Performances-1400%E2%80%931700

Concepts of visual communication provide an explanatory framework for discussing symbolic expressions of community in late medieval and early modern towns, including Reformation and Counter Reformation. This book examines the role of images and visual representation by concentrating on the varieties of symbolic communication in towns that made a range of relationships visual: the status and role of urban civic, professional, and religious communities and the relations between the town and its lord or powerful families and individuals. The geographical framework of this book is the region in the former Habsburg countries north of the Danube River embracing the region between western Bohemia and what is today eastern Slovakia, including the borderland towns of northern Austria. Two studies focus on specific local and occupational communities in the Prague towns, but most of the texts in this book focus on small towns by contemporary European standards in which many forms of urban topography, buildings, objects, and monuments survive, even though few written sources have been preserved. Accessing a wide range of literature in regional languages and German for English speakers, this collection describes typical urban landscapes in early modern Central Europe outside the well-known Central European urban centers and traditional areas of study.

The book is a relevant new contribution to medieval and early modern studies, not only covering an underappreciated geographical area but also addressing general questions about the history of rituals and performance as well as visual culture, communication, and identity discourses in late medieval and early modern urban space.

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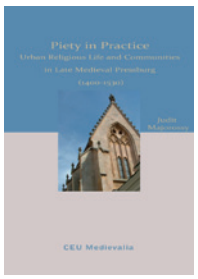

PIETY IN PRACTICE

Urban Religious Life and Communities in Late Medieval Pressburg (1400-1530)

Judit Majorossy

Central European University Press
CEU Medievalia Series

Expected Publication Date: 2019

The religious ethos of late medieval people involved serious concern for the fate of their souls after death. Beyond the general strategies for reaching eternal life, several factors affected the means that community members selected to reach this spiritual end. The overall goal of this new study on the religious life of late medieval German-speaking Pressburg (Pozsony, today Bratislava) is to highlight what the testamentary 'pro anima' bequests reflect about the religious thinking of 15th- and early 16th-century Pressburg people and how their wills expressed religiosity in general. To provide a broader base for interpreting the wills, other types of sources and data from art history and archaeology were also incorporated. Another, indirect, objective is to offer a tool for comparison with other European urban communities. Since wills are universal sources and they have been widely researched by Western scholars from the point of view of religiosity, they represent excellent vehicles for comparing different regions in medieval Europe. By revealing similarities and dissimilarites, Pressburg can be firmly situated on the wider European religious landscape, and through it a window can also be opened on the piety and church life of the medieval Kingdom of Hungary.

MEDIEVAL VIENNA IN CONTEXT

Elisabeth Gruber, Susana Zapke (Eds.)

Brill`s Companions to European History
Leiden: Brill 2019

STÄDTE IM LATEINISCHEN WESTEN UND IM GRIECHISCHEN OSTEN ZWISCHEN SPÄTANTIKE UND FRÜHER NEUZEIT

Topographie – Recht – Religion

Elisabeth Gruber *et al.* (Eds.)

Vienna: Böhlau 2016

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Jonathan Lyon (Ed.)

Manchester Medieval Sources
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Elisabeth Gruber, Judit Majorossy (Eds.)

TOWNS AS LIVING SPACES IN EAST CENTRAL EUROPE:

Static and Dynamic Aspects of Late Medieval Urban Communities (East Central and Eastern Europe in the Middle Ages, 450-1450)

Leiden: Brill 2020.

Judit Majorossy

DIE FUNKTIONALE ELITE MITTELALTERLICHEN PRESSBURGS

(Die Rats- und Amtsliste, 1350–1540)

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SOCIETY, STATEHOOD AND RELIGION IN LATE MEDIEVAL DALMATIA

BOOKS

STRUTTURE E PRATICHE DI UNA COMUNITÀ URBANA
Spalato, 1420–1479

Ermanno Orlando

Venice–Vienna: Istituto Veneto di Scienze
Lettere e Arti – Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften 2019

Il volume analizza la dimensione comunitaria di Spalato nel pieno Quattrocento (1420-1479), secondo una struttura a spirale che, muovendo dal basso verso l'alto, si occupa nella sua prima parte delle strutture di base della società spalatina, dalla famiglia sino alle comunità di lavoro e alle confraternite di sostegno e di mutua cooperazione; nella seconda, delle comunità di diritto, in particolare i nobili, i popolani, i cittadini e i forestieri; nella terza del comune (e delle sue strutture), inteso quale momento primario di unificazione e sintesi in un ente politico-istituzionale legittimo, inclusivo e solidale delle tante communitates di cui la communitas spalatina era formata. Nella quarta e ultima parte del volume ci si sofferma, infine, sulla forza e la pervasività delle relazioni intercomunitarie, delle reti informali e dei legami alternativi di solidarietà, al fine di evidenziare il grado di commistione e vischiosità delle strutture di afferenza e identificazione, anche in una società all'apparenza così severamente strutturata in termini di appartenenze comunitarie come quella di Spalato del pieno Quattrocento.

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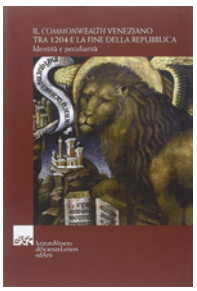

IL 'COMMONWEALTH' VENEZIANO TRA 1204 E LA FINE DELLA REPUBBLICA
Identità e Peculiarità

Gherardo Ortalli, Oliver Schmitt, Ermanno Orlando (Eds.)

Istituto Veneto di Scienze Lettere ed Arti Venice 2015

http://www.ivsla.it/store/index.php?main_page=product_book_info&products_id=282

Il presente volume mette a punto lo stato attuale delle ricerche nell'ottica del 'Commonwealth' veneziano, nel lungo periodo compreso tra la creazione dell'Impero Latino di Costantinopoli nel 1204 e la fine della Respublica nel 1797. La prospettiva è quella da un lato della peculiarità della vicenda veneziana nel suo complesso, dall'altro lato quella di definire le caratteristiche di uno Stato che si presenta con lineamenti piuttosto specifici e con esperienze decisamente particolari.

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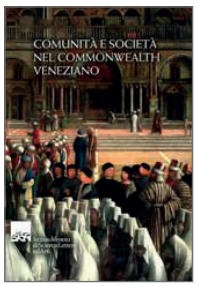
THIERRY GANCHOU, Sujets grecs crétois de la Sérénissime à Constantinople à la veille de 1453 (Iôannès Tortzélos et Nikolaos Pôlos): une ascension sociale brutalement interrompue
SERGHEI KARPOV, Colonie o capisaldi. Verso Tana, Trebisonda e il Mar Nero, secc. XIV-XV
ERMANNO ORLANDO, Mobilità, migrazioni, intrecci
PAOLO PRETO, 'Causar la morte di questo tristo' fa 'un gran bene alla nostra patria'
ERIC DURSTELER, 'Portare San Marco nel cuore'. Strategie di integrazione all'interno della nazione veneziana a Istanbul
PIERO DEL NEGRO, L'esercito e le milizie



COMUNITÀ E SOCIETÀ NEL COMMONWEALTH VENEZIANO

Gherardo Ortalli, Oliver Schmitt, Ermanno Orlando (Eds.)

Venice: Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti
Publication Date: December 2018

http://www.ivsla.it/store/index.php?main_page=product_book_info&products_id=325

Il volume tratta la dimensione comunitaria dello Stato e della società veneziana, rintracciando le strutture, i progetti e le prassi della vita comunitaria nel Commonwealth marciano.

Numerosi specialisti, pertanto, analizzano la dimensione sia giuridica che socio-culturale della vasta gamma di comunità insistenti nello spazio veneziano, da quelle politiche a quelle professionali (corporazioni), da quelle religiose e caritative (comunità monastico-conventuali e confraternite) a quelle su base etnica e della provenienza (scuole nazionali). Il filo conduttore che lega questi aspetti è quanto le comunità abbiano contribuito a strutturare e a stabilizzare il dominio e l'architettura sociale dello Stato veneziano e viceversa. L'approccio è necessariamente pluridisciplinare, visto che da tempo le dimensioni testuali e visuali della vita comunitaria sono oggetto di crescenti attenzioni da parte di diversi settori della ricerca. Alcune questioni chiave riguardano l'uso delle strutture comunitarie da parte dello Stato, al fine di creare una comunità sovra-territoriale con caratteri comuni (in termini di simboli, prassi e rituali, cerimonie e visualizzazione del potere), l'impatto dello Stato sulla formazione delle comunità e le relazioni tra le comunità e le strutture statali e di potere.

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KORČULA SOUS LA DOMINATION DE VENISE AU XVE SIÈCLE

Pouvoir, économie et vie quotidienne dans une île dalmate au Moyen Âge tardif

Oliver Schmitt

Paris: Publications du Collège de France 2019

http://www.lcdpu.fr/livre/?GCOI=27000100658380

En 1420, l'île de Korcula sur la côte dalmate (aujourd'hui en Croatie) passe sous l'administration de Venise. Ses archives d'une richesse exceptionnelle permettent de brosser le tableau «total» d'une petite société vivant en bordure de l'empire maritime vénitien au xve siècle, face à Raguse (Dubrovnik), la rivale: comment ce microcosme de paysans et de bergers, de pêcheurs et de marins commerçants, de patriciens de la ville et de populares de la campagne a-t-il été transformé par son insertion dans l'espace économique et politique de la grande puissance méditerranéenne?

Dans ces trois conférences données au Collège de France en 2010, Oliver Jens Schmitt, professeur à l'université de Vienne, historien des Balkans, croise la micro-histoire avec la grande. On peut y lire l'histoire des amours de Dragacic, leader des populares et de Franuša, fille d'un patricien – un véritable roman politique digne d'un Boccace, où le doge de Venise lui-même intervient. On y apprend comment les familles patriciennes font fortune dans la contrebande, vitale pour les habitants d'une île en manque permanent de blé. À travers les procès-verbaux des gardes champêtres et les registres du port, on entre dans tous les détails de la vie quotidienne de l'île, avec ses histoires de lavandières et de capitaines de navire, de moutons volés sur les plages et de forêts volontairement incendiés. Et l'on en vient à comprendre qu'entre la toute-puissante Venise, uniquement représentée par un gouverneur qui ignore la langue locale, et ce petit monde de paysans et de marins lui-même profondément divisé, c'est tout un jeu de négociations permanent qui règle la vie de l'île et de ses habitants.

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De la fumée sur Korcula : les forêts et la production de poix
Les hommes et les animaux : le bétail, les ânes et les chevaux, les chiens, les loups
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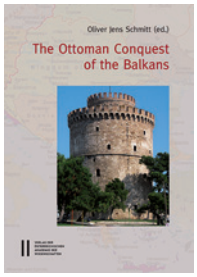

VERLAG DER ÖSTERREICHISCHEN AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN

THE OTTOMAN CONQUEST OF THE BALKANS

Oliver Jens Schmitt (Ed.)

Austrian Academy of Sciences Press
Wien 2016

https://www.austriaca.at/7890-3inhalt?frames=yes

The Ottoman conquest of the Balkans constitutes a major change in European history. Scholarship on the topic is extensive, yet the evidence produced by decades of research is very scattered and lacking comprehensive synthesis, not to mention consensual interpretation. Although major political and military milestones seem to have been investigated thoroughly, there is a notable absence of more theoretical and interpretative approaches that overarch the entire phenomenon rather than merely individual aspects. Scholars have hitherto addressed the topic from various perspectives and employing a wide range of methods, but Byzantine studies, Ottoman studies, Eastern Mediterranean studies and national historiographies in the Balkan countries have yet to establish either a coherent collaboration or a consistent model of interpretation. This volume therefore rather aims at opening and structuring a new heuristic approach and at coordinating a field of studies that is of crucial importance for understanding change in European history.

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OVIDIU CRISTEA, Venice Confronting the Ottoman Empire: A Struggle for Survival (14th–16th Centuries)

VIELLA

VENEZIA E DALMAZIA

Uwe Israel, Oliver Jens Schmitt (Eds.)

Viella, Rome 2013

https://www.viella.it/libro/9788867280100

È stato un rapporto particolarmente stretto quello che per oltre un millennio ha legato la Repubblica di Venezia e la Dalmazia. Un rapporto che, proprio a causa della particolare vicinanza, fu segnato ripetutamente anche da tensioni. Fu la caduta della Serenissima e il sorgente nazionalismo a trasformare la Dalmazia da un territorio di complessa simbiosi culturale in un'area di conflitti nazionali e contrapposizione etnica.

Le modificazioni nel rapporto tra Venezia e la Dalmazia si riflettono particolarmente anche nella storiografia. Proprio negli ultimi anni si è verificato però un forte cambiamento: il dialogo tra storici croati e italiani si è intensificato e sono stati resi accessibili nuovi filoni di ricerca, nei quali si stanno impegnando alcuni dei massimi esperti croati e italiani che intendono mettere in luce questioni di fondamentale importanza della storia della Dalmazia sotto il dominio veneziano (dal Quattrocento al Settecento).

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Fabian Kümmeler

LÄNDLICHE GEMEINSCHAFTEN IM VENEZIANISCHEN DALMATIEN IM SPÄTMITTELALTER

Lebenswelten und Gemeinschaftsvorstellungen auf Korčula (1420-1499)

PhD thesis, University of Vienna 2017 / München: Oldenbourg 2020

Oliver Jens Schmitt

SÜDOSTEUROPA UND DIE ADRIA IM SPÄTEN MITTELALTER

ed. by Victor Spinei

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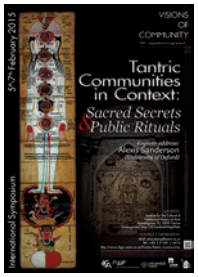
THE TIBETAN EMPIRE AND THE FORMATION OF BUDDHIST CIVILISATION IN THE HIGHLANDS

BOOKS



VERLAG DER ÖSTERREICHISCHEN AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN

TANTRIC COMMUNITIES IN CONTEXT
Sacred Secrets, Public Rituals

Vincent Eltschinger, Nina Mirnig, Marion Rastelli (Eds.)

Austrian Academy of Sciences Press
Expected Publication Date: 2019

Starting with the middle of the first millenium South Asia saw the emergence and rise of Tantrism within all major religious traditions, a development that resulted in the production of a rich textual corpus expounding the ritual and philosophical systems of Śaivism, the Vaiṣṇava Pāñcarātra, the Buddhist Mantrayāna, and Jaina Tantra. Despite the fact that tantric traditions grew to become such an integral part of the religious landscape of early medieval South, South-East and East Asia, the social reality of how these initiatory groups were organized on the ground and concretely interfaced with the wider community of non-initiates or with competing traditions during this period is still little understood. This is partly due to the fact that the surviving tantric textual sources are prescriptive in nature, propagating an idealistic vision of their position in society and rarely addressing questions of social relevance. This volume aims to overcome this methodological challenge and traces indicators that inadvertently provide some insights into socio-religious history of the emergence and institutionalization of these traditions in different literary genres, including tantric scriptures, ritual manuals, philosophical treatises and commentaries as well as non-tantric sources that contain representations of tantric communities such as the Purāṇas. In addition, some contributions complement text-based approaches with field studies and art historical analyses. The themes of the volume include the development of tantric rituals and symbols in relation to the political sphere, the domain of social ritual as an indicator of the various degrees tantric communities were socially integrated at a given place or time, specific points of interface between initiatory and lay communities, and the modalities of the construction of broad as well as specific 'confessional' tantric identities.

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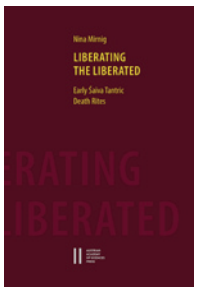

LIBERATING THE LIBERATED
Early Śaiva Tantric Death Rites

Nina Mirnig

Vienna: Austrian Academy of Sciences Press 2019

https://verlag.oeaw.ac.at/liberating-the-liberated

This volume examines the formation and development of Śaiva tantric funerary practices (antyeṣṭi) and rituals of post-mortem ancestor worship (śrāddha) as preserved in the earliest extant strata of textual sources. These tantric scriptures and ritual manuals of the Śaiva Siddhānta cover a period from about the 5th to the 12th century CE. A close analysis of individual texts shows how the incorporation of death rites into the tantric repertoire was directly linked to the tradition's development from one focused on private worship and limited to ascetics living outside society to a dominant religion throughout the Indic world. A focal point of the study is how, in this process, Śaiva ritual specialists catered to initiates who were established in the brahmanical householder society, with their death rites essentially coming to serve as the model for Śaiva equivalents. To make these rites more meaningful in terms of Śaiva doctrine, cremation and post-mortem ancestor worship were redefined as a means for liberating the deceased person's soul, this through its funerary initiation and subsequent worship in manifestations of increasingly potent forms of Śiva.

The book first introduces the socio-historical context of early Śaivism, and then in five chapters traces the development of Śaiva funerary rites in the available text sources, examining also the extent to which Śaiva propagators were willing to tolerate doctrinal compromises to be able to include a wider clientele. The appendices contain editions and annotated translations of the passages on cremation and post-mortem ancestor worship from the pre-9th century tantric scriptures Svāyambhuvasūtrasaṃgraha 22.9–20, Sarvajñānottara 12 and 13, and Kiraṇa 60 and 61, as well as the chapters on cremation and post-mortem ancestor worship in the 12th-century South-Indian ritual manual Jñānaratnāvalī.

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In Preparation:

Birgit Kellner (ed.)

BUDDHISM AND TRANSCULTURAL DYNAMICS

Berlin: DeGruyter

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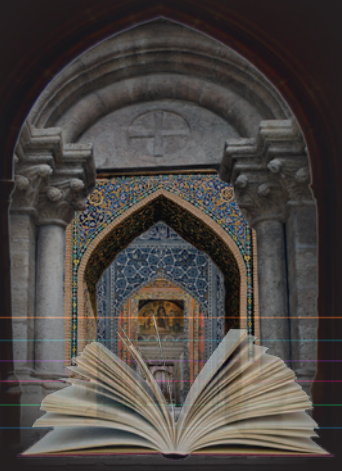

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