

ETHNIC IDENTITIES IN EARLY MEDIEVAL EUROPE (WITTGENSTEIN PROJECT)

The award of the Wittgenstein Prize of the FWF to Walter Pohl has allowed us to organize a large-scale project on 'Ethnic Identities in Early Medieval Europe' (2005-2010). Presently, ethnic identities are a much-discussed topic in the Humanities and Social Sciences. In this broader field, the formative period of many European peoples between c. 400 and 1000 CE has received comparatively little attention. This may also be due to the recurrent ideological uses of these putative 'national origins' in the contemporary age. However, the Early Middle Ages offer excellent potential to study not only the emergence of numerous new peoples, but also the changing significance of ethnicity. The Wittgenstein project, building on decades of previous research in this field in Vienna, has sought to put the study of ethnicity into a broader conceptual framework. It has linked the study of ethnic and of religious identities and communities; refined the methods of textual and manuscript analysis to find clues for 'strategies of identification'; discussed the historical, archaeological and philological approaches to the study of ethnicity in an interdisciplinary matrix; started comparative work on the role of ethnic identities in the Western, Byzantine and Islamic World; debated how personal and collective identities were related; and studied the delicate balance between identity and difference, self-identification and 'othering'. In these various ways, it has attempted to develop new, specifically historical concepts of ethnicity and identity.

The Wittgenstein project has assembled an international project team working on a number of related research questions. As the project is drawing to its close, the project team will present results of this work, and leading international scholars will comment and discuss the outcome in the context of broader perspectives. Some of the temporary junior fellows of the project will put their complementary research in relationship with the work done in Vienna; and a number of publications will be discussed by external specialists. New perspectives and projects that have developed from the Wittgenstein Project will be presented. An evening lecture by Walter Pohl on Friday will give an overview of this fascinating scholarly venture.

VERANSTALTER

Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften
Institut für Mittelalterforschung



www.oeaw.ac.at/gema/wittg_pro/wittg_event.htm

INFORMATION

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FINAL CONFERENCE

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WITTGEN STEIN PROJECT

Vienna,
December 9-11
2010



PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, December 9

Theatersaal der ÖAW, Sonnenfelsgasse 19, 1010 Wien, 1. Stock

0915 OPENING AND WELCOME

Mag. Barbara WEITGRUBER, *Sektionschefin des BMWF*
Univ. Prof. Dr. Arnold SUPPAN, *Generalsekretär der ÖAW*
Univ. Prof. Dr. Christoph KRATKY, *Präsident des FWF*

Univ. Prof. Dr. Walter POHL, **Introduction**

0940 1. RESULTS

PANEL A)

Helmut REIMITZ
Roman discontinuity and ethnic identity in the Merovingian kingdoms
Clemens GANTNER
The perception of ‚Others‘ in papal sources of the 8th and 9th century
Francesco BORRI
Mistrustful alliance: imperial and local identities in the Byzantine Adriatic
Responses: François BOUGARD, Guy HALSALL

1045 - 1115 *Coffee Break*

1115 PANEL B)

Richard CORRADINI
Das soziale Modell der *omnes gentes* bei Augustinus
Gerda HEYDEMANN
Biblical language, metaphoricity, and the articulation of Christian identities in the early Middle Ages: Cassiodorus' commentary on the Psalms
Veronika WIESER
Apocalyptic visions and the shaping of identity in the early Middle Ages
Responses: Kate COOPER, Stefan ESDERS, Yitzhak HEN

1245 - 1415 *Lunch Break*

1415 PANEL C)

Max DIESENBERGER
Hagiographie, Predigt und Identität
Marianne POLLHEIMER
Models of community in early medieval sermons
Albrecht DIEM
Monastic identities – ethnic identities: competitive concepts of the past
Responses: Mayke DE JONG, Régine LE JAN, Rosamond MCKITTERICK

1600 - 1630 *Coffee Break*

1630 **COMPLEMENTARY PERSPECTIVES:** Cristina LA ROCCA/chair
Irene BARBIERA, Philipp von RUMMEL, Flavia DE RUBEIS, Alexander O'HARA

FRIDAY, December 10

Theatersaal der ÖAW, Sonnenfelsgasse 19, 1010 Wien, 1. Stock

0930 PRESENTATION OF PUBLICATIONS

**Staat im frühen Mittelalter; Der frühmittelalterliche Staat
Vergangenheit & Vergegenwärtigung**

Texts & Identities

Das Reich der Vandalen

Ego Trouble

Archäologie der Identität

Zwischen Niederschrift und Wiederschrift

Sprache und Identität

M. Diesenberger, **Sermones – Predigt und Politik im frühma. Bayern**

Visions of Community

Strategies of Identification

Jörg JARNUT
Herwig WOLFRAM
Mayke DE JONG
Bonnie EFFROS
Julia SMITH
Falko DAIM
Karl BRUNNER
Wolfgang HAUBRICHS
David GANZ
Bernhard PALME
Ian WOOD

1130 - 1200 *Coffee Break*

1200 FINAL PANEL

Janet NELSON, Stuart AIRLIE, Hans-Werner GOETZ

1315 - 1430 *Lunch Break*

1430 2. PERSPECTIVES

Visions of community: Walter POHL

Social cohesion, identity and religion in Europe (400-1200): Walter POHL

Cultural memory and the resources of the Past/ Learning empire:

Clemens GANTNER, Rosamond MCKITTERICK, Mayke DE JONG, Ian WOOD

1600 - 1630 *Coffee Break*

1630 **The transformation of the Frankish world:** Richard CORRADINI,
Philippe DEPREUX, Stefan ESDERS, Steffen PATZOLD, Hans-Werner GOETZ

1830 Public lecture

Walter POHL, **Ethnicity: the uses of a concept**

SATURDAY, December 11

Seminarraum, Wohllebengasse 12-14, 1040 Wien, Erdgeschoß

0930 Local Identities: Steffen PATZOLD/chair

Wendy DAVIES, Bernhard ZELLER, Marco STOFFELLA

1100 - 1130 *Coffee Break*

1130 Provincial and ethnic identities in late antiquity and the early Middle Ages:

Roland STEINACHER, Francesco BORRI

FINAL STATEMENTS

1230 *End of Conference*