

VISCOM Workshoptransversal working group *'Tribes and Ethnicity'***Vienna, September 18, 2017 • 10:00-18:00**Hollandstraße 11-13 • 3rd floor • library

Narratives of Ethnic and Tribal Origins in Eurasian Comparison

Origin myths of Eurasian peoples have long been a topic for literary and mythological studies. Besides, they often served as key texts in nationalist historiographies. There was a surge in scholarly interest around the middle of the 20th century, when nationalist, irrationalist, mythographic and structuralist interests in these texts prompted lively debates and great syntheses. Late-twentieth-century critique of national myths and postmodern deconstructivism have largely disqualified these origin stories as historical sources. Indeed, most of them tell us less about actual origins than previous generations of scholars had assumed. However, they are valuable indicators of how, when and where these origins were perceived. Instead of looking for one 'authentic' and primeval myth later diluted in the course of its transmission, what still needs considerable research is the way in which rewritings, competing variants and new syntheses reflect contemporary interests, a process that has continued in modern scholarship. Recent research on the 'uses of the past' provides us with a good methodological basis for a comparative historical analysis of a set of relevant texts.

10⁰⁰ Walter POHL: **Introduction****10¹⁵** Reinier LANGELAAR: **Chasing the Colours of the Rainbow: Ethno-Genetic Theories on the Origins of the Tibetans***11¹⁵-11³⁰ Coffee break***11³⁰** Walter POHL: **Early Medieval Origines Gentium in Europe: Problems of Interpretation***12³⁰-13¹⁵ Lunch***13¹⁵** Kivilcim YAVUZ: **Trojan Origins from the Romans to the French****14¹⁵** Salvatore LICCARDO: **How Amazons Became Goths: Rewriting Origins by Changing Ethnonyms***15¹⁵-15³⁰ Coffee break***15³⁰** Johann HEISS: **The Origin of the Tribal Federation of Khawlān****16³⁰** Daniel MAHONEY **Placing Rasulid Origin Stories in their Political and Literary Context***17³⁰ General Discussion*