GOLDEN YEARS FOR THE DARK AGES
THE TRANSFORMATION OF EARLY MEDIEVAL STUDIES SINCE CA 1980
A CONFERENCE IN HONOUR OF WALTER PÖHL

In the 1990s, an international and interdisciplinary network emerged, uniting scholars whose individual and collective contributions have shaped and transformed the study of early medieval history in Europe and North America. The last decades were a highly creative period in the study of the transformation of the Roman World and of Early Medieval Europe. The Institute for Medieval Research at the Austrian Academy of Science, founded in 1998, under the directorship of Walter Pohl became an important hub in this international network.

Walter Pohl’s recent retirement, therefore, presents a suitable opportunity to look back and reflect on this exciting research experience, and to discuss how to preserve this momentum after most members of what has been called a ‘golden generation’ in early medieval studies have retired. We are holding a conference in Walter Pohl’s honour, bringing together scholars of this generation with scholars of a younger generation. Our goal is to reflect on the directions that have been established over the last decades, as well as on perspectives for future research on Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. What has been accomplished? What has been overlooked, underemphasized, or omitted? Which approaches have proved useful and which less so? Have there been roads not taken or ones not sufficiently travelled and explored? What new challenges, chances and opportunities are there for the study of the period in the 21st century? And what role can the Institute for Medieval Research play in this field?

The conference will be held in a slightly unorthodox format. We will have six sections (with two sessions each) on the three days, each dedicated to a specific theme. The six working groups have prepared ‘their’ respective sections as a team over the last few months. Each working group will present the results of its discussions on problems, open questions, opportunities and future perspectives in short statements of about ten minutes each, leaving us ample time for further discussion.
THURSDAY 24 MARCH
THEATERSAAL
09:00–13:00
EMPIRES IN TRANSITION: THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ROMAN WORLD

Moderators
Kate Cooper | Royal Holloway, University of London
Ian N. Wood | University of Leeds

Contributors
Stefano Gasparri | Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia
Uta Heil | Universität Wien
Salvatore Liccardo | Universität Wien
Flavia de Rubeis | Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia
Danuta Shanzer | Universität Wien
Paolo Tedesco | Universität Tübingen
Roland Steinacher | Universität Innsbruck
Veronika Wieser | Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften

14:30–18:30
IMPERIAL PARTICULARITIES: THE CAROLINGIAN EMPIRE AND ITS ALTERNATIVES

Moderators
Leslie Brubaker | University of Birmingham
Mayke de Jong | Universität Utrecht

Contributors
Stuart Airlie | University of Glasgow
Shane Bobrycki | Universität Wien
Maximilian Diesenberger | Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften
Clemens Gantner | Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften
Régine Le Jan | Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
Rutger Kramer | Radboud Universiteit
Steffen Patzold | Universität Tübingen
Karl Ubl | Universität Köln

FRIDAY 25 MARCH
THEATERSAAL
09:00–13:00
BACK TO THE FUTURE: NEW (?) DIRECTIONS IN TEXT AND MANUSCRIPT STUDIES

Moderators
Rosamond McKitterick | University of Cambridge
Irene van Renswoude | Universität van Amsterdam

Contributors
Richard Corradini | Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften
Peter Erhart | Stiftung Rheinland-Pfalz Bonn
Cinzia Grifoni | Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften
Yitzhak Hen | Israel Institute for Advanced Study
Rob Meens | Universität Utrecht
Jan Odstrčilík-Leon Pürstinger | Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften
Matthias M. Tischler | Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Carine van Rhijn | Universität Utrecht

14:30–18:30
NEW BRICOLAGES: THE TRANSITION OF DISCIPLINARY BOUNDARIES

Moderators
Falko Daim | Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum in Mainz und Universität Wien
John Haldon | Princeton University

Contributors
Csánád Bálint | Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Irene Barbiera | Universität di Padova
Wendy E. Davies | University College London
Bonnie Effros | The University of British Columbia
Patrick J. Geary | Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton
Matthias Hardt | Universität zu Köln
Benedeguz Tobias | Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften
Przemysław Urbaniczky | Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw

SATURDAY 26 MARCH
SEMINAR ROOM
09:00–13:00
WHY (NOT) IDENTITY: HISTORICIZING STRUCTURES OF IDENTIFICATION

Moderators
Stefan Esders | Freie Universität Berlin
Gerda Heydemann | Freie Universität Berlin

Contributors
Francesco Borri | Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia
Ann Christys | University of Leeds
Albrecht Diem | Syracuse University
Wolfgang Haubrichs | Universität des Saarlandes
Helmut Reimitz | Princeton University
Maria Cristina La Rocca | Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia
Pavlina Rychtová | Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften
Bernd Schneidmüller | Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften

14:30–18:30
CHANGING SCALES: APPROACHES TO LOCAL AND GLOBAL HISTORIES ACROSS EURASIA

Moderators
Claudia Rapp | Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften und Universität Wien
Conrad Leyser | University of Oxford

Contributors
Hugh N. Kennedy | School of Oriental and African Studies in London
Bernhard Palme | Universität Wien
Johannes Preiser-Kapeller | Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften
Philipp von Rummel | Deutsches Archäologisches Institut
Sandra Wabnitz | Universität Wien
Chris Wickham | University of Oxford

18:30–19:00
CONCLUDING REMARKS

Walter Pohl | Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften und Universität Wien

The event will take place in compliance with the valid Covid measures. Registration is requested.
https://www.oeaw.ac.at/imafo/veranstaltungen/detail/golden-years-for-the-dark-ages