ETHNIC IDENTITIES IN EARLY MEDIEVAL EUROPE
(WITTEGENSTEIN 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.
TENTATIVE 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. Sigrid JALKOTZY-DEGER, Vizepräsidentin 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, Stefano GASPARRI, Guy HALSALL

0945 - 1015 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
   Hagiography, sermons and identity
   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, Irene VAN RENSWOUDEN

FRIDAY, December 10
Theatersaal der ÖAW, Sonnenfelsgasse 19, 1010 Wien, 1. Stock

0930 PRESENTATION OF PUBLICATIONS
   Staats im frühen Mittelalter; Der frühmittelalterliche Staat
   Jörg JARNUT
   Texts & Identities
   Staats im frühen Mittelalter
   Mayke DE JONG
   Das Reich der Vandalen
   Bonnie EFFROS
   Vergangenheit & Vergegenwärtigung
   Herwig WOLFRAM
   Ego Trouble
   Julia SMITH
   Archäologie der Identität
   Falko DAIM
   Zwischen Niederschrift und Wiederschrift
   Karl BRUNNER
   Sprache und Identität
   Wolfgang HAUBRICHS
   M. Diesenberger, Sermones – Predigt und Politik im frühma. Bayern
   David GANZ
   Vergangenheit & Vergegenwärtigung
   Bernhard PALME
   Ego Trouble
   Ian WOOD

1200 FINAL PANEL
   Janet NELSON, Herwig WOLFRAM, Stuart AIRLIE, Hans-Werner GOETZ

1430 2. PERSPECTIVES
   Visions of community: Walter POHL and Andre GINGRICH
   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

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

1130 Provincial and ethnic identities in late antiquity and the early Middle Ages:
   Roland STEINACHER, Francesco BORRI

FINAL STATEMENTS
1230 End of Conference