

In the Latin West, the Roman Empire was replaced by a plurality of Christian kingdoms with ethnic denomination: the Franks, the Anglo-Saxons, the Lombards and others. Byzantium remained Roman, but in the course of time, orthodox ethnic states rose in its periphery. In the Islamic World, ethnicity played a different role. Ethnic affiliations certainly existed on several levels, from ancient imperial traditions (Iran), 'Micro-Christendoms' and Jewish communities to the tribes of Arabia and the Prophet's kin. But political power seems to have rested on different foundations. Thus, the imperial heritage of the Roman Mediterranean gave way to distinct political cultures, with strong implications for the later development of modern nations and states. Or were these differences not as fundamental as it seems?

So far, there is a lack of in-depth comparative studies on the political role of ethnicity and religion in the post-Roman Mediterranean. Systematic comparison should pave the way for a more differentiated view of the various 'visions of community' that lay behind political integration. The conference will address the topic within a fairly precise chronological frame, from the 5th to the 11th centuries AD, but taking long-time perspectives and diachronic comparison into account. Among others, it will raise the following issues:

- Formation and disintegration of ethnic communities, conditions for their success or failure
- Narratives of identification
- Perception of the Other
- Ethnic, religious, political conflict
- Hegemonial and minoritarian identities
- Political legitimation and ideology
- Religious foundations of ethnic or political affiliation
- Language as a means of communication and of symbolic identification
- Strategies of distinction in religion, language, law, costume, signs and symbols
- The impact of imperial policies on regional communities, and its limits
- Institutional and symbolic integration
- Multiple identities

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ORGANIZED BY

- Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften
Institut für Mittelalterforschung

IN COOPERATION WITH

- Princeton University, History Department
- Princeton University, Group for the Study of Late Antiquity

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INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

VISIONS OF COMMUNITY

ETHNICITY,
RELIGION
AND POWER
IN THE EARLY
MIEVEVAL
WEST,
BYZANTIUM
AND THE
ISLAMIC
WORLD



Wednesday, June 17 • 9 am

Welcome Address by Secretary General, Austrian Academy
Prof. Dr. **Herwig FRIESINGER**

9:10 - 10:30

Walter **POHL**, Introduction: Ethnicity, religion and empire

1. WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES ETHNICITY MAKE?

A. Tribe and state: social anthropological approaches

Andre **GINGRICH** / Guntram **HAZOD**, Agrarian theocracies: Anthropological models of ethnicity and the state in medieval Western and Central Asia

11:00 - 1:30

Johann **HEISS**, A trace in the dust: South Arabians in the 10th century

B. Identity and difference in the Roman World

Fritz **MITTHOF**, Zur Neustiftung von Identität unter imperialer Herrschaft: Die Provinzen des Römischen Reiches als ethnische Entitäten

Jan **RETSÖ**, The Nabataeans – problems of identifying ethnicity in the ancient world

1:30 - 1:45 Lunch break

14:30 - 16:30

Bernhard **PALME**, Political identity versus religious distinction? The case of Egypt in the Later Roman Empire

C. Early Islamic identities

Michael **COOK**, What difference does Islam make?

Michael **MORONY**, Religious communities in the Early Islamic World

17:00 - 19:00

Walter **KAEGI**, Seventh-century identities: A reassessment

Petra **SIJPESTIJN**, Becoming Egyptian: Culture and ethnicity in Early Islamic Egypt

Thursday, June 18 • 9 am

9:00 - 11:00

Hugh **KENNEDY**, The survival of Iranian identity through the Arab-Muslim conquest

D. Christian identities in the Middle East

Bas ter Haar **ROMENY**, The Syriac, Coptic and Byzantine orthodox communities in Late Antiquity: Did the clergy act as 'Traditionskern'?

Richard **PAYNE**, Uses of the Assyrian past in Late Antique Northern Mesopotamia

11:30 - 13:00

Lynn **JONES**, The visual expression of medieval Armenian rulership

Hartmut **LEPPIN**, Roman identities in crisis. The case of Evagrius Scholasticus

1:30 - 1:45 Lunch break

14:30 - 16:30

2. POLITICAL IDENTITIES AND THE INTEGRATION OF COMMUNITIES

A. Allegiance and political integration

Kate **COOPER**, Religion, dynasty, ethnicity and allegiance: the Theodosians

Andrew **MARSHAM**, Religion, dynasty, ethnicity and allegiance: the early Abbasids

Stefan **ESDERS**, Treue, Glaube und Eid als Grundlage politischer Vergesellschaftung in nachrömischen politischen Ordnungen

17:00 - 18:30

B. Province and Empire

Mischa **MEIER**, Anastasios und die Geschichte der Isaurier

Robert **HOYLAND**, Tribal groups in the Middle East between Byzantium and Iran in Late Antiquity

Friday, June 19 • 9 am

9:00 - 11:00

Przemysław **URBAŃCZYK**, Northern Slavs in Early Medieval Islamic sources

Ralph Johannes **LILIE**, Die Politik der byzantinischen Zentralregierung gegenüber ethnischen und religiösen Minderheiten

C. The challenge of difference: Early medieval Christian Europe

Helmut **REIMITZ**, Frankendoms: Transformations of ethnic identity in Merovingian and Carolingian kingdoms

11:30 - 13:00

Steffen **PATZOLD**, „Einheit“ versus „Fraktionierung“: Zur symbolischen und institutionellen Integration des Frankenreichs (8./9. Jh.)

Wolfram **DREWS**, Ethnicity, religion and power: Diaspora Jewish communities in Early Medieval Europe.

1:30 - 1:45 Lunch break

14:30 - 16:30

Angela **GLEASON**, What Gall? Naming foreigners in Early Medieval Ireland

Conrad **LEYSER**, Waiting for the Bulgarians: conversion, identity, and betrayal in the ninth century

Clemens **GANTNER**, The papacy and the Saracens in the ninth century

17:00 - 19:00

3. VISIONS OF COMMUNITY, PERCEPTIONS OF THE OTHER

A. Islamic views

Daniel **KÖNIG**, Arab-islamic historiographers on the emergence of Latin-Christian Europe

Ann **CHRISTYS**, The Vikings in the South through Arab eyes

Saturday, June 20 • 9 am

9:00 - 10:30

B. Byzantine views

Wolfram **BRANDES**, Die eschatologische Ethnographie der Byzantiner (6.–10. Jh.)

Alexander **BEIHAMMER**, Strategies of identification and distinction in the Byzantine discourse on the Seljuk Turks

11:00 - 12:30

C. Western views

Richard **CORRADINI**, Chronographie in lateinischen patristischen Texten

John **TOLAN**, "A wild man, whose hand will be against all": Saracens and Ishmaelites in Latin ethnographical traditions, from Jerome to Bede

12:30 - 1:45 Lunch break

14:00 - 15:30

Ian **WOOD**, Where the wild things are

Herwig **WOLFRAM**, How many peoples are in a people?

16:00 - 17:00

PANEL: Visions of community: Conclusions

Leslie Brubaker, John Haldon, Chris Wickham, Walter Pohl