

18-19 June 2012

# ethnicity & christian discourse

*in the Early Middle Ages*

The conference will look at early medieval ethnicity in the context of other identities. In the period when Europe was Christianized, kingdoms named after ethnic groups came to dominate much of Europe. The main interest is to explore the impact of Christianity on the ways in which ethnicity became a political issue in the post-Roman world. Contrary to some interpretations based on Roman perceptions, ethnicity is not simply a barbarian form of social integration, which was established on former Roman territory by victorious barbarians. The bulk of our written sources from the period about ethnic and political matters are more or less inspired by Christian discourses and attitudes. How did Christian discourse shape the contemporary significance of ethnic identities? How did the meaning of ethnicity change during the transition from the Roman empire to a multitude of kingdoms in the West? And which role did other identities play in the reshaping of the political and cultural landscape of medieval Europe?

## CONFERENCE VENUE

Theatersaal der ÖAW  
Sonnenfelsgasse 19  
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## CONTACT

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*subject to change*



Graphic: Dagmar Giesingerl



Monday, 18 June 2012

- 9:00 **Welcome Address:**  
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Sigrid JALKOTZY-DEGER,  
*Präsidentin der Philosophisch-Historischen Klasse der  
Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften*
- 9:15 -10:30 Walter POHL: **Introduction**  
Herwig WOLFRAM: **Barbarian Ethnicity Revisited**
- 10:30 -11:00 *Coffee break*
- 11:00 -12:45 Claudia RAPP: **City-Empire-Christendom: Changing  
Contexts of Power and Identity in Late Antiquity**  
Mark VESSEY: **Post-Roman Scripts and Scriptures in  
Latin Christian Texts, ca. 400**  
Yitzhak HEN: **Verona, Biblioteca Capitolare LI and the  
Intellectual Formation of Arian Identity  
in Ostrogothic Italy**
- 12:45 -14:00 *Lunch break*
- 14:00 -15:15 Roland STEINACHER: **Africans, Romans or Barbarians?  
The Moors from the 4th to the 7th Centuries**  
Ian WOOD: **Bede's Ethnic Terminology**
- 15:15 -15:45 *Coffee break*
- 15:45 -17:30 Andreas FISCHER: **Creating Empathy. Texts, Readers,  
and Communities in the Early Middle Ages**  
Helmut REIMITZ: **... sicut ceterae gentes: The Liber  
Historiae Francorum and the Definition of the Populus  
in the Merovingian Kingdoms**  
Rosamond MCKITTERICK: **Writing Papal History:  
The Universal Church and Roman Identity in the  
Early Middle Ages**
- 17:30 -18:00 *Coffee break*
- 18:00 -19:15 Mayke DE JONG: **Towards a History of Early Medieval  
Political Thought**  
Stuart AIRLIE: **'Outstanding People, Immune from  
Heresy, Loving Justice': Religious-political Faultlines in  
Christian Communities**

Tuesday, 19 June 2012

- 9:15 -10:45 Hildegund MÜLLER: **Regional Differentiation in  
Homiletic Texts of Late Antiquity**  
Maximilian DIESENBERGER: **Sermons in Crisis**  
Marianne POLLHEIMER: **Sermons for an Old King**
- 10:45 -11:15 *Coffee break*
- 11:15 -12:30 Gerda HEYDEMANN: **Peoples of God? Divine Election  
and Ethnic Language in Early Medieval Exegesis**  
Sumi SHIMAHARA: **Ethnicity and Old Testament  
Exegesis during the Carolingian Period**
- 12:30 -13:30 *Lunch break*
- 13:30 -14:45 Cinzia GRIFONI: **Concepts of Identity and Ethnicity in  
Grammatical Works of the Early Middle Ages:  
Some Examples**  
Michael MAAS: **Human Communities between Heaven  
and Earth: The Christian Reception of Astral and  
Environmental Determinism in the Early Middle Ages**
- 14:45 -15:15 *Coffee break*
- 15:15 -17:00 Rob MEENS: **Gathering around the Saint:  
The Contribution of Sacred Places to the Formation  
of Identity**  
Stefan ESDERS: **Bannus dei et regis: Excommunication  
in Carolingian Political and Legal Discourse**  
Irene VAN RENSWOUDE: **Dissent, Dialectic and the  
Control of Christian Discourse in the Carolingian  
Period**
- 17:00 -17:30 *Coffee break*
- 17:30 -18:45 Alexander O'HARA: **Drawing the Line. The  
Development of Ascetic Discourse in Merovingian Gaul**  
Albrecht DIEM: **Inside Perspectives – Outside  
Perspectives: Conflict and Identity in Early Medieval  
Monasticism**
- 18:45 **Final Remarks**

