

VISCOM SESSIONS

at the
INTERNATIONAL
MEDIEVAL
CONGRESS

Leeds 2015

Thursday 9 July 2015

Session 1533 – Parkinson Building, Room B.09

09.00-10.30

Visions of Community I
**Socio-Cultural Diversity in
Medieval South Arabia**

Session 1633 – Parkinson Building, Room B.09

11.15-12.45

Visions of Community II
**A Force of Habit? Gender
and Monasticism in the
Carolingian Era**

Session 1733 – Parkinson Building, Room B.09

14.15-15.45

Visions of Community III
Thinking Genealogically

Visions of Community I

Socio-Cultural Diversity in Medieval South Arabia

Magdalena KLOSS

Institut für Sozialanthropologie, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien

Slaves, Soldiers, and Sovereigns: Africans in Medieval South Arabia

Odile KOMMER

Institut für Sozialanthropologie, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien

al-Abnā' and al-Furs: Persians in al-Hamdānī's South Arabia

Daniel MAHONEY

Institut für Kultur- und Sozialanthropologie, Universität Wien / Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien

From State Soldiers to Rebel Tribes: Kurds in Late Medieval South Arabia

Moderator/Chair

Walter POHL

Institut für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung, Universität Wien

Organiser

Daniel MAHONEY

Thursday 9 July 2015 • 09:00-10:30

Abstract

Over the course of the medieval period, South Arabia increasingly became economically and politically intertwined with its regional neighbours. As a result, groups of diverse origins, including Africans, Persians, and Kurds, came to South Arabia through various means and motivations. This session aims to look at more closely the contexts in which they first arrived, as well as the types of economic and social roles they took on as they integrated into Yemeni society. Additionally, it will examine the levels and sorts of political agency they possessed, if any at all, within local hierarchies. Finally, their impacts or legacies that they left behind will be questioned, as the Persians and Kurds seemingly disappear in the historical record, while the Africans remain as a distinct group in Yemen up until today.

Visions of Community II

A Force of Habit? *Gender and Monasticism in the Carolingian Era*

Albrecht Diem

Department of History, Syracuse University, New York

Nonnus and Monacha: How Gendered is Early Medieval Monasticism?

Rutger Kramer

Institut für Mittelalterforschung, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien

(You're Not) The Boss of Me: Bishops, Monks, and Nuns in the Institutio Canoniorum and the Institutio Sanctimonialium

Moderator/Chair

Julia M. H. SMITH

School of Humanities (History), University of Glasgow

Organiser

Albrecht DIEM

Thursday 9 July 2015 • 11.15-12.45

Abstract

Throughout the early Middle Ages, gender issues were inextricably bound up with questions of monastic identity. While always present, such issues seemed to have become especially persistent whenever tensions occurred in the lives of monks and nuns – in the wake of attempts to reform their communal lives, for example, but also when dealing with afflictions of the body. The papers in this session attempt to shed new light on gender and its role in the making of early medieval monastic identities, not by taking recourse to newly created theoretical frameworks, but first and foremost by allowing the sources to speak for themselves. Albrecht Diem will start with an overview of the ways early medieval thinkers have dealt with gender divisions (or lack thereof) in the monastic world. Rutger Kramer will then take a closer look at the way gender issues may have played a role in the reform efforts undertaken at the court of Louis the Pious, one the one hand by analysing the role of gender in the drafting of different sets of rules for male and female communities, and on the other by studying at the over-arching authority structures that may account for the different approaches both types of community.

Visions of Community III

Thinking Genealogically

Salvatore LICCARDO

Institut für Geschichte, Universität Wien

Classifying Peoples: *The Use and Re-use of Classical and Christian Terminology in Late Antique and Early Medieval Catalogues of Peoples*

Randolph FORD

Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University

The Ancient Pedigrees of the Goths and Xianbei: *A Trans-Cultural Study in Greco-Roman and Chinese Ethnographic Historiography*

Stefan DONECKER

Institut für Mittelalterforschung, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien

Trees of Knowledge: *Genealogy as a Paradigm of Early Modern Scholarly Thought*

Moderator/Chair

Rutger KRAMER

Institut für Mittelalterforschung, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien

Organiser

Stefan DONECKER

Thursday 9 July 2015 • 14-15-15.45

Abstract

Genealogy – i.e., the comprehension of present phenomena and institutions through a consideration of lineage and descent – is commonly regarded as one of the most archaic forms of historical thinking. Its prevalence among pre-modern societies is often taken for granted and has only occasionally been reflected upon by researchers. The proposed session aims at a critical re-evaluation of the genealogical paradigm. Drawing upon case studies from European as well as Chinese historiography, the papers will examine the epistemological foundations of genealogical thought, the methods employed in genealogical inquiries as well as the different applications – from individual family trees to the collective genealogy of *gentes* and *nationes*. As such, the session will be thematically linked to Social Cohesion IV: *Methods in Reconstructing Social Cohesion – History, Archaeology, and Genetics*, based on the assumption the pre-modern genealogies and modern genetics can be interpreted as related and interdependent discourses on descent.

In addition to VISCOM, this session is sponsored by the Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship *Migratio gentium*