


Image: Buckle and Tab, 600s AD, Avaric, gold - Cleveland Museum of Art

GOLDEN YEARS FOR THE DARK AGES

THE TRANSFORMATION OF EARLY MEDIEVAL STUDIES SINCE CA 1980 A CONFERENCE IN HONOUR OF WALTER POHL

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.



PROGRAMME

THEATERSAAL
SONNENFELSGASSE 19
1010 VIENNA

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 | *Universiteit 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 |
Universiteit van Amsterdam

Contributors

Richard Corradini | *Österreichische
Akademie der Wissenschaften*

Peter Erhart | *Stiftsarchiv Sankt Gallen*

Cinzia Grifoni | *Österreichische
Akademie der Wissenschaften*

Yitzhak Hen | *Israel Institute for
Advanced Study*

Rob Meens | *Universiteit Utrecht*

Jan Odstrčilík/Leon

Pürstinger | *Österreichische Akademie
der Wissenschaften*

Matthias M. Tischler | *Universität
Autònoma de Barcelona*

Carine van Rhijn | *Universiteit
Utrecht*

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

Moderators

Falko Daim | *Römisch-Germanisches
Zentrummuseum in Mainz und Universität
Wien*

John Haldon | *Princeton University*

Contributors

Csanád Bálint | *Hungarian Academy
of Sciences*

Irene Barbiera | *Università 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 Leipzig*

Bendeguz Tobias | *Österreichische
Akademie der Wissenschaften*

Przemysław Urbańczyk |
*Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in
Warsaw*

SEMINAR ROOM
HOLLANDSTRASSE 11-13, 1ST FLOOR,
1020 VIENNA

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 di Padova

Pavlna Rychterová |
*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*

Bernhard Zeller | *Österreichische
Akademie der Wissenschaften*

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/imaf/veranstaltungen/detail/golden-years-for-the-dark-ages>