

Wittgenstein-Prize Project
“Mobility, Microstructures and Personal Agency in Byzantium”

Forum Moving Byzantium VIII

The Wittgenstein Project Team invites you to our eighth group discussion meeting. “Forum Moving Byzantium VIII” will take place on **Monday 30.10.2017**, from **17:00 to 18:30**, at the Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies (University of Vienna, Postgasse 7, 1010 Vienna, Staircase 1, Third Floor, Seminarraum).

The presenter will be **Dr. Dirk Krausmüller** (University of Vienna), member of the ERC project 9 SALT and affiliated scholar of the “Moving Byzantium” Project. After a brief introduction in English, a group discussion will follow.

Dirk Krausmüller studied Greek, Latin, and Byzantine History, and earned his Ph.D. in 2001 with a dissertation on the literary legacy of the Constantinopolitan monastery of Panagios. He has published articles on a variety of topics, including the Middle Byzantine monastic reform movement and the Late Patristic and Byzantine theological and anthropological discourses. He was lecturer at Queen's University Belfast, Cardiff University and Mardin Artuklu University. Currently he is working for the ERC project 9 SALT, where he focuses on Greek philosophical and theological texts written between the sixth and the ninth century.

The Forum Moving Byzantium VIII will provide the unique opportunity to discuss with Dr. Krausmüller his current work on “**Fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays**”. Fasting on Wednesday and Fridays is one of the oldest Christian practices, going back to the late first century. Yet most of the evidence dates to a much later period, the tenth to twelfth centuries. When one analyses monastic rules, saints' lives and spiritual treatises in chronological order one not only detects a trend towards ever greater strictness but can also detect a change in the manner in which the debate was conducted. Whereas in the early stages charismatic authority was the decisive factor, from the middle of the eleventh century onwards, participants felt the need to support their positions with proof texts, which gives the discourse a much more learned character. Thus, we have clear evidence for social change in Byzantium. The focus of Dr. Krausmüller's work will be on the primary sources and will also include a discussion about secular law and Late Antiquity.

These are the preparatory readings (to be read in sequence):

- 1) Dirk Krausmüller, ‘Establishing Authority in the Constantinopolitan Religious Discourse of the Eleventh Century: Inspiration and Learning in the Writings of the Monk Niketas Stethatos’, in S. Steckel, N. Gaul, and M. Grünbart (ed.), *Networks of Learning: Perspectives on Scholars in Byzantine East and Latin West, c.1000–1200* (Berlin–Münster, 2014), 107–124.
- 2) Dirk Krausmüller, ‘Monks who are not Priests do not Have the Power to Bind and to Loose’: The Debate about Confession in Eleventh- and Twelfth-century Byzantium’, *Byzantinische Zeitschrift*, 109 (2016), 703–732
- 3) Dirk Krausmüller, ‘Fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays’ (forthcoming)
- 4) Optional Reading: Zachary Chitwood, ‘Legal Education and the Law School of Constantinople’, in *Byzantine Legal Culture and the Roman Legal Tradition, 867–1056* (Cambridge, 2017), 150–183.

If you are interested in **attending the event**, please contact Ms. Paraskevi Sykopetritou (Project Coordinator) in order to receive **further information and the relevant reading material**: paraskevi.sykopetritou@univie.ac.at / s.sykopetritou@gmail.com

For further information and updates on future events you may also consult our website: <http://rapp.univie.ac.at/>

We hope that you can join our Forum for fruitful discussions!