

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

Forum Moving Byzantium XII

The Role of Hostages in Late Antique Diplomacy

The Wittgenstein Project Team invites you to our twelfth group discussion meeting. “Forum Moving Byzantium XII” will take place on **Monday 09.04.2018**, 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, Hörsaal).

The Forum Moving Byzantium XII will provide the unique opportunity to discuss with **Prof. Judith E. Herrin (King’s College London)** her current work on **“The Role of Hostages in Late Antique Diplomacy”**.

Judith Eleanor Herrin is Professor Emerita and Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for Hellenic Studies, King's College London, and affiliate scholar of the Wittgenstein Award Project, Vienna. In 2016 she was awarded the Heineken Prize for History. Her current research centers on the city of Ravenna in late antiquity.

Prof. Herrin’s interest in this topic derives from the experience of Theoderic as a hostage in Constantinople in the 460s. Did it have a major impact on his later career? It’s interesting to compare his youthful period as a hostage with that of others, such as Peter the Iberian, or the Slavonic Kuvrat. What were the benefits of such hostages to the rulers of the East Roman Empire? The intention is to examine some of the earlier accounts of hostage-taking and trace their development during Late Antiquity.

After a brief introduction in English, a group discussion will follow on the basis of the following preparatory readings (to be read in sequence):

- 1) Allen J., *Hostages and Hostage-taking in the Roman Empire* (Cambridge/New York 2006), esp. pp. 245-53.
- 2) Kosto A. J., “Transformation of Hostageship in Late Antiquity”, *Antiquité Tardive* 21 (2013), pp. 265-82.
- 3) Lenski N., “Captivity and Romano-Barbarian Interchange”, in R. W. Mathisen and D. Shanzer (eds.) *Romans, Barbarians and the Transformation of the Roman World* (Farnham 2011), pp. 185-98.
- 4) Ensslin W., *Theoderich der Grosse*, 2nd ed. (Munich 1959), pp. 14-33.
- 5) John Rufus, *Peter the Iberian*, C. B. Horn and R. R. Phenix Jr. (ed. and transl.), *John Rufus: Bishop of Maiuma, fl. 476-518, The Lives of Peter the Iberian, Theodosius of Jerusalem, and the Monk Romanus: John Rufus; Translated with an Introduction and Notes* (Leiden 2008), pp. 23-35, esp. paragraphs 24-26
- 6) John of Nikiu, *Chronicle*, Charles R. H. (transl.), *The Chronicle of John (c. 690 A.D.), Coptic Bishop of Nikiu: Being a History of Egypt before and during the Arab Conquest* (London 1916; repr. Amsterdam 1981), ch. 120.47-48, pp. 197-8, on Kuvrat’s childhood conversion to Christianity in 619 and his upbringing within the imperial palace.
- 7) Malchus, *Exc. de Leg. Rom.*, R. C. Blockley (ed. and transl.), *The Fragmentary Classicising Historians of the Later Roman Empire: Eunapius, Olympiodorus, Priscus and Malchus*, 2 vols., (Liverpool 1983), vol. II, *Exc. de Leg. Rom.* 1, fg. 20, esp. pp. 446-7, on Theoderic offering his mother and sister as hostages.
- 8) Braund C. D., *Rome and the Friendly King. The Character of Client Kingship* (London, Canberra and New York 1984), pp. 9-14 and 181-9.

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!