

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

Forum Moving Byzantium XVII

The Troubles with Likeness: Divine Responses to Man-Made Icons

The Wittgenstein Project Team invites you to our seventeenth group discussion meeting. “Forum Moving Byzantium XVII” will take place on **Monday 21.01.2019**, 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 XVII will provide the unique opportunity to discuss with **Prof. Karin Krause (University of Chicago)** her current work on **“The Troubles with Likeness: Divine Responses to Man-Made Icons”**. Karin Krause is Assistant Professor of Byzantine Theology and Visual Culture at the University of Chicago. She is currently completing a book manuscript tentatively titled *Images of Inspiration: Art, Authenticity, and the Sacred in Byzantium*. In this study, she examines how concepts of the divine origin of texts and material artifacts were employed in Byzantium to promulgate claims of holiness, truth, and authority. She is an affiliate scholar of the Wittgenstein Award Project, Vienna.

According to Byzantine iconophile thought, one of the major premises on which the veneration of icons relies is their resemblance to their respective prototypes. Yet, I argue, writings from post-Iconoclastic Byzantium reveal that the claim to likeness between image and prototype continued to provoke substantial doubts.

After a brief introduction by Prof. Krause, there will be extensive time for discussion moderated by Dr. Dirk Krausmüller (Austrian Academy of Sciences) on the basis of the following preparatory readings:

Selected primary sources:

1. Extracts from the *Horos* of the Iconoclastic Council of Hieria (754), trans.: S. Gero, *Byzantine Iconoclasm During the Reign of Constantine V*. Louvain: CSCO, 1977, 76-80.
2. Extracts from the *Horos* of the Iconophile Council of Nicaea (787), trans.: Daniel J. Sahas, *Icon and Logos: Sources in Eighth-Century Iconoclasm*. Toronto: Toronto UP, 1986, 178 (377C)-180 (380B).
3. Psellos’ *Ekphrasis* of an Icon of the Crucifixion, trans.: E. A. Fisher, “Image and Ekphrasis in Michael Psellos’ Sermon on the Crucifixion,” *Byzantinoslavica* 55 (1994), 51-55.
4. Extracts from Constantine Stilbes’ *Didascalía* On the Mandylion and the Holy Tile, ed./trans.: B. Flusin, “Didascalie de Constantine Stilbès sur le Mandylion et la Sainte Tuile (BHG 796m),” *Revue des études byzantines* 55 (1997), 72-79, §§ 6-11.

Selected secondary literature:

5. K. Krause, “Speaking Books—Silent Pictures: Visualizing Gospel Narrative in Byzantium,” in K. Heyden, H. Manuwald (eds.), *Übertragungen heiliger Texte in Judentum, Christentum und Islam. Fallstudien zu Formen und Grenzen der Transposition*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2019, 211-215, 250-261 (*in press; please do not circulate*).
6. T. T. Tollefsen, *St Theodore the Studite’s Defence of the Icons. Theology and Philosophy in Ninth-Century Byzantium*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2018, 98-124.
7. (Optional reading) K. Parry, *Depicting the Word. Byzantine Iconophile Thought of the Eighth and Ninth Centuries*. Leiden—New York—Cologne: Brill, 1996, 22-43.

Some of the questions that will be put forward for discussion are:

- What major points of critique did iconoclasts voice against Christian icons and their veneration?
- What kinds of relationships exist between icon and prototype according to iconophile thought? What fundamental problems exist in view of the premise of likeness?
- What insight does rhetoric from post-Iconoclastic Byzantium offer regarding the question of the legitimacy of icons? How does rhetoric respond to the persisting issues, especially as far as the icon’s likeness to its prototype is concerned?

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

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!