

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

Forum Moving Byzantium V

The Wittgenstein Project Team invites you to our fifth group discussion meeting.

“Forum Moving Byzantium V” will take place on Tuesday 21.3.2017, from 18:00 to 19:30, at the Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies (Postgasse 7, 1010 Vienna, 1. Stiege, 3. Stock, Seminarraum).

We will discuss the topic “**Nomads and the State**” on the basis of the following publications (to be read in sequence):

- 1) Tapper, R., “Anthropologists, Historians and Tribespeople. On Tribe and State Formation in the Middle East”, in P.S. Khoury and J. Kostiner (eds.), *Tribe and State Formation in the Middle East* (London, 1991), pp. 48–73.
- 2) Cribb, R., *Nomads in Archaeology* (Cambridge, 1991), pp. 15–20 and 65–83.
- 3) Shingiray, I., “Ethos, Materiality, and Paradigms of Political Action in Early Medieval Communities of the Northwestern Caspian Region”, in C. Hartley, C. Yazicioğlu and A. S. Smith (eds.), *The Archaeology of Power and Politics in Eurasia. Regimes and Revolutions* (Cambridge, 2012), pp. 188–215.
- 4) Allsen, T., *Commodity and Exchange in the Mongol Empire. A Cultural History of Islamic Textiles* (Cambridge, 1997), pp. 27–45 and 99–106.
- 5) Shepard, J., “Orthodoxy and Northern Peoples: Goods, Gods and Guidelines”, in L. James (ed.), *A Companion to Byzantium* (Chichester, 2010), pp. 171–186.
- 6) Evans, N., “The Hidden Centre: Ibn Faḍlān and the Khazars”, in J. Shepard and L. Treadwell (eds.), *Muslims on the Volga in the Viking Age: Diplomacy and Islam in the World of Ibn Fadlan* (London, 2017) (Forthcoming).

Presenter and moderator will be Dr. Nicholas J. B. Evans, Member of the Wittgenstein Project Team.

After a brief introduction in English, a group discussion will follow both in English and in German.

Studies of the relationship between the nomads of the Eurasian steppe and Byzantium often concentrate on how the empire dealt with the military threat posed by nomads. The reading for Forum V are designed to open up alternatives to this securitarian approach. We will ask a series of questions:

- How can ethnographic studies of nomadic societies guide archaeologists and historians in their study of medieval nomads?
- How did state structures both external and internal to nomadic societies impinge on patterns of mobility, microstructures and the scope for personal agency?
- What models can we use to understand commercial and cultural exchange between nomadic and sedentary societies?

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:

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

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