

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

Forum Moving Byzantium IX

The Division and Classification of the Byzantine Élite (11th and 12th centuries)

The Wittgenstein Project Team invites you to our ninth group discussion meeting. “Forum Moving Byzantium IX” will take place on **Monday 20.11.2017**, 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 Forum Moving Byzantium IX will provide the unique opportunity to discuss with Mr. **Márton Rózsa** his current work on “**The division and classification of the Byzantine élite (11th and 12th centuries)**”.

Márton Rózsa is a doctoral student at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), where he started his doctoral studies in the Medieval World History Doctoral Program in 2012. He is currently completing his thesis on “The Byzantine Second-Tier Élite in the Long Twelfth Century” under the supervision of Dr. Balázs Nagy. Rózsa has a special interest in Byzantine political thought, sigillography and social history with a focus on the period from the tenth to thirteenth centuries.

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. Cheynet, J.-C., *Pouvoir et contestations à Byzance (963–1210)* (Paris, 1990), pp. 249–59 (chapter 5 “L’aristocratie: délimitation du group dirigeant”).
2. Haldon, J., “Social Élites, Wealth and Power,” in Haldon, J. (ed.), *The Social History of Byzantium* (Malden, MA, 2009), pp. 168–204.
3. Bernard, F., *Writing and Reading Byzantine Secular Poetry, 1025–1081* (Oxford, 2014), pp. 160–67, 175–81 (chapters 5.2 “The ‘Beamtenliterat’”, 5.4.1 “Distinction”).
4. Krallis, D., “Urbane Warriors: Smoothing out Tensions Between Soldiers and Civilians in Attaleiates’ encomium to Emperor Nikephoros III Botaneiates,” in Lauxtermann, M. and Whittow, M. (eds.), *Byzantium in the Eleventh Century: Being in Between. Papers from the 45th Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, Exeter College, Oxford, 24–6 March 2012* (Abingdon, 2017), pp. 154–68.
5. Neville, L., *Authority in Byzantine Provincial Society, 950–1100* (Cambridge, 2004), pp. 66–85 (chapter “Provincial Households” until the end of subchapter “Status Differentiation”).

Some of the research questions that we will explore are the following:

- What is the relation between the mobility of Byzantine society and the division of the élite?
- What connection can we find between the classification of the élite and the several microstructures of Byzantine society (family, oikos etc.)?
- What is the significance of categorization and division in the study of the Byzantine élite today?

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!