

October 4–7, 2017

Conference

The 8th Century



The “8th century“

has been historically and archaeologically considered a sort of watershed between Antiquity and the Middle Ages. The definition of the transformations in this period is a crucial issue, especially as regards continuity and change of the economic structures in the Late Antique Mediterranean world. This international interdisciplinary conference shall bring together scholars from several disciplines, including Late Antique, Islamic, Byzantine and Medieval History, Archaeology, Archaeometry, Numismatics, Philology, and Papyrology, to assess the 8th century qua threshold from different perspectives, in order to re-evaluate the problematic of this transition in terms of continuity/ disruption by combining archaeological data and textual – literary as well as documentary – sources.

Key Note Speakers & Round Table Discussants

Stefan Esders (Berlin)

Sauro Gelichi (Venice)

Stefan Heidemann (Hamburg)

Richard Hodges (Rome)

Andreas Kaplony (Munich)

Cécile Morrisson (Paris/Dumbarton Oaks)

Bernhard Palme (Vienna)

Paul Reynolds (Barcelona)

Joanita A.C. Vroom (Leiden)

Chris Wickham (Oxford)

Patterns of Transition
in Economy and Trade Throughout
the Late Antique, Early Medieval and
Islamicate Mediterranean



www.topoi.org/event/42829/



Tuesday, 3 October

Freie Universität Berlin, 'Holzlaube', Fabeckstr. 23–25,
14195 Berlin • Lecture Room -1.2009

from 18:00

Registration

19:00–21:00

Welcome by the organizers &
Warming-up reception

Wednesday, 4 October

Bode-Museum, Museumsinsel, Am Kupfergraben,
10117 Berlin • Gobelinsaal

09:30–10:00

Cäcilia Fluck (Bode-Museum,
Curator of the Museum of
Byzantine Art): Welcome
Michael Meyer (Topoi, Spokes-
man): Welcome address
Silvia Polla (Berlin):

Introduction to the conference
“The 8th Century”

10:00–10:45
KEYNOTE

Richard Hodges (Rome):
An Ice Age settled upon the
Roman Empire: confronting and
interpreting the archaeology
of a great episode in European
history

Coffee break (30')

11:15–12:00

KEYNOTE

Sauro Gelichi (Venice):
The 8th century in Northern
Italy: a time of stagnation?
An archaeological perspective

12:00–12:30

Salvatore Cosentino (Bologna):
Muslim presence and economic
transformations on 7th- and
8th-century Aegean islands: is
there an insular model of the
'dark centuries'?

12:30–13:00

Natalia Poulou (Thessaloniki):
Sailing in the dark: trade net-
works and commercial inter-
action between Crete and the
neighboring islands during the
period of transition

Lunch buffet (60')

14:00–14:30

Eugenia Gerousi-Bendermacher
(Athens): In search of social and
economic activities in the Cyclades
islands in the 8th century

14:30–15:00

Isabella Baldini (Bologna):
Gortyn of Crete in the 8th
century: the role of the church
in the transition

15:00–15:30

Sabine Ladstätter (Vienna):
Out of the dark – Ephesus in
the 8th century

Coffee break (30')

16:00–16:30

Nikolas Bakirtzis (Nicosia) &
Luca Zavagno (Ankara): When
the cities do not go missing.
Urbanism in Cyprus between
Late Antiquity and the early
Middle Ages

16:30–17:00

Gregor Kalas (Knoxville, Tennes-
see): Reusing ancient buildings
as charity centers in 8th-century
Rome

17:00–17:30

Eileen Rubery (Cambridge):
The medical cult of SS. Abba-
cyrus and John in Rome:
how 7th-century military and
spiritual disputes affected the
development of medical care in
8th-century Rome and beyond

17:30–18:00

Amelia Brown (St. Lucia):
St. Nicholas sails from East
to West in the 8th century

Break (60')

Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and
Humanities, Jägerstr. 22/23, 10117 Berlin • Einstein-Saal

19:00–20:00 EVENING LECTURE I

Stefan Esders (Berlin): Mediterranean politics and
connectivity in the late 7th century

Thursday, 5 October

Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and
Humanities, Jägerstr. 22/23, 10117 Berlin • Einstein-Saal

09:00–09.45

Martin Grötschel (President
of the Berlin-Brandenburg
Academy of Sciences and
Humanities): Welcome address

KEYNOTE

Joanita A. C. Vroom (Leiden):
A gentle transition? Pottery,
trade and exchange in the
8th century

09:45–10:30

KEYNOTE

Paul Reynolds (Barcelona):
Pottery and Mediterranean
economic exchange networks
under the Arabs in the 8th
century: Contrasting the Levant,
North Africa and Spain

Coffee break (30')

11:00–11:30

Philipp von Rummel (Berlin):
The 8th century in Africa/Ifriqiya:
Archaeological perspectives

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14:30–15:00

Giuseppe Cacciaguerra
(Catania): Cities and markets
in transformation in the early
medieval Mediterranean:
ceramics and trade in Syracuse
in the 8th century

11:30–12:00

**Ada Lasheras González & Franc-
esc Rodríguez Martorell** (Tarrag-
ona): The city of Tarragona by
the 8th century: new elements
of discussion

12:00–13:00

POSTER SESSION I

Veronica Casali (San Marino):
Silvia Donadei, Giulia Marsili
& **Lucia Orlandi** (Bologna): The
8th century at Gortyn: pottery
production and context analysis

Veronica Casali (San Marino) &
Debora Pellacchia (Bologna):
The 8th century at Gortyn:
glass and mosaic production

Horacio Gonzalez (Vienna):
Byzantine amphorae in Ephe-
sos, 7th-9th centuries. New
evidences for a better under-
standing of the Middle Byzan-
tine commerce

Lunch break (90')

15:00–15:30

Enrico Cirelli (Munich):
Economy and trade at Ravenna
during the 8th century

Coffee break (30')

16:00–16:30

Michelle Beghelli (Mayence): Stone and the Church in the 8th century. The economics of sculpted products and its transformation between Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages

16:30–17:00

Joan Pinar Gil (Turin): Changing habits and changing scenarios: visual appearance and purchasing power as mirrored by the 8th-century Mediterranean jewellery deposits

17:00–17:30

Katharina Meinecke (Vienna): Illustrating an empire: Continuity and change in Umayyad visual culture

18:00–20:00

OFFER

Guided tour of the Late Antiquity / Byzantine Collection of the Bode-Museum and the Museum of Islamic Art (Cäcilia Fluck, Katharina Meinecke, Stefan Weber)

Friday, 6 October

Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Jägerstr. 22/23, 10117 Berlin • Einstein-Saal

09:00–09.45
KEYNOTE

Cécile Morrisson (Paris / Dumbarton Oaks): Fire under the ashes: Byzantine resilience in the long 8th century

09:45–10:30
KEYNOTE

Stefan Heidemann (Hamburg): Transforming spatial economic relations in the 8th century – the largest empire of the Late Antiquity

11:00–11:30

Alexander Asa Eger (North Carolina): Building up the frontier: Micro-regional and divergent settlement patterns across the 8th century on the Umayyad and Abbāsīd thughūr

11:30–12:00

Federico Montinaro (Tübingen): Further thoughts on the kommerkiaroi, trade and the “Dark Centuries” of Byzantium

12:00–13:00

POSTER SESSION II

Gabriele Castiglia (Bologna): Urban and rural ecclesiastical frameworks in northern Tuscany in the 8th century

Maria Paola Bulla (Naples): The Islamic pottery issues in Tunisia: The transition (7th–8th centuries)

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14:30–15:00

Mark Jackson (Newcastle): Transforming cultural practices in 8th century domestic contexts at Kilise Tepe (Turkey)

15:00–15:30

Yana Tchekhanovets & Doron Ben-Ami (Jerusalem): An open market of Abbasid period exposed in recent excavations in Jerusalem

15:30–16:00

Martina Müller-Wiener (Berlin): Northern Bilād al-shām in the 8th century: Changing patterns of regional orientation – the ceramic evidence

Coffee break (30')

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19:00–20:00 EVENING LECTURE II

Chris Wickham (Oxford): Looking back at the 8th century from the 11th

Clare Bycroft (Oxford):

Quantifying the genetic impact of the Muslim conquest of Iberia (711 CE)

Dorothee Sack & Martin

Gussone (Berlin): Resafa-Rusafat Hisham in the 8th century. Settlement pattern of a Caliphal residence

Lunch break (90')

16:30–17:00

Gergely Szenthe (Budapest): The Carpathian Basin during the “Transition Period”: how the Avars integrated into the changing world between Late Antiquity and Early Middle Ages

17:00–17:30

Morten Søvsø (Ribe): 8th-century emporia, sceatta and Danish kingship

17:30–18:00

Søren Sindbaek (Aarhus): Northern Emporia and the 8th-century world. A view from new excavations in Ribe

Break (60')

Saturday, 7 October

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09:00–09.45
KEYNOTE

Andreas Kaplony (Munich): Imperial and regional Arabic as mirrored in Arabic papyri from 8th-century Egypt

09:45 - 10:15

Jennifer Cromwell (Copenhagen): Administering Egypt: The role of Coptic within a wider imperial context

10:15–10:45

Frederic Krueger (Berlin): Coptic papyri illuminating the economy of 8th-century Egypt

Coffee break (45')

11:30–12:00

Sophie Kovarik (Oxford): Continuity and change in the notarial practice of Middle Egypt after the Arab conquest

12:00–12:30

Stefanie Schmidt (Basel): Trade and Economic life in Late Antique and Early Muslim Aswan

12:30–13:00

Lajos Berkes (Berlin): Economic contacts between Syria and Egypt in the Early Islamic period

Lunch buffet (60')

14:00–14:30

Dario Internullo (Naples): Papyrus, parchment and the beginning of the written memory of Western Europe

14:30–15:00

Pia Carolla (Rome): The power of a context – Literary distortion of economic issues

Coffee break (30')

15:30–17:00

CONCLUDING ROUND TABLE

Bernhard Palme (Vienna),
Chairman

Après-conference reception and dinner buffet

Coffee break (30')



Images

Coins: Lutz-Jürgen Lübke, Reinhard Saczewski, Dirk Sonnenwald © Münzkabinett, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, ikmk.smb.museum

Late Roman Amphora: University of Southampton (2014) Roman Amphorae: a digital resource [data-set]. York: Archaeology Data Service [distributor] <https://doi.org/10.5284/1028192>

Detail of the Mshatta facade: Johannes Kramer, © Museum für Islamische Kunst, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

Papyrus: P. Berlin P. 7886, Greek tax receipt from Egypt (Heracleopolites), 722 CE, <http://berlpap.smb.museum/02309/>. © Ägyptisches Museum und Papyrussammlung, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

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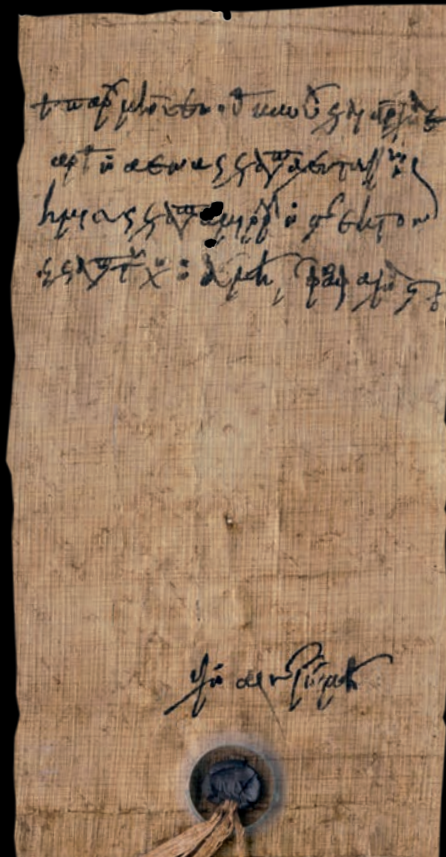
Stefan Esders • esdersst@zedat.fu-berlin.de

Silvia Polla • silvia.polla@fu-berlin.de

Tonio Sebastian Richter • sebastian.richter@fu-berlin.de

Conference secretary

Frederic Krueger • frederic.krueger@fu-berlin.de



Venues

Freie Universität Berlin, 'Holzlaube'

Fabeckstr. 23–25, 14195 Berlin • Lecture Room -1.2009

Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities

Jägerstr. 22/23, 10117 Berlin • Einstein-Saal

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Registration

The event is open to the public, with advance registration requested: frederic.krueger@fu-berlin.de

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