

## Plenary Sessions

### **1. Byzantium lost and found**

The panel intends to look at the reception of Byzantium by focusing on different intellectual and scholarly traditions. By putting together literary, monumental and visual cultures of the post-Byzantine world, it seeks to address notions as resurgence, regeneration and in particular “how” and “why” Byzantium was “rediscovered”, and if effectively it was lost.

- Helena Bodin (Sweden)
- Mertkan Karaca (Turkey)
- Maria-Rosaria Marchionibus (Italy)
- Przemek Marciniak (Poland)

### **2. Romanitas beyond Byzantium. Diffusion and impact of ideas of Rome in a „post-Roman” world**

The Byzantine Empire, located at the intersection of three continents, has been identified as central actor in the “Global Middle Ages” over the last years. At the same time, this opens many opportunities for a perspective on Byzantium, its Roman heritage and its cultural impact from far beyond its political borders. This plenary session equally brings together specialists from within and beyond Byzantine studies for the exploration of differences and overlaps of ideas of Rome in medieval Africa, Asia and Europe.

- Rebecca Darley (UK)
- Verena Krebs (Germany/USA)
- Li Qiang (China)
- Roland Scheel (Germany)

### **3. The beasts, the crops and the bones. Biological perspectives on the Byzantine world**

Archaeological and natural scientific research has provided for a rapidly growing body of evidence on aspects of Byzantine life and death hitherto scarcely or not at all illuminated by written sources. Still, complex methodologies and forms of data publication unfamiliar to the humanities provide a challenge for the integration of these findings within the more traditional framework of the field. This plenary session aims for a transdisciplinary discussion of approaches, results, potential and problems of these biological perspectives on the Byzantine past.

- Chryssa Bourbou (Greece)
- Michael Decker (USA)
- Tristan Schmidt (Germany/Poland)
- Sylvie Yona Waksman (France)

### **4. Byzantine Diversities**

The papers in this plenary session address issues surrounding the political identity of Byzantium (empire, republic), its cultural identity (Greek, Hellenic, Roman), the identities defined by race and gender, and the strategies for marking or assuming different identities based on physical

appearance (disability) or ideological choices ('heresy'). The papers are tied together by a high degree of methodological reflection that integrates current cultural debates.

- Mariela Ivanova (UK/Bulgaria)
- Christian Laes (UK)
- Charis Mesis (Greece)
- Dorothea Weltecke (Germany)

### **5. Reading Byzantine literature across the centuries**

The papers in this session address the perception of Byzantine literature across the centuries. They should cover a broad range of topics: reading of and commenting on texts in the Byzantine period as reflected by notes and commentaries (i.e. paratexts) in manuscripts, the interest in Byzantine literature in the early modern period as reflected in early prints, editions and translations, and the reception of Byzantine literature as 'belles lettres' from the 19th century until today reflected in translations, modern novels based on Byzantine prototypes etc. The session also aims at highlighting the contribution of Byzantine literature to world literature.

- Floris Bernard (Belgium)
- Federica Ciccolella (Italy)
- Markéta Kulhánková (Czechia)
- Georgi Parpulov (Germany/Bulgaria)

### **6. Byzantium in Central Europe**

Vienna as a congress venue lends itself to consider the relations of the Byzantine Empire with Central Europe in various dimensions. The session is dedicated to the mobility of persons, objects and ideas in an interdisciplinary and diachronic way. It will focus on the following questions: What is the background of dynastic connections? Which persons were in the entourage of princesses, which objects traveled with them? How can the topography of attested Byzantine persons and objects in Central Europe be explained? The session will also focus on the globalization of the Euro-Mediterranean area in the Middle Ages.

- Petre Guran (Romania)
- Sebastian Kolditz (Germany)
- Petra Melichar (Czechia)
- Alice Isabella Sullivan (USA)