

COMPARATIVE APPROACHES TO POWER AND DEPENDENCY IN THE HIGH MIDDLE AGES

HYBRID WORKSHOP
JANUARY 7-8, 2025

THE BONN CENTER FOR DEPENDENCY AND SLAVERY STUDIES

hosts the Cluster of Excellence “Beyond Slavery and Freedom”, which aims to overcome the binary opposition of “slavery versus freedom”. We approach the phenomenon of slavery and other types of strong asymmetrical dependency from methodologically and theoretically distinct perspectives.

This workshop is organised in honour of two medieval historians – Alheydis Plassmann and Björn Weiler – who spent their careers championing comparative approaches to the political culture of high medieval Europe (c. 1000-1300). Compared to earlier centuries, historians tend to remain in their own national academic ‘sub-tribes’ for this part of the Middle Ages, a consequence of the sheer variety and amount of evidence that scholars have access to from the turn of the millennium, but also of a legacy of national historical narratives, inherited from the nineteenth century, concerned with the development of the nation state. The workshop will aim to honour the legacy of these two historians by bringing together established and early-career scholars to consider how we can further our understanding of the relationship between power and dependency in medieval politics beyond a national framework.

**Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies (BCDSS)
University of Bonn**

Niebuhrstraße 5
D-53113 Bonn
dependency@uni-bonn.de
www.dependency.uni-bonn.de

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VENUE

University of Bonn

Bonner Universitätsforum
Heussallee 18-24
D-53113 Bonn
and online via **ZOOM**

CONTACT

Workshop Organizer:

Ryan Kemp, BCDSS Fellow
ryankemp92@outlook.com

Jan Hörber, Event Coordinator

events@dependency.uni-bonn.de
+49 228 73 62945



Picture credit: Volker Lannert/University of Bonn

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

10:00 – 10:30 AM

Welcome and Opening Remarks:

The Work of Alheydis Plassmann and Björn Weiler in Context

Ryan Kemp
(BCDSS Fellow)

10:30 – 11:30 AM

Chair: [Levi Roach \(University of Exeter\)](#)

From Historiography to Cultural History: can Aby Warburg rescue Percy Ernst Schramm?

Stuart Airlie
(University of Glasgow)

Origo regis. The Power and its Legendary Origins in the High Middle Ages

Antoni Grabowski
(Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw)

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM – Coffee Break

12:00 – 1:30 PM

Chair: [Lars Kjaer \(Northeastern University, London\)](#)

Magna Carta, the Liber Augustalis and the Mainz Land Peace of 1235: Comparisons and Contrasts

Graham Loud
(University of Leeds)

The “Lordship” of the Abbesses of Quedlinburg, ca. 1100-1300: Comparative Perspectives on the Charter Evidence

Jonathan Lyon
(University of Vienna)

The Same but Different:

Liturgy and Comparison in the Time of the Investiture Contest

Erik Niblaeus
(University of Cambridge)

1:30 – 2:30 PM – Lunch Break

2:30 – 4:00 PM

Chair: [Louisa Taylor \(University of the Highlands and Islands\)](#)

Medieval Japan and Medieval Europe: Comparing Royal and Priestly Figures

Philippe Buc
(Leiden University)

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Writing Medieval Empire: The Valdemarian Empire in Medieval and Modern history

Lars Kjaer
(Northeastern University, London)

The Rise of the Chess Queen: From Southern Italy to Norway

Krisztina Ilko
(University of Cambridge)

4:00 – 4:30 PM – Coffee Break

4:30 – 5:30 PM – Keynote Lecture

Chair: [Jonathan Lyon \(University of Vienna\)](#)

Comparing “Scotland” and “Germany” in the High Middle Ages

Emily Joan Ward
(The University of Edinburgh)

7:30 PM – Dinner at Tuscolo Münsterblick
(Gerhard-von-Are-Straße 8, 53111 Bonn)

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

10:00 – 11:00 AM – Keynote Lecture

Chair: [Stuart Airlie \(University of Glasgow\)](#)

Constructing Kingship in the Tenth and Eleventh Centuries: The Example of Otto I

Levi Roach
(University of Exeter)

11:00 – 11:30 AM – Coffee Break

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Chair: [Dominik Waßenhoven \(University of Cologne\)](#)

Giving Advice to the Leonese King in the Tenth and Eleventh Centuries

Daria Safronova
(University of Tübingen)

Meeting and Greeting Kings

Nicholas Vincent
(University of East Anglia)

From Gniezno (1000) to Kamba (1024): King-making by Emperors and Elites

Jonathan Shepard
(University of Oxford)

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

1:00 – 2:00 PM – Lunch Break

2:00 – 3:30 PM

Chair: [Emily Joan Ward \(The University of Edinburgh\)](#)

How was the Relationship between the Powerful and their Dependents viewed differently in High Medieval Europe?

Stephen Church
(University of Lincoln)

Showing Anger Towards the King – Descriptions of Situational Power Dynamics and Assertiveness Across Realms in English 13th Century Chronicles

Christina Bröker
(Paderborn University)

Rex iustus? - Reflections on a hitherto largely unknown Romanesque Ruler Figure

Stephan Patscher
(Leibniz-Zentrum für Archäologie, Mainz)

3:30 – 4:00 PM – Coffee Break

4:00 – 5:30 PM

Chair: [Erik Niblaeus \(University of Cambridge\)](#)

Images of Bad Rule as Political Argument

Piotr Górecki (online)
(University of California, Riverside)

Civil War, or Rebellion?: Using comparative Approaches to understand Resistance to Royal Rule in Northern Europe

Louisa Taylor
(University of the Highlands and Islands)

Godfrey of Viterbo: The Itinerant Life of a Famous Braggart

Vedran Sulovsky
(University of Cambridge)

5:30 – 6:00 PM – Closing Discussion and Final Remarks

7:30 PM – Dinner: Restaurant Olive
(Brüdergasse 12, 53111 Bonn)