



# HETERARCHIES AND POWER DYNAMICS IN POST-ROMAN EUROPE (4<sup>TH</sup>-10<sup>TH</sup> CEN. AD)

5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> November 2025, UNIVERSITY OF BONN

P26, Seminarraum, 2nd floor, Poststrasse 26, 53111 Bonn

## ORGANISERS:

Dr. L. Pinchetti (Christliche Archäologie)

Dr. H. Jacobs (Kunstgeschichte)

J. Knechtel M.A. (Christliche Archäologie)

V. Palmowski M.A. (Vor- und Frühgeschichte)

Dr. A. Paradziński (BCDSS)

Register at the link below or scan the QR code to receive the Zoom access information.

<https://listen.uni-bonn.de/www/subscribe/heterarchies2025>



The workshop is sponsored by the "Transdisciplinary Research Area 5 - Presents Pasts" and the "Bonn Centre for Dependency and Slavery Studies" of the University of Bonn. Funded as part of the Excellence Strategy of the federal and state governments.



## 05 November 2025 | Opening Day

16:45 Greetings  
17:00 Introductory thoughts *Five Perspectives on Heterarchies*  
18:30 Drinks

## 06 November 2025 | Day 2

### PANEL 1 HETERARCHICAL STRUCTURES AND POLITICAL EXPERIMENTATION Chair: J. Knechtel

09:15 **A. Arezes (Porto)** Structures of power in Northwest Iberia in the 5th-6th c.  
09:45 **J. Wijnendaele (Ghent)** Late antique kingship: A form of heterarchy in Post-Roman Europe?  
The case of the Burgundians  
10:15 **J. Harland (Bonn)** "Structure, Sign and Play" in late Roman Scandinavia: Some reflections on the northern routes to kingship  
10:45 Coffee Break

### PANEL 2 RELIGIOUS HIERARCHIES AND THE RECONFIGURATION OF AUTHORITY Chair: L. Pinchetti

11:15 **J. Knechtel (Bonn)** Buried power: Holy bishops and the shaping of political identity in the Post-Roman world  
11:45 **V. Ivanovici (Lugano)** Beyond worldly power: Religious heterarchies in the Italian Peninsula (4th-7th c.)  
12:15 Lunch Break

### PANEL 3 ECONOMIC POWER AND HETERARCHICAL SOCIAL STRUCTURES Chair: H. Jacobs

13:30 **I. Bavuso (Utrecht)** Heterarchy, power, and trade: The case of Post-Roman England  
14:00 **L. Pinchetti (Bonn)** Ritual centres and rural economies: Holy burials and exchange in Post-Roman Central Italy  
14:30 Coffee Break

### PANEL 4 HETERARCHICAL POWER STRUCTURES IN LIMINAL CONTEXTS Chair: J. Harland

15:00 **T. Czuppon (Hansági Museum)** Power structures within complex societies based on burial customs in the Avar Khaganate  
15:30 **D. Aladić (Zagreb)** Heterarchical power structures in Byzantine-controlled Balkans (6th - 9th c.)  
16:00 Break

### 17:30 KEYNOTE Prof. Ian Wood (Leeds) Changing hierarchies, 350-800.

Venue: Seminarraum, 1st Floor, P26

19:30 Speakers' Dinner

## 07 November 2025 | Day 3

### PANEL 5 RURAL AND URBAN CONTEXTS CENTRES, PERIPHERIES, AND INTERDEPENDENCIES Chair: A. Paradziński

09:15 **C. Videbech (Bergen)** Christianizing the centre: Negotiating authority, religion, and identity in Rome's central fora (4th-8th c.)  
09:45 **M. Vassena (Milano)** Urban societies and power dynamics: Transformation and development of Northern Italian towns between Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages  
10:15 **V. Palmowski (Bonn)** Small worlds in transition: Rural heterarchies in the Post-Roman West (3rd-6th c.)  
10:45 Coffee Break

### PANEL 6 ACTORS AND AGENCY – GENDER, ELITES AND SOCIAL NEGOTIATION Chair: V. Palmowski

11:15 **B. Grose (St. Andrews)** Contesting land grants in Merovingian world: Information asymmetry, information access, and shifting gendered impacts?  
11:45 **A. Paradziński (Bonn)** Elite Roman women, military retinues and heterarchical reconfiguration  
12:15 Lunch Break  
13:15 Concluding Remarks & Round Table