

LOST DOCUMENTS AND SUBALTERN GROUPS IN THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES WORKSHOP JULY 1-3, 2026

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.

VENUE

University of Bonn
Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies
Conference Room 0.018
Niebuhrstraße 5
D-53113 Bonn
and online via ZOOM

CONTACT

Workshop Organizers:

Julia Hillner, BCDSS, University of Bonn
Marios Costambeys, University of Liverpool

Please register via email with Jan Hörber
(events@dependency.uni-bonn.de) by **June 24, 2026**.

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

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Picture credit: Volker Lannert/University of Bonn

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

2:00 PM

Welcome and Introduction

Marios Costambeys
(University of Liverpool)

2:15 – 3:00 PM

Status to Contract? Enslaved and Dependent
Business Agents in Medieval Trade

Elena Shadrina
(Harvard University)

3:00 – 3:45 PM

Missing Links: Engineering the Proof Status of
Documents in Mamluk Egypt

Daisy Livingston
(Durham University)

3:45 – 4:15 PM – Coffee Break

4:15 – 5:00 PM

Whose Documents Are Lost? (*Catalunya Carolíngia*
6 Again....)

Adam J. Kosto
(Columbia University)

5:00 PM

Discussion

Thursday, July 2, 2026

10:00 – 10:45 AM

How Knowing about Loss Affects the Stories We Tell:
Some Seventh-Century Parchment and Papyrus
Fragments from Tours

Warren C. Brown
(Caltech, Pasadena)

10:45 – 11:30 AM

Contestatio Egenandae contra Laurentium:
Documentary Loss and the New Vicenza Papyrus

Ella Kirsh
(University of Cambridge)

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

A Very Silent Archive: Revisiting Lost Documents in
Late Antique North Africa

Jonathan Conant
(Brown University)

12:15 – 1:45 PM – Lunch Break

1:45 – 2:30 PM

Phantoms of Norman Administration: *Mandata* and
Documentary Ecology

Patrick Morgan
(Caltech, Pasadena)

2:30 – 3:15 PM

Digital Recovery, Lost Documents, Community
Stewardship

Helen Davies
(University of North Carolina at Charlotte)

3:15 – 3:45 PM – Coffee Break

Thursday, July 2, 2026

3:45 – 4:30 PM

TBC

Tobias Hodel
(University of Bern)

4:30 PM

Discussion

Antonio Sennis
(UCL)
Franziska Quaas
(Marburg University)

**7:30 PM – Conference Dinner (for Speakers and
organizers only)**

**Restaurant Shiraz,
Friedrichstraße 27, 53111 Bonn**

Friday, July 3, 2026

9:30 – 10:15 AM

Fictionalizing the Past and the Present: New
Hypotheses Surrounding Phantoms of
Remembrance

Paul Bertrand
(UC Louvain)

10:15 – 10:45 AM

Discussion of AHR article

10:45 – 11:00 AM – Coffee Break

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

The Way Ahead

12:00 PM

Closing Discussion