

NORMS OF DEPENDENCY IN LATE ANTIQUITY AND EARLY MEDIEVAL SOCIETIES

WORKSHOP
MARCH 31 – APRIL 1, 2022

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.

Even after the fall of the Western Roman Empire, Roman law and legal terminology remained formative for late antique and early medieval societies. Their influence can, for instance, be observed with regard to slavery and other dependency relations. The Roman legal terminology to denote a person's legal inferiority (like *servus*, *ancilla*, *puer*, *colonus*, *famulus* etc.) often appears in late antique and early medieval sources and thus suggests the continued relevance of the concepts connected to these terms. However, it is far from clear to what extent the use of identical terminology actually indicates the conformity of the phenomena described. For while particularly normative sources do indeed suggest the continued existence of chattel slavery and related legal practices, like e.g. the *manumissio in ecclesia*, they also point to the emergence of new forms of asymmetrical dependency. For this workshop we will sift through a range of normative sources in search of evidence for relations of asymmetrical dependency. By analyzing this evidence we hope to enhance our understanding of the importance of these relations in late antique and early medieval societies.

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Please **register** for the conference
by **March 20, 2022** via [email](#).

Please visit our [conference website](#) for more information.



Picture credit: Volker Lännert/University of Bonn

Thursday, March 31, 2022

Chairs:

Konrad Vössing, BCDSS, University of Bonn (morning)
Matthias Becher, BCDSS, University of Bonn (afternoon)

9:30 – 10:00 AM – **Welcome**

Martin Schermaier, BCDSS, University of Bonn

10:00 – 10:45 AM

The Practice of Slavery and the Expression of Ethnicity
in Late Antique Law and Society

Noel Lenski
(Yale University)

10:45 – 11:15 AM – Coffee Break

11:15 AM – 12:00 PM

Laeti and *liti*. Social and legal aspects of the
transition from antiquity to the middle ages

Stefan Esders
(Freie Universität Berlin)

12:00 – 12:45 PM

Terms of dependency in Post-Roman law codes

Martin Schermaier
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)

12:45 – 2:00 PM – Lunch Break

2:00 – 2:45 PM

Unfree Church dependents in Post-Roman
legal codes

Mary Sommar
(Millersville University)

2:45 – 3:30 PM

Dependents in the conciliar legislation of the Gallic
Church (c. 400 - 700 A.D.)

Julia Winnebeck
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)

3:30 – 4:00 PM – Coffee Break

Thursday, March 31, 2022

4:00 – 4:45 PM

Dependency in notarial *formulae*

Boudewijn Sirks
(BCDSS Fellow, Oxford)

4:45 – 5:30 PM

Slaves and *coloni* in Vandal Africa (429 - 534 A.D.)

Konrad Vössing
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)

Friday, April 1, 2022

Chairs:

Julia Winnebeck, BCDSS, University of Bonn (morning)
Martin Schermaier, BCDSS, University of Bonn
(afternoon)

9:30 – 10:30 AM

Collateral damage? Women, exile and dependency
from Roman Antiquity to the Early Middle Ages

Julia Hillner
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)
Harry Mawdsley
(University of Tübingen)

10:30 – 11:00 AM – Coffee Break

11:00 – 11:45 PM

Late antique and early medieval rules on fugitive
slaves

Simona Tarozzi
(University of Bologna)

Friday, April 1, 2022

11:45 AM – 12:30 PM

Women, children, and slaves as dependents of the
householder in Rabbinic and Roman Law:
Similarities and differences

Catherine Hezser
(SOAS, University of London)

12:30 – 2:00 PM – Lunch Break

2:00 – 2:45 PM

Corporal punishment and servitude in the
Carolingian Capitularies (ca. 740 - 840)

Dominik Leyendecker
(University of Cologne)

2:45 – 3:30 PM

Precarial contracts between persons of diverse
social groups

Brigitte Kasten
(Saarland University)

3:30 – 4:00 PM – Coffee Break

4:00 – 4:45 PM

Charlemagne and the *oppressio pauperum*

Matthias Becher
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)

4:45 – 5:30 PM – Final Discussion