



HETERARCHIES AND POWER DYNAMICS IN POST-ROMAN EUROPE (4TH-10TH CEN. AD)

5th-7th 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