

October 4–7, 2017

Conference

# The 8<sup>th</sup> Century



## The “8th century“

has been historically and archaeologically considered a sort of watershed between Antiquity and the Middle Ages. The definition of the transformations in this period is a crucial issue, especially as regards continuity and change of the economic structures in the Late Antique Mediterranean world. This international interdisciplinary conference shall bring together scholars from several disciplines, including Late Antique, Islamic, Byzantine and Medieval History, Archaeology, Archaeometry, Numismatics, Philology, and Papyrology, to assess the 8th century qua threshold from different perspectives, in order to re-evaluate the problematic of this transition in terms of continuity/ disruption by combining archaeological data and textual – literary as well as documentary – sources.

## Key Note Speakers & Round Table Discussants

**Stefan Esders** (Berlin)

**Sauro Gelichi** (Venice)

**Stefan Heidemann** (Hamburg)

**Richard Hodges** (Rome)

**Andreas Kaplony** (Munich)

**Cécile Morrisson** (Paris/Dumbarton Oaks)

**Bernhard Palme** (Vienna)

**Paul Reynolds** (Barcelona)

**Joanita A.C. Vroom** (Leiden)

**Chris Wickham** (Oxford)



Patterns of Transition  
in Economy and Trade Throughout  
the Late Antique, Early Medieval and  
Islamicate Mediterranean



[www.topoi.org/event/42829/](http://www.topoi.org/event/42829/)

## Tuesday, 3 October

Freie Universität Berlin, 'Holzlaube', Fabeckstr. 23–25,  
14195 Berlin • Lecture Room -1.2009

from 18:00

Registration

19:00–21:00

Welcome by the organizers &  
Warming-up reception

## Wednesday, 4 October

Bode-Museum, Museumsinsel, Am Kupfergraben,  
10117 Berlin • Gobelinsaal

09:30–10:00

**Cäcilia Fluck** (Bode-Museum,  
Curator of the Museum of  
Byzantine Art): Welcome  
**Michael Meyer** (Topoi, Spokes-  
man): Welcome address  
**Silvia Polla** (Berlin):

Introduction to the conference  
“The 8th Century”

10:00–10:45  
KEYNOTE

**Richard Hodges** (Rome):  
An Ice Age settled upon the  
Roman Empire: confronting and  
interpreting the archaeology  
of a great episode in European  
history

Coffee break (30')

11:15–12:00

KEYNOTE

**Sauro Gelichi** (Venice):  
The 8th century in Northern  
Italy: a time of stagnation?  
An archaeological perspective

12:00–12:30

**Salvatore Cosentino** (Bologna):  
Muslim presence and economic  
transformations on 7th- and  
8th-century Aegean islands: is  
there an insular model of the  
'dark centuries'?

12:30–13:00

**Natalia Poulou** (Thessaloniki):  
Sailing in the dark: trade net-  
works and commercial inter-  
action between Crete and the  
neighboring islands during the  
period of transition

Lunch buffet (60')

14:00–14:30

**Eugenia Gerousi-Bendermacher**  
(Athens): In search of social and  
economic activities in the Cyclades  
islands in the 8th century

14:30–15:00

**Isabella Baldini** (Bologna):  
Gortyn of Crete in the 8th  
century: the role of the church  
in the transition

15:00–15:30

**Sabine Ladstätter** (Vienna):  
Out of the dark – Ephesus in  
the 8th century

Coffee break (30')

16:00–16:30

**Nikolas Bakirtzis** (Nicosia) &  
**Luca Zavagno** (Ankara): When  
the cities do not go missing.  
Urbanism in Cyprus between  
Late Antiquity and the early  
Middle Ages

16:30–17:00

**Gregor Kalas** (Knoxville, Tennes-  
see): Reusing ancient buildings  
as charity centers in 8th-century  
Rome

17:00–17:30

**Eileen Rubery** (Cambridge):  
The medical cult of SS. Abba-  
cyrus and John in Rome:  
how 7th-century military and  
spiritual disputes affected the  
development of medical care in  
8th-century Rome and beyond

17:30–18:00

**Amelia Brown** (St. Lucia):  
St. Nicholas sails from East  
to West in the 8th century

Break (60')

Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and  
Humanities, Jägerstr. 22/23, 10117 Berlin • Einstein-Saal

19:00–20:00 EVENING LECTURE I

**Stefan Esders** (Berlin): Mediterranean politics and  
connectivity in the late 7th century

## Thursday, 5 October

Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and  
Humanities, Jägerstr. 22/23, 10117 Berlin • Einstein-Saal

09:00–09.45

**Martin Grötschel** (President  
of the Berlin-Brandenburg  
Academy of Sciences and  
Humanities): Welcome address

KEYNOTE

**Joanita A. C. Vroom** (Leiden):  
A gentle transition? Pottery,  
trade and exchange in the  
8th century

09:45–10:30

KEYNOTE

**Paul Reynolds** (Barcelona):  
Pottery and Mediterranean  
economic exchange networks  
under the Arabs in the 8th  
century: Contrasting the Levant,  
North Africa and Spain

Coffee break (30')

11:00–11:30

**Philipp von Rummel** (Berlin):  
The 8th century in Africa/Ifriqiya:  
Archaeological perspectives

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14:30–15:00

**Giuseppe Cacciaguerra**  
(Catania): Cities and markets  
in transformation in the early  
medieval Mediterranean:  
ceramics and trade in Syracuse  
in the 8th century

11:30–12:00

**Ada Lasheras González & Franc-  
esc Rodríguez Martorell** (Tarrag-  
ona): The city of Tarragona by  
the 8th century: new elements  
of discussion

12:00–13:00

POSTER SESSION I

**Veronica Casali** (San Marino):  
**Silvia Donadei, Giulia Marsili**  
& **Lucia Orlandi** (Bologna): The  
8th century at Gortyn: pottery  
production and context analysis

**Veronica Casali** (San Marino) &  
**Debora Pellacchia** (Bologna):  
The 8th century at Gortyn:  
glass and mosaic production

**Horacio Gonzalez** (Vienna):  
Byzantine amphorae in Ephe-  
sos, 7th-9th centuries. New  
evidences for a better under-  
standing of the Middle Byzan-  
tine commerce

Lunch break (90')

15:00–15:30

**Enrico Cirelli** (Munich):  
Economy and trade at Ravenna  
during the 8th century

Coffee break (30')

16:00–16:30

**Michelle Beghelli** (Mayence): Stone and the Church in the 8th century. The economics of sculpted products and its transformation between Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages

16:30–17:00

**Joan Pinar Gil** (Turin): Changing habits and changing scenarios: visual appearance and purchasing power as mirrored by the 8th-century Mediterranean jewellery deposits

17:00–17:30

**Katharina Meinecke** (Vienna): Illustrating an empire: Continuity and change in Umayyad visual culture

18:00–20:00

OFFER

**Guided tour of the Late Antiquity / Byzantine Collection of the Bode-Museum and the Museum of Islamic Art** (Cäcilia Fluck, Katharina Meinecke, Stefan Weber)

## Friday, 6 October

Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Jägerstr. 22/23, 10117 Berlin • Einstein-Saal

09:00–09.45  
KEYNOTE

**Cécile Morrisson** (Paris / Dumbarton Oaks): Fire under the ashes: Byzantine resilience in the long 8th century

09:45–10:30  
KEYNOTE

**Stefan Heidemann** (Hamburg): Transforming spatial economic relations in the 8th century – the largest empire of the Late Antiquity

11:00–11:30

**Alexander Asa Eger** (North Carolina): Building up the frontier: Micro-regional and divergent settlement patterns across the 8th century on the Umayyad and Abbāsīd thughūr

11:30–12:00

**Federico Montinaro** (Tübingen): Further thoughts on the kommerkiaroi, trade and the “Dark Centuries” of Byzantium

12:00–13:00

POSTER SESSION II

**Gabriele Castiglia** (Bologna): Urban and rural ecclesiastical frameworks in northern Tuscany in the 8th century

**Maria Paola Bulla** (Naples): The Islamic pottery issues in Tunisia: The transition (7th–8th centuries)

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14:30–15:00

**Mark Jackson** (Newcastle): Transforming cultural practices in 8th century domestic contexts at Kilise Tepe (Turkey)

15:00–15:30

**Yana Tchekhanovets & Doron Ben-Ami** (Jerusalem): An open market of Abbasid period exposed in recent excavations in Jerusalem

15:30–16:00

**Martina Müller-Wiener** (Berlin): Northern Bilād al-shām in the 8th century: Changing patterns of regional orientation – the ceramic evidence

Coffee break (30')

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19:00–20:00 EVENING LECTURE II

**Chris Wickham** (Oxford): Looking back at the 8th century from the 11th

**Clare Bycroft** (Oxford):

Quantifying the genetic impact of the Muslim conquest of Iberia (711 CE)

**Dorothee Sack & Martin**

**Gussone** (Berlin): Resafa-Rusafat Hisham in the 8th century. Settlement pattern of a Caliphal residence

Lunch break (90')

16:30–17:00

**Gergely Szenthe** (Budapest): The Carpathian Basin during the “Transition Period”: how the Avars integrated into the changing world between Late Antiquity and Early Middle Ages

17:00–17:30

**Morten Søvsø** (Ribe): 8th-century emporia, sceatta and Danish kingship

17:30–18:00

**Søren Sindbaek** (Aarhus): Northern Emporia and the 8th-century world. A view from new excavations in Ribe

Break (60')

## Saturday, 7 October

Freie Universität Berlin, ‘Holzlaube’, Fabeckstr. 23–25, 14195 Berlin • Room -1.2009

09:00–09.45  
KEYNOTE

**Andreas Kaplony** (Munich): Imperial and regional Arabic as mirrored in Arabic papyri from 8th-century Egypt

09:45 - 10:15

**Jennifer Cromwell** (Copenhagen): Administering Egypt: The role of Coptic within a wider imperial context

10:15–10:45

**Frederic Krueger** (Berlin): Coptic papyri illuminating the economy of 8th-century Egypt

Coffee break (45')

11:30–12:00

**Sophie Kovarik** (Oxford): Continuity and change in the notarial practice of Middle Egypt after the Arab conquest

12:00–12:30

**Stefanie Schmidt** (Basel): Trade and Economic life in Late Antique and Early Muslim Aswan

12:30–13:00

**Lajos Berkes** (Berlin): Economic contacts between Syria and Egypt in the Early Islamic period

Lunch buffet (60')

14:00–14:30

**Dario Internullo** (Naples): Papyrus, parchment and the beginning of the written memory of Western Europe

14:30–15:00

**Pia Carolla** (Rome): The power of a context – Literary distortion of economic issues

Coffee break (30')

15:30–17:00

CONCLUDING ROUND TABLE

**Bernhard Palme** (Vienna),  
Chairman

Après-conference reception and dinner buffet

Coffee break (30')





#### Images

Coins: Lutz-Jürgen Lübke, Reinhard Saczewski, Dirk Sonnenwald © Münzkabinett, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, ikmk.smb.museum

Late Roman Amphora: University of Southampton (2014) Roman Amphorae: a digital resource [data-set]. York: Archaeology Data Service [distributor] <https://doi.org/10.5284/1028192>

Detail of the Mshatta facade: Johannes Kramer, © Museum für Islamische Kunst, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

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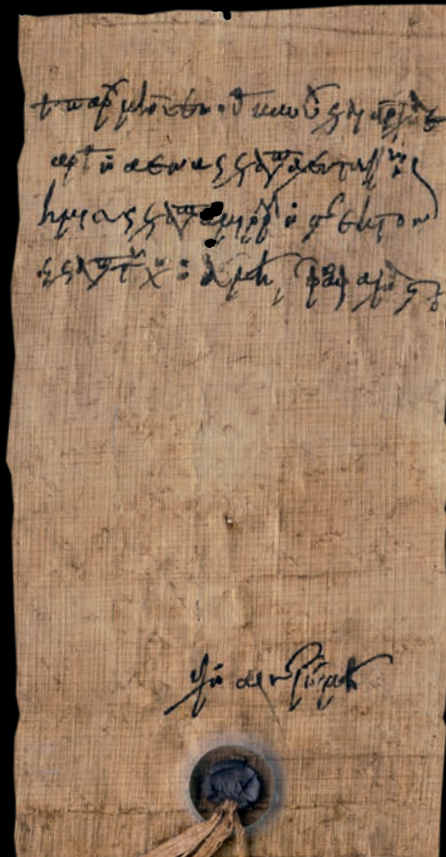
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#### Venues

##### Freie Universität Berlin, 'Holzlaube'

Fabeckstr. 23–25, 14195 Berlin • Lecture Room -1.2009

##### Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities

Jägerstr. 22/23, 10117 Berlin • Einstein-Saal

##### Bode-Museum, Museumsinsel

Am Kupfergraben, 10117 Berlin • Gobelinsaal

#### Registration

The event is open to the public, with advance registration requested: [frederic.krueger@fu-berlin.de](mailto:frederic.krueger@fu-berlin.de)

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