

SOCIAL and CULTURAL COMMUNITIES ACROSS MEDIEVAL MONASTIC, URBAN, and COURTLY CULTURES in HIGH and LATE MEDIEVAL CENTRAL EUROPE

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ABSTRACT

This project focused on processes of community building within neighbouring regions in the Southeast of the Holy Roman Empire – Austria and Bohemia – and compared them with examples from the Hungarian and Polish kingdoms. Entangled relations between court/nobility, towns and monasteries have been approached 1) *conceptually*, in terms of overlapping social spaces wherein forms of belonging were negotiated, and 2) *methodologically*, by means of case studies drawing on different types of source material. We used a shared matrix of research questions for scrutinizing various media and their strategies of representing community as well as the uses of the resulting cultural, spiritual, and political models of identification.

The cluster *Social Interaction and Distinction in Historiographies, Charters, and Literature* on the one hand focused on competing narrative offers of identification and addressed the uses of vernaculars/Latin. On the other hand, several detailed studies related such narratives to “documents of practice” that show the variety of social interactions and often cut across discursively shaped perceptions of different communities.

In the cluster *Monastic Landscapes and Hagiographies* the results of indepth research on one of Europe’s largest hagiographical collections were interpreted in the context of interrelated monastic and political community building both on a regional level and by trans-religious comparison. Likewise, the cluster *Urban Space and Networks* analysed social interactions that fostered community building in Austrian, Bohemian, and Hungarian towns, while the cluster *Forging Communities through Visual, Material, and Performative Culture* complemented this approach with research on symbolic representations in the formation of noble, urban and monastic communities. In this presentation we will discuss some key results of our research and also comment on the interdisciplinary processes that shaped our work in the framework of a large collaborative funding scheme.

BIOGRAPHIES

CHRISTINA LUTTER ist Professorin an den Instituten für Geschichte (IG) und ö. Geschichtsforschung (IÖG) der Univ. Wien und Mitglied der ö. Akademie der Wissenschaften. Sie leitet das Forschungsprojekt *Soziale und kulturelle Gemeinschaften im mittelalterlichen Zentraleuropa* im SFB 42 *Visions of Community (VISCOM)*. Buchpublikationen im Projektzusammenhang: *Kulturgeschichte der Überlieferung im Mittelalter. Quellen und Methoden zur Geschichte Mittel- und Südosteuropas*, mit E. Gruber, O. Schmitt (UTB 4554, Böhlau 2017); *Meanings of Community across Eurasia*, ed. mit W. Pohl/E. Hovden (Brill 2016); *Visions of Community. Comparative Approaches to Medieval Forms of Identity in Europe and Asia*, ed. mit A. Gingrich (History and Anthropology, Thematic Journal Issue 2015).

DANIEL FREY ist Mitglied des IÖG und schreibt an einer Dissertation zum Thema *Soziale Beziehungen in städtischen Räumen. Krems–Stein–Göttweig und Jindřichův Hradec im 15. Jh.* Er arbeitet zudem in der Stiftsbibliothek Göttweig, ist Fellow der *Vienna Doctoral Academy (VDA) Medieval Studies* an der Hist.-KUWI Fakultät der Univ. Wien und *Associate Project Investigator* im SFB VISCOM.

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JUDIT MAJOROSSY ist Post-Doc Assistentin am IG und IÖG der Univ. Wien, Mitglied der ungar. Akademie der Wissenschaften und *Associate Project Investigator* im SFB VISCOM. Buchpublikationen im Projektzusammenhang: *Piety in Practice: Urban Religious Life and Communities in Late Medieval Pressburg* (CEU Press 2019); *Practicing Community in Urban and Rural Eurasia (1000–1600)*, ed. mit F. Kümmeler/E. Hovden (Brill 2020).

