This project focused on processes of community building within neighboring 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 analyzed 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.

**ABSTRACT**

**BIOGRAFIES**


