

INSTITUT FÜR BYZANTINISTIK UND NEOGRÄZISTIK  
DER UNIVERSITÄT WIEN  
ÖSTERREICHISCHE BYZANTINISCHE GESELLSCHAFT

Wir laden ein zu folgendem Vortrag mit anschließender Diskussion:

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**Words, Water, and Power**

Literary fountains and metaphors of patronage  
in 11<sup>th</sup>- and 12<sup>th</sup>-century Byzantium

Metaphors and imagery related to water are very frequent in Byzantine literature, in both theological and secular texts: words and prayers are flowing forth like rivers, a dramatic situation can be depicted like a storm at a dark and dangerous sea, or the beauty and stillness of a particular setting can be rendered in terms of a gentle spring of sweet and clear water. In this paper I shall focus on metaphorical water that belongs in the context of fountains or other kinds of streaming water. More specifically, I will concentrate on patronage described metaphorically as money streaming from one direction to the other in return for words. By looking a number of such passages from the eleventh and, especially, the twelfth century, the literary and socio-cultural significance of such an imagery will be discussed.

**Vortragort: 1010 Wien, Postgasse 7, 1. Stiege, 3. Stock**

**Zeit: Montag, 7. April 2014, 18.30 Uhr**

Anschließend wird zu einem Glas Wein gebeten //  
Gäste sind herzlich willkommen!