

Einladung zum Gastvortrag

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Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum Mainz

The ideal and the real

The reconstruction of Roman identity and the archaeology of SW Peloponnese in the Middle Byzantine period

The talk will explore the relationship between textual accounts on SW Peloponnese from the 9th to the 11th centuries and the actual monuments and material culture evidence. On one side the main emphasis will be on the hagiographical text of the *Life of Hosios Nikon o Metanoeite* composed locally at the end of the 11th century but describing events at least a hundred years earlier. It constitutes a vivid and accurate description of sites and locales in Peloponnese, and stands as one of the few texts to have been composed with actual knowledge of the province.

This vivid description of Peloponnese will be contrasted to the picture provided by the archaeological material. Standing monuments and archaeological excavations are examined while the main focus will be on the material provided by the systematic excavation of Messene, a bishopric of the Early Byzantine period, that evolves into a “slavic” Middle Byzantine township.

The aim of the talk is to offer a preliminary examination of the mechanism of identity reconstruction in the newly re-conquered Byzantine Peloponnese as it is applied locally and how it correlates with the realities of the local population that can only be seen through the archaeological record. In this process both the historiographical question of *Hellenization* and the archaeology of ethnic identity will be revisited.

Ort: Institut für Byzantinistik und Neogräzistik der Universität Wien
1010 Wien, Postgasse 7, 1. Stiege, 3. Stock

Zeit: Dienstag, 31. Jänner 2017, 18:30 Uhr

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