International seminar

Approaching Byzantium through Seals: a Digital Exhibition

19-23 February 2024 | University of Cologne

Location: Room S34 -1.309, on the basement floor of the building SSC (Studierenden-Service-Center: grey and green building next to the Main Hall)

Online (link valid for all days until 21:00): https://uni-koeln.zoom.us/j/92716430987?pwd=eG5NZSs4MVNzSmVFY2gxRDdiQWpUUT09   Meeting ID: 927 1643 0987   Password: 206014

Instructor: Dr. Christos Malatras

Advisors *in-situ*: Prof. Dr. Claudia Sode, Dr. Sviatoslav Drach, Martina Filosa, M.A., Dr. Olga Karagiorgou

Lectures by Prof. Dr. Andreas Gkoutzioukostas (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) and Dr. Olga Karagiorgou (Academy of Athens, Director of the *TAKTIKON* Research Project)

Workflow:

Individual presentations of 20 minutes on assigned seals and discussion of 10 minutes.

Division of students in three groups. Each group studies the topic further and produces a common presentation on two general issues: 'Byzantine culture through seals' and 'Byzantine society through seals', based on remarks and discussion regarding their individual presentations and on bibliography from the library of the University.

The three groups present their findings on Friday and exchange their views.

During the individual study sessions, the instructor remains at the room and is available for advice. The students may consult the library or have group sessions (live and online) discussing their progress and findings.

Each three-hour session includes a break of 15 minutes. Each two-hour session includes a break of 5–10 minutes.

The students may consult the library during study sessions or at the end of the day. Between 17:00-20:00, they will have to be accompanied by a member of the Cologne team. Please do not forget to have an ID card on you.

Easy link to the Google Drive folder with the learning and research material:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UJ-op5yM7oi9EDL0NmHdWnr3S06w8tJO

PROGRAMME

Monday, 19 February

10:30 Meeting in front of the Main Hall (Albertus-Magnus-Platz) by the statue.

11:00 – 13:00   *morning session*

- Welcoming address by Prof. Dr. Claudia Sode. Short introduction to the two sigillographic programs of the University of Cologne.
- Byzantine society and culture through seals (Christos Malatras): introductory remarks

- The digital exhibition: presentation of the planned website by Dr. Sviatoslav Drach
- Examination of a couple of lead seals from the private collection of Robert Feind. The process of making RTI images and 3D models.
- Short visit to the library.

13:00 – 14:00   lunch break

14:00 – 17:00   *afternoon session*

- Presentations by Paraskevi Platanou, Maria Jokela, Myrto Vlachou, Sofia Efthymoglou, Konstantina Eleftheriadi, Anastasia Tsacheiridou

Tuesday, 20 February

10:00 – 13:00   *morning session*

- Presentations by Evangelos Adam, Eva Lotta Biesalski, Eirini Tzoutzouraki, Daria Elagina, Ioannis Tsagkalidis

13:00 – 14:00   lunch break

14:00 – 18:00   *afternoon session*

- Presentations by: Thanasis Sotiriou, Garyfallia Prifti, Sima Mezeridou, Pia Tabea Charlene Evening, Adél Ternovácz, Nikolas Churik, Maria Teresa Catalano
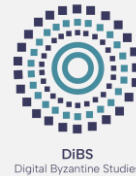

Wednesday, 21 February

10:00 – 13:15   *morning session*

- Individual study and in-group discussion

13:15 – 14:15   lunch break

14:15 – 17:00   *afternoon session*

- Presentations by Filippos Kolios, Numa Buchs
- Lecture (online) by Prof. Dr. Andreas Gkoutzioukostas "Lead seals: a valuable source for Byzantine administration".

Thursday, 22 February

10:00 – 13:00   *morning session*

- Individual study and in-group discussion

13:00 – 14:00   lunch break

14:00 – 17:00   *afternoon session*

- Lecture by Dr. Olga Karagiorgou "Casting le(a)d light on Byzantine society"
- Presentation by Prof. Dr Nilgün Elam (Anadolu University), "Byzantine prosopography through lead seals"
- Presentation by Dr. Daria Elagina (Universität Hamburg), "Seals in Ethiopia and Eritrea: Symbolism and Sealing Practices"

19:00 Common dinner

Friday, 23 February

11:00 – 13:00   *morning session*

- Group presentations A, B and C on Byzantine society through seals

13:00 – 14:00   lunch break

14:00 – 16:00   *afternoon session*

- Group presentations A, B and C on Byzantine culture through seals
- Final remarks

USEFUL INFORMATION

- Many train/metro/tram lines function throughout the night. Tickets can be procured by the vending machines at each station. Some lines are underground (mainly in their section through the city centre) and some completely overground (like trams). The main station for the University is called Universität (2-3 minutes walking) with line 9, and Weißhausstrasse or Eifelwall with line 18 (10 minutes walking). During the day, trains usually run every 10-15 minutes. Buses run irregularly, although there is always a timetable.
- From Düsseldorf airport there are several trains going to Cologne, at least three per hour. The journey is not long and takes in average 40-50 minutes. The ticket costs around 12 Euros. You may choose trains whose line name starts with RE (Regional), not IC or ICE. The latter ones are more expensive and will only shorten your route by 10 minutes. You may take with the same ticket any RE train going to Cologne, but make sure not to take any IC or ICE train, because you will get a fine.
- The main train stations of Cologne are the Hauptbahnhof (Hbf) and the Messe/Deutz. Smaller regional train stations include the Bahnhof (Bf) Süd (10 minutes walking from the University) and Bf Ehrenfeld. Many of the RE trains stopping at the central stations continue their journey to some of the smaller ones.
- Should you experience any problem you may contact me at +4915221677621 or +306974836226 (also WhatsApp). If you have an EU mobile number roaming is now free, so you may call or use your data free of charge.
- If you already have Eduroam, you will normally have access with it in the campus. Anyway, you will be provided with codes to access the University's Wi-fi.
- Do not forget to visit the Cathedral of Cologne and the Roman-German Museum at Cäcilienstrasse 46 near Neumarkt. Some of you may wish to visit the Church of St Pantaleon where empress Theophano, niece of emperor Nikephoros II Phokas (963-969) and wife to the German emperor Otto II (973-983), is buried.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Name and Surname	Email	Seals assigned	Mode of attendance
Evangelos Adam	evadam@phil.uoa.gr	3, 18	Online
Eva-Lotta Biesalski	evabiesalski@gmail.com	1, 19	In person
Numa Buchs	numa.buchs@outlook.fr	12, 39	Online
Maria Teresa Catalano	catalanm@uni-koeln.de	35	In person
Nikolas Churik	nchurik@princeton.edu	32, 36	Online
Sviatoslav Drach	s.drach@uni-koeln.de	Advisor	In person
Sofia Efthymoglou	sofia_efth@hotmail.com	17, 30	In person
Daria Elagina	daria.elagina@gmx.de	4, 31	In person
Nilgün Elam	nelam@anadolu.edu.tr	Museum seals	Online
Konstantina Eleftheriadi	constantina.eleftheriadi@gmail.com	17, 30	In person
Pia Evening	pia.evening@uni-koeln.de	29	In person
Martina Filosa	martina.filosa@gmail.com	Advisor	In person
Andreas Gkoutzioukostas	agkoutzi@hist.auth.gr	Lecturer	Online
Maria Jokela	marijok@utu.fi	25, 26	In person
Olga Karagiorgou	karagiorgou@academyofathens.gr	Advisor-Lecturer	In person
Andrew Klenzman	andyklenz@gmail.com	n/a	Online
Filippos Kolios	fillikolios@hotmail.gr	3, 9	In person
Sima Meziridou	sima.meziridou@gmail.com	13 and 27	Online
Paraskevi Platanou	pplatanou@phil.uoa.gr	10, 24	In person
Garyfallia Prifti	garyprif@hist.auth.gr	11, 34	In person
Claudia Sode	claudia.sode@uni-koeln.de	Advisor	In person
Thanasis Sotiriou	sotiriou.than@gmail.com	20, 21, 23	In person
Adél Ternovácz	ternovaczadel@gmail.com	14, 37	In person
Anastasia Tsacheiridou	natasaptol@gmail.com	15, 16	In person
Ioannis Tsagkalidis	ioannistsagkalidis@yahoo.de	7, 8	Online
Eirini Tzoutzouraki	etzoutzou@hist.auth.gr	2, 33	In person
Myrto Vlachou	mirtovlachou@yahoo.com	5, 6	In person

The Main Building of the University on Albertus-Magnus-Platz, the photo is from summer, that's why there is sun.

The SSC (Studierenden Service Center), the entrance is on the side of the building.