

War with Byzantium
Legitimation, Consequences and Reception

International Conference of the Research Training Group 2304 “Byzantium and the
Euro-Mediterranean Cultures of War. Exchange, Differentiation and Reception”

June 9 – June 11, 2022

Organized by
Hans-Christian Maner, Johannes Pahlitzsch, Jörg Rogge,
Roman Shliakhtin and Ute Verstegen

Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz
Alte Mensa / Atrium Maximum

The conference will focus on war with Byzantium, the Eastern Roman empire, from an external perspective. It will cover four thematic areas: first, the legitimation of wars against Byzantium including e.g. the question of how the empire’s opponents constructed a hostile image of Byzantium. How did Byzantium’s enemies describe war with the empire on a religious and ideological level? Second, we will examine the concrete ways in which wars with Byzantium were waged and what kind of infrastructure was necessary for such undertakings. Frontier regions and their protection played an important role in this context. The third thematic area will focus on the consequences of war both for the environment and for the population, such as captivity, enslavement or forced conversion. Which strategies did people employ to cope with these experiences? Last but not least, we will investigate the reception of wars against Byzantium, regardless of whether they ended in victory or defeat, in post-Byzantine times.

Program

Thursday, June 9th

14.00

Introduction

Johannes Pahlitzsch

1st Session

The Eastern Roman Empire as Enemy: Legitimizations of War against Byzantium

14.30–16.00

Hansjoachim Andres (Düsseldorf)

The Relativity of ‘World Domination’. Approaching Sasanian and Roman Claims to Power

Clemens Gantner (Vienna)

An Alliance Turned into War: Louis II of Italy's Conflict with Byzantium in 873 and the Development of the Relations During the Great Southern War, 866-874

16.00–16.30

Coffee Break

16.30–18.00

Andrea Riedl (Regensburg)

Christians against Christians. Contemporary Theological Implications in Justifying the Sack of Constantinople (1204)

Bart Peters (RTG 2304 Mainz)

Salerno Facing an Empire: The Battle of Basintello against Byzantium According to the Chronicon Salernitanum.

19.00

Evening Lecture

Diana Mishkova (Sofia)

Byzantium against Byzantium: Narratives of Empire in the Historiographies of Southeastern Europe

Reception

Friday, June 10th

2nd Session

How to Wage a War against Byzantium: Infrastructure, Logistics, Fortification

9.30–11.00

Alexander Sarantis (Warsaw)

Differentiating the Impact of Barbarian Raiding and Migration in the Balkans, 565-750

Hugh Kennedy (London)

Was There a Cavalry Revolution in Islamic Armies in the Ninth Century?

11.00–11.15

Coffee Break

11.15–12.30

Dimitri Korobeinikov (Albany)

The War: Aristocratic Families on Both Sides of the Byzantine-Arab and Byzantine Seljuk Border from the 11th to the 13th Century

Philipp Margreiter (RTG 2304 Mainz)

Building and Financing Fortifications in Byzantine North Africa. Reconsidering the Epigraphic and Archaeological Evidence

12.30–14.00

Lunch

14.00–15.00

Poster Session

Presentation of the projects of the doctoral students of the RTG

3rd Session

Dealing with the Consequences of War

15.00–16.30

Adam Izdebski (Jena)

Environcide or Side-effect of Societal Collapse? War-associated Environmental Change in Byzantium

Jim Crow (Edinburgh)

Changing Landscapes of Fortification in the Roman East 500-750

16.30–16.45

Coffee Break

16.45–18.15

Laury Sarti (Heidelberg)

Experiencing the Fourth Crusade (1204). The Consequences of War from the Perspective of Eyewitnesses

Markus Koller (Bochum)

(Post-)War Societies in the Early 15th Century - Effects of Ottoman-Byzantine Struggles in the Sign of the Ottoman 'Civil War' (1402-1413)

Saturday, June 11th

4th Session

Reception of Wars against Byzantium

9.00–10.30

Alice Sullivan (Tufts, Medford)

Constructed Memories: The Sieges of Constantinople after 1453

Nicholas Melvani (Mainz)

Landscapes of Victory in 16th-century Istanbul

10.30–10.45

Coffee Break

10.45–12.00

Roman Shliakhtin (RTG 2304 Mainz)

Perception of the Fall of Constantinople in the Muscovite Rhetoric in the 15th and 16th Centuries

Gwendolyn Döring (RTG Mainz)

Byzantium in the Limelight or Twilight? Images of Rulership and War on the Italian Opera Stage (1650–1750)

12.00–13.00

Lunch

13.00–14.30

Round Table

Byzantium and its Enemies – Cultures of War in Transition

Organized by Philipp Margreiter, Regina Molitor, Michael Rapp (RTG Mainz)

With Gergely Csiky (Budapest), Alexander Sarantis (Warsaw), Laury Sarti (Heidelberg), Rustam Shukurov (Dushanbe), Yannis Stouraitis (Edinburgh)

14.30

Final Remarks

Information and registration

grk2304@uni-mainz.de