Victors and Vanquished in the Euro-Mediterranean Cultures of War in the Middle Ages

18–20 October 2018
Leibniz-Institut für Europäische Geschichte
Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz

Organized by Johannes Pahlitzsch and Jörg Rogge

A Conference of the Leibniz ScienceCampus Mainz
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Conflicts significantly influenced medieval societies. The cultures of war which arose as a result developed not only in opposition to, but also under the influence of other cultures. Cultures of war are here understood as the norms, interpretations, attributions of meaning and reflections on war, as well as the forms and practices of war itself. The goal of this workshop is to analyze Euro-Mediterranean cultures of war and the importance of Byzantium for them in a comparative perspective on the basis of three concrete sets of topics: remembering victory and defeat, practices of celebrating victory and triumphs and the culture of dealing with the vanquished.

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Coping with victory and defeat in war touches upon questions of the legitimation of authority, for instance in historiography, panegyric, pictorial representations and architecture. The celebration of a triumph, by contrast, represents a means of direct communication between rulers, the army and the populace. In this context thanks is expressed to the army, generals, the ruler or another higher authority, and it is here that the embedding of the martial in each individual culture is expressed. The treatment of prisoners of war and the enemy dead likewise belongs to the frame of inquiry, yet is of greater importance for its praxis, as a similar treatment of one’s own captives and possibly exchanges of prisoners would have been expected.

At the Leibniz-Institut für Europäische Geschichte

At the Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz (infobox)

Thursday 18th October

18.00 INTRODUCTION

18.15 KEYNOTE LECTURE
T. Kolias (Athens) Transcultural Experiences of War. The Function of Victory and Defeat

19.30 Reception of the Leibniz ScienceCampus Mainz: Byzantium between Orient and Occident

Friday 19th October

9.30 Th. Dittelbach (Bern) Acculturation of Conflicts. The Norman Conquest of Islamic Sicily

10.15 G. Loud (Leeds) Victors and Vanquished in Norman Italy

11.00 COFFEE BREAK