

**Wittgenstein Award Project**  
**“Mobility, Microstructures and Personal Agency in Byzantium”**

**Forum Moving Byzantium XV**

**Moving Byzantine Historiography into Postmodernity:  
 From Vanishing Ladies to Female Gendered Characters**

The Wittgenstein Project Team invites you to our fifteenth group discussion meeting. “Forum Moving Byzantium XV” will take place on **Friday 23.11.2018**, from **11:00 to 12:30**, at the Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies (University of Vienna, Postgasse 7, 1010 Vienna, Staircase 1, Third Floor, Hörsaal).

The Forum Moving Byzantium XV will provide the unique opportunity to discuss with **Dr. Matthew Kinloch (Austrian Academy of Sciences)** his current work on “**Moving Byzantine Historiography into Postmodernity: From Vanishing Ladies to Female Gendered Characters**”.

**Matthew Kinloch** is currently a postdoctoral researcher on the Wittgenstein Award Project. His research relates to late Byzantine historiography, with a particular focus on narrative, agency, gender, and collective action. He recently gained his doctorate at the University of Oxford (2014-18) with a thesis entitled *Rethinking Thirteenth-Century Byzantine Historiography: A Postmodern, Narrativist, and Narratological Approach*. He previously studied at the universities of Uppsala (Gästdoktorand, 2016-17), Birmingham (MRes, 2013-14), and Durham (BA, 2010-13).

The study of Byzantine historiography has never had a postmodern phase. In Byzantine studies, postmodernism, or at least its caricatured nihilistic spectre, has either been rejected or (more often) simply ignored. Where engagement has occurred, scholars have utilised (albeit mostly rhetorically) only concepts or ‘theories’ that do not fundamentally disrupt traditional practise. Nevertheless, the linguistic and epistemological challenges posed by postmodernism (broadly conceived) to historical knowledge claims demand serious engagement. In thinking about discursively marginalised groups, such as women in Byzantium, the stakes in being able to make such claims are at their highest. In this forum, we will use the challenges posed by the study of female gendered characters in Byzantine narratives to discuss the broader challenges to traditional historiographical practice posed by postmodernism, as well as potential responses.

After a brief introduction by Dr. Kinloch, there will be extensive time for discussion, moderated by Mag. Paraskevi Sykopetritou, (University of Vienna/ Austrian Academy of Sciences) on the basis of the following preparatory readings:

1. Jenkins, K., ‘Introduction: History Limited’, in K. Jenkins (ed.), *At the Limits of History* (London, 2009), 4-21 (esp. 4-14).
2. Kinloch, M., *Rethinking Thirteenth-Century Byzantine Historiography: A Postmodern, Narrativist, and Narratological Approach* (Doctoral Thesis for the University of Oxford, 2018), 3-34.
3. Ballif, M., ‘Re/dressing Histories; Or, on Re/Covering Figures who have been Laid Bare by Our Gaze’, *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* 22 (1992), 91-8.
4. Clark, E., ‘The Lady Vanishes: Dilemmas of a Feminist Historian after the “Linguistic Turn”’, *Church History* 67 (1998), 1-31 (esp. 1-14).
5. Kaldellis, A., ‘The Study of Women and Children: Methodological Challenges and new Directions’, in P. Stephenson (ed.), *The Byzantine World* (Abingdon, 2010), 61-71.

If you are interested in attending the event, please contact Ms. Paraskevi Sykopetritou (Project Coordinator) in order to receive further information and the relevant reading material: [paraskevi.sykopetritou@univie.ac.at](mailto:paraskevi.sykopetritou@univie.ac.at)

For further information and updates on future events you may also consult our website: <http://rapp.univie.ac.at/>

We hope that you can join our Forum for fruitful discussions!