

OTHERING in PRE-NORMAN SOUTHERN ITALY

Thursday, 6 July 2017

Session 1515 – Stage@Leeds Stage 1

Othering in Pre-Norman Southern Italy I Perceptions and Contexts

Clemens GANTNER • Vienna

Between a rock and a hard place? South Italian portrayals of Louis II of Italy and his east Roman counterparts

Luigi Andrea BERTO • Kalamazoo MI, Venice

Foreigners and others in early medieval southern Italy: Interpretations and sources

Edoardo MANARINI • Naples

Shifting 'othering': Montecassino's monks between Lombards and Saracens from the first to the second destruction of the monastery. *A comparison of the earliest historiographical accounts (8th-10th centuries)*

9⁰⁰-10³⁰

Session 1616 – Stage@Leeds Stage 1

Othering in Pre-Norman Southern Italy II Otherness in Culturally Divergent Societies

Daniele FERRAIUOLO • Naples

Otherness and identity in epigraphic scripts. Naples in the time of the Dukes (6th-9th centuries)

Caroline GOODSON • London

The social capital of others: Diversity as politics in southern Italy

Sophie GRUBER • Vienna

The construction of allegiance and exclusion in Erchempert's *Historiola*

11¹⁵-12⁴⁵

Session 1716 – Stage@Leeds Stage 1

Othering in Pre-Norman Southern Italy, III Non-Christians and Non- Muslims as a Challenge

Sam G. OTTEWILL SOULSBY • Cambridge

'Pagans and Bad Christians': The Saracen 'other' in the politics of ninth-century southern Italy

Kordula WOLF • Rome

Practices of Othering the 'Saracens' in 9th-century mainland Italy and Sicily

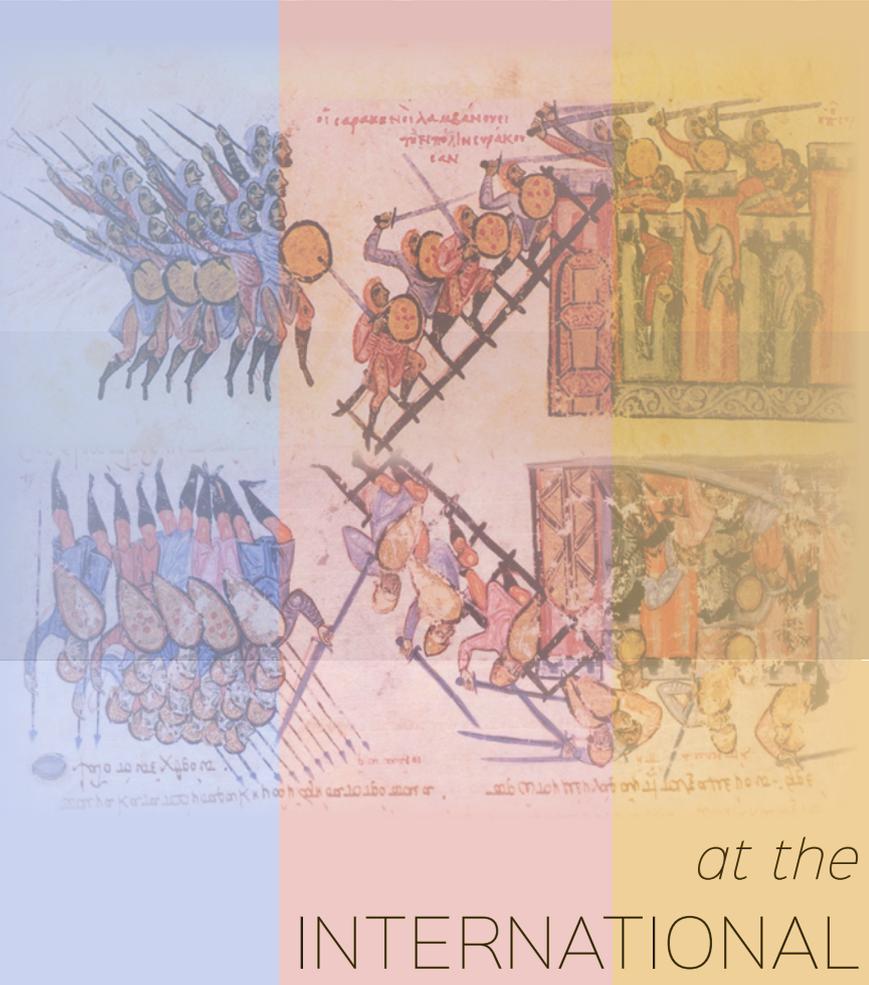
Lorenzo BONDIOLI • Princeton

Taxation and otherness in Islamic Sicily

14¹⁵-15⁴⁵

Organizers: Clemens Gantner & Kordula Wolf

SESSIONS



at the

INTERNATIONAL

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CONGRESS

Leeds 2017



In this strand consisting of three sessions, we want to take a closer look at the process of 'othering'. We will focus on the shaping or construction of an 'other' (as distinct from the 'self' and one's 'in-group') and on the emphasizing of 'otherness'. One of the most interesting regions for studying this process is southern Italy (including Sicily) in the period between the Frankish conquest of the north Italian kingdom (774) and the arrival of the Normans (mid-11th century).

Session 1515 – Stage@Leeds Stage 1

**Othering in Pre-Norman Southern Italy I
Perceptions and Contexts**

Clemens GANTNER • *Vienna*

Between a Rock and a hard place?

South Italian portrayals of Louis II of Italy and his east Roman counterparts. Writers active in southern Italy had two types of 'others' they knew very well: Northern and Central 'Italians' and the East Roman 'Greeks'. With both perceived groups, they were in close contact throughout the Middle Ages. They shared common traits of culture and a perceived common historical heritage. Based on various military endeavours of the Carolingian Emperor Louis II, this paper will aim to show how these 'close' others were designated as such in south Italian writings of the ninth and tenth centuries. The image of Louis and his 'Franks' will be compared to the one of the 'Greeks', who were in close contact (if not always in unison) with Louis during his expeditions.

Luigi Andrea BERTO • *Kalamazoo MI, Venice*

Foreigners and others in early medieval southern Italy:

Interpretations and sources

Taking advantage of the fact that 9th- and 10th-century southern Italy was one of the most diverse areas in Europe and in the Mediterranean, this paper aims to explore how the authors of that period portrayed foreigners and the many others of that area in their works and how modern scholars have interpreted these texts.

Edoardo MANARINI • *Naples*

Shifting 'othering': Montecassino's monks between Lombards and Saracens from the first to the second destruction of the monastery

Even if early historiographical compositions from Montecassino are complex and often multi-layered, the monks' point of view is an important jigsaw piece to sketch how newcomers were seen through time in southern Italy. This paper aims to compare the representation of Lombards and Saracens: how the former were perceived as conquerors and then as Christian princes from their coming to Italy until the end of the 9th century; and how the latter are always depicted as evil on earth – but nonetheless their sovereign's years were counted by the Cassinese chronicler. This presentation will be based on Paul the Deacon's *Historia Langobardorum* and the *Chronicae Sancti Benedicti Casinensis*; it will focus on the shifting 'othering', brought about by the different political background of these authors.

Chair: Rosamond McKitterick, *Cambridge*

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**Othering in Pre-Norman Southern Italy II
Otherness in Culturally
Divergent Societies**

Daniele FERRAIUOLO • *Naples*

Otherness and identity in epigraphic scripts. Naples in the time of the dukes (6th–9th centuries)

'Exposed' script is one of the main instruments of propaganda of power and self-representation. By analysing different categories of epigraphs – from carved inscriptions to *tituli picti* within Neapolitan churches and catacombs – this paper intends to track down, on one hand, the signs of a strong Byzantine urban identity and, on the other, artistic and graphic influences that, especially from the ninth century, reflect the contact/clash with the nearby Benevento, capital of the Lombard principality.

Caroline GOODSON • *London*

The social capital of others: Diversity as politics in southern Italy

The cities of southern Italy were cosmopolitan and large – Rome was the largest city in Europe, of course, and southern Italy was overwhelming an urban society. These cities were also diverse, housing speakers of Latin/vernacular Italian, Greek, some Arabic and Hebrew, and Lombard German. Both material and textual sources attest to cultural diversity in southern Italian society, not just among different linguistic-cultural groups, but also among people who associated with one city but were living in another, Amalfitans at Benevento, for example. This paper seeks to demonstrate the strategies employed by southern Italians to derive benefit from cultural diversity and how 'othering' might have worked among neighbours.

Sophie GRUBER • *Vienna*

The construction of allegiance and exclusion in Erchempert's *Historiola*

Erchempert, a monk in Montecassino, reflects in his „*Historia Langobardorum Beneventanorum*“ the political and also the religious situation in southern Italy as a witness of his time. As a member of the Christian community who (probably) trails political interests at the same time, his text shows that the construction of allegiance (or superiority) and exclusion (or inferiority) is a political act with strong ties to christian rhetoric. This paper will focus on how Erchempert's text creates Othering between political parties who are involved in this conflict.

Chair: Walter POHL, *Vienna*

Session 1716 – Stage@Leeds Stage 1

**Othering in Pre-Norman Southern Italy III
Non-Christians and Non-Muslims as a Challenge**

Sam G. OTTEWILL SOULSBY •

Cambridge

'Pagans and Bad Christians': The Saracen 'other' in the politics of ninth-century southern Italy

Antagonism between Christians and Muslims in the medieval period has often been taken for granted. Southern Italy in the ninth century reveals a more ambiguous picture, in which local Christian princes and bishops frequently allied with particular Muslim leaders in order to achieve their political goals. In this pragmatic environment, declarations of absolute opposition to all Saracens, such as those made by Emperor Louis II and Pope John VIII, were unusual and had implications for those Christians allied to Muslims. This paper examines the construction of narratives pitting Christians against Muslims in this context and the ways in which Christians who allied across religious lines were consequently 'othered' as 'bad Christians'.

Kordula WOLF • *Rome*

Practices of othering the "Saracens" in 9th-century mainland Italy and Sicily

This paper aims at analysing othering the 'Saracens' as a social practice following Theodore Schatzki's theory, which refers to practices as the temporally unfolding and spatially dispersed nexus of doings and sayings. On the basis of some case examples from the 9th century, the relation between the simultaneous construction of in- and out-groups on the one hand and political and everyday practices on the other will be addressed. What differences or similarities between the island of Sicily and the southern part of the Italian peninsula can be identified? Not least, it's a testing ground to what extent the chosen theoretical approach helps reflecting about early medieval contexts, especially considering the difficulties regarding the sources.

Lorenzo BONDIOLI • *Princeton*

Taxation and otherness in Islamic Sicily

By the beginning of the tenth century, Sicily had firmly come under the domination of the Muslim rulers of Ifriqiya. The consolidation of Islamic rule is generally thought to have entailed the extension to the island of Islamic fiscal practices, which included a range of impositions designed to burden groups on the basis of their 'otherness' – most notably, non-Muslims. The reality of the situation on the ground, however, is often obscured by the paucity of surviving sources. Drawing on documents from the Cairo Geniza, this paper will investigate convergences and divergences between legal theory and fiscal practice in Sicily prior to the Norman conquest, mostly focusing on the fiscal relationship between Jewish residents and visiting merchants and the Sicilian authorities.

Chair: Clemens GANTNER, *Vienna*