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 Summer Semester 2024

Byzantium & Eastern Europe

Seminar

Tuesdays, 12-14, Garystr. 55/105 (hybrid).

Office Hours

Johannes Niehoff-Panagiotidis: Mondays, 9-10 (on-line via "skype")

Theocharis Grigoriadis: Mondays, 8-10, Garystr. 55/101A.

Modules

Master of Science in Economics/Public Economics: *Topics in Applied Economic Policy Analysis*.

Master of Arts in East European Studies: *Resources & Infrastructures*.

Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies of the Middle East: *Elective*.

This course constitutes a fascinating intersection between social sciences and humanities by focusing on one of the most influential Imperial economies of Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages, the Byzantine Empire. With its capital in New Rome/Constantinople, the Eastern part of the Roman Empire developed extensive economic and political relations with tribes and state formations in Southeastern and East-Central Europe, as well as the Black Sea, which were often defined by conflict, trade, and religion.

The first part of the course focuses on the modeling of the Byzantine economy and foreign policy based on archival sources and secondary literature, as well as on modern tools of economic theory. In the second part of the course, we explore Byzantine foreign relations with Bulgarians, Serbs, Romanians, Rus', Georgians, and Armenians, while debating the logic of the Byzantine Commonwealth and its persistence. Furthermore, the course concentrates on the transition period of the Fourth Crusade (1204) as well as of the early Ottoman Empire and discusses patterns of succession and discontinuity between the two Imperial systems.

Regular participation

75 percent attendance.

Active participation

Collective presentation (12 slides per person, 15 minutes per person) in the last three weeks of the semester.

Grade

Research Paper (4 K words).

Required Texts

1. Harvey, Alan. *Economic expansion in the Byzantine Empire, 900-1200*. Cambridge University Press, 2003.

2. Laiou, Angeliki E., and Cécile Morrisson. *The Byzantine Economy*. Cambridge University Press, 2007.
3. Meyendorff, John. *Byzantium and the rise of Russia: a study of Byzantino-Russian relations in the fourteenth century*. Cambridge University Press, 2010.
4. Ševčenko, Ihor. *Byzantium and the Slavs in letters and culture*. Cambridge, Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, 1991.
5. Treadgold, Warren. *A history of the Byzantine state and society*. Stanford University Press, 1997.
6. M. F. Hendy, *Studies in Byzantine Monetary Economy*, Cambridge University Press, 1985.
7. M. McCormick, *Origins of the European Economy*, Harvard University Press, 2002.

Week 1: Modeling Medieval Economies

- Desierto, Desiree, and Mark Koyama. "Feudal political economy." (2022).
- Greif, Avner. "Economic history and game theory." *Handbook of game theory with economic applications* 3 (2002): 1989-2024.
- Greif, Avner. "Historical and comparative institutional analysis." *American Economic Review* 88.2 (1998): 80-84.

Week 2: Byzantine State & Society I

- Niehoff-Panagiotidis, Jannis. "Embassies–Negotiations–Gifts. Systems of East Roman Diplomacy in Late Antiquity. (Geographica Historica. 30.)." (2016): 625-628.
- Treadgold, 1997: Part IV – The Long Revival.

Week 3: Byzantine State & Society II

- Hendy, 1985: Excerpts.
- McCormick, 2002: Excerpts.
- Treadgold, 1997: Part VI – The Failed Restoration.

Week 4: The Economics of Byzantine Expansion

- Harvey, 2003: Excerpts.

Weeks 5 & 6: A Compendium of Byzantine Foreign Policy: De Administrando Imperio.

- Eger, A. Asa. "(Re) Mapping Medieval Antioch: Urban Transformations from the Early Islamic to the Middle Byzantine Periods." *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 67 (2013): 95-134.
- Porphyrogenitus, Constantine VII, R. Jenkins and Gyula Moravcsik. *Constantine Porphyrogenitus De Administrando Imperio*. Vol. 1. Dumbarton Oaks, 1967.

Weeks 7 & 8: Monks & Merchants in Mount Athos & Slavic Lands

- Kaplan, Michel. "The Economy of Byzantine Monasteries." *The Cambridge History of Medieval Monasticism in the Latin West* 1 (2020): 340-62.
- Majeska, George. "Rus' and the Byzantine Empire." *A Companion to Russian History* (2009): 51-65.
- Pantelić, Bratislav. "The last Byzantines: perceptions of identity, culture, and heritage in Serbia." *Nationalities Papers* 44.3 (2016): 430-455.
- Todorov, Boris. "The value of empire: tenth-century Bulgaria between Magyars, Pechenegs and Byzantium." *Journal of Medieval History* 36.4 (2010): 312-326.

Week 9: Eastern Frontiers

- Decker, Michael. "Frontier settlement and economy in the Byzantine East." *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 61 (2007): 217-267.
- Meyendorff, 2010: Excerpts.
- Obolensky, Dimitri. "Late Byzantine culture and the Slavs: A study in acculturation." *The expansion of Orthodox Europe*. Routledge, 2017. 473-496.

- Ševčenko, 1991: Excerpts.

Week 10: Trade & Growth

- Harvey, Alan. "The middle Byzantine economy: growth or stagnation?" *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies* 19 (1995): 243-262.
- Jacoby, David. "The Byzantine Social Elite and the Market Economy, Eleventh to Mid-Fifteenth Century." *Essays in Renaissance Thought and Letters*. Brill, 2015. 65-86.
- Prigent, Vivien. "The Mobilization of Fiscal Resources in the Byzantine Empire (Eighth to Eleventh Centuries)." *Diverging Paths?*. Brill, 2014. 182-229.

Week 11: Transitions

- Niehoff-Panagiotidis, J. "Telling the Unthinkable." *Erfahrung und Geschichte: Historische Sinnbildung im Pränarrativen* 23 (2010): 277.
- Şahin, Kaya. "Constantinople and the end time: the Ottoman conquest as a portent of the last hour." *Journal of Early Modern History* 14.4 (2010): 317-354.

Week 12: Byzantine Development in Context I

- Laiou and Morrisson, 2007: Ch. 1 & 2.

Week 13: Byzantine Development in Context II

- Laiou and Morrisson, 2007: Ch. 3&4.

Week 14: Byzantine Development in Context III

- Laiou and Morrisson, 2007: Ch. 5&6.