

# The Polycentricity of Late Antiquity

## Final Conference of the DFG Leibniz Prize Project “The Polyphony of Late Antique Christianity”

October 11-13, 2023, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main  
Westend Campus, IG Farben Building, Room NG 731

### Wednesday, October 11

12.00-13.00 *Registration & Snacks*

13.00-13:30 **Hartmut Leppin (Frankfurt):** Introduction

#### Section 1: Egypt in Context

13.30-14.15 **Matteo Antoniazzi (Angers):** Memory and Faith: Religious Identities in Byzantine Egypt according to the *Chronicle* of John of Nikiû

14.15-15.00 **Julia Schwarzer (Würzburg):** The Peripheral Center – Lay Religious Agency in Alexandria

15.00-15.15 *Coffee Break*

#### Section 2: Italy in Context

15.15-16.00 **Adrien Bresson (Lyon):** Praising Rome as the True Centre: the Roman Empire and Polycentricity at the Time of Claudian (395-404)

16.00-16.45 **Nikolas Hächler (Zurich):** Lactantius – Ambrose – Augustine. Leading voices in the polyphonic discourse on notions of Christian justice in Late Antiquity

16.45-17.00 *Coffee Break*

17.00-17.45 **Jeroen Wijnendaele (Bonn):** War, Government, and the Re-Centring of Late Roman Italy (c. 260-560 CE)

17.45-18.00 *Break*

18.00-19.00 **Felix Maier (Zurich):** Recognizing the Other – Identity and Past in the Roman Empire and the Abbasid Caliphate  
**KEY NOTE**

19.30 *Participant dinner*

## Thursday, October 12

### Section 3: Constantinople in Context

- 09.15-10.00 **Alexandra Hasse-Ungeheuer (Frankfurt)**: Constantinople – Capital between Centralisation and Polycentric Tendencies in Late Antiquity
- 10.00-10.45 **Silvio Roggo (Frankfurt)**: The Patriarchal 'Pentarchy' – a fig leaf for Constantinopolitan supremacy?
- 10.45-11.00 *Coffee Break*
- 11.00-11.45 **Simone Mehr (Erlangen)**: Justice and eternal life. The eighth speech of Themistius as an appeal to the elites
- 11.45-12.30 **Nikolai Kiel (Frankfurt)**: John of Ephesus and the "Tritheists" – What was the belief of "Tritheism"?
- 12.30-13.30 *Lunch Break*

### Section 4: Syriac World in Context

- 13.30-14.15 **Carlo Emilio Biuzzi (Paris)**: "Sergius, most excellent of men, priest and abbot". The Miaphysite network between Edessa and Amid through the Chronicle of the ps. Joshua the Stilite (6th cent.)
- 14.15-15.00 **Mateusz Fafinski (Erfurt)**: Imagining late antique regional centres: the textual landscapes of Ravenna and Edessa
- 15.00-15.15 *Coffee Break*
- 15.15-16.00 **David Vasquez (Münster)**: The *Diaetetic* of John Philoponus: New Syriac Edition and Commentary
- 16.00-16.45 **Daniel An (Frankfurt)**: Rethinking artistic centers in late antique Mesopotamia: devotional artwork in the Church of the East
- 16.45-17.00 *Coffee Break*

### Section 5: Caucasian World in Context

- 17.00-17.45 **James Wolfe (University of Michigan)**: The Border at the Center: The Historiography of Armenian Liminality in Late Antiquity
- 17.45-18.00 *Break*
- 18.00-19.00 **Igor Dorfmann-Lazarev (Sofia)**: The Valley of the River Kur as a Political Axis of the South Caucasus during Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages  
**KEY NOTE**
- 19.30 *Participant dinner*

## Friday, October 13

### Section 6: Transregional Networks

- 09.00-10.00 **Philip Forness (Leuven): Centripetal Forces in the Ecclesiastical Networks of the Late Antique Eastern Mediterranean: The Epistolary Corpus of Jacob of Serugh**  
*KEY NOTE*
- 10.00-10:45 **Jakob Riemenschneider (Innsbruck): A centre on the move: The letters of Severus, patriarch in exile**
- 10.45-11.00 *Coffee Break*
- 11.00-11.45 **Matthias Simperl (Augsburg): Compiling and transmitting canonical collections in Late Antiquity**
- 11.45-12.30 **Joost Snaterse (Nijmegen/Sydney): Elite virtues, urban (dis)order, and charitable patronage in the sixth century**
- 12.30-13.00 **Hartmut Leppin (Frankfurt): Final Remarks and Discussion**

### Chairs

Wolfram Brandes (Frankfurt)  
Omar El Manfalouty (Zurich)  
Roland Steinacher (Innsbruck)  
Timo Stickler (Jena)  
Alexander Weiß (Münster)