

UNDERSTANDING INDIVIDUALITY and DEPICTING INDIVIDUALS in Ninth Century Byzantium

This conference will analyse the Byzantine understanding of individuality and the practice of describing individuals through a great variety of textual sources – logical, philosophical, theological, rhetorical and hagiographical – and through works of art, icons, coins, and manuscripts. This will allow us to compare theoretical approaches to the question of the practice of depiction and will help to answer the following questions: What is described or represented when one identifies an individual as *this* individual – i.e. as distinct from other members of the species? What constitutes Paul, not only as an individual, but also as *this* individual? How can we distinguish Paul from Peter or Jacob, given the fact that essentially all three are men?

The sources indicate that an individual was understood as constituted by a set of properties. Physical properties

– size, hair colour, body shape, scars etc. – are indeed the most obvious candidates, but can we add other characteristics to the portrait?

What about moral qualities, relations (being the son or the sister of someone, for example), actions or deeds, profession, language, the possession of distinctive objects? What is the function of a proper name? Is individuality always an accidental phenomenon – in the sense of being the result of the combination of only accidental properties and not of essential properties

– or is personal identity grounded in something stronger? Do essential properties also play a role?



LOCATION

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INFORMATION

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9 SALT

REASSESSING NINTH CENTURY PHILOSOPHY.

A SYNCHRONIC APPROACH
TO THE LOGICAL TRADITIONS

ERC CoG 648298

International Conference

University of Vienna
Department of Byzantine
& Modern Greek Studies

1st-3rd March 2017

PROGRAMME

UNDERSTANDING INDIVIDUALITY and DEPICTING INDIVIDUALS in Ninth Century Byzantium



Wednesday, March 1



Lioba THEIS (University of Vienna)
Welcoming Address

Keynote Speech
Henry Maguire (Johns Hopkins University)
Essence and Accident in
Byzantine Portraiture

Reception

18.15-20.15

Thursday, March 2

Session 1

Late Ancient Philosophical and Theological Perspectives on Individuality

Chair: Charles Barber (Princeton University)

9.00 - 11.00

George KARAMANOLIS (University of Vienna)
On Late Ancient Philosophical Views on Individuality

Johannes ZACHHUBER (University of Oxford)
Patristic Theological Views on Individuality

Coffee break 11.00-11.30

11.30-12.30

Dionysios SKLIRIS (University of Athens)
The Question of the Individuality of Christ in Maximus the Confessor and its Consequences for Anthropology

Lunch 12.30-14.30 for invited guests

Session 2

Ninth Century Approaches to Individuality

Chair: Johannes Zachhuber (University of Oxford)

14.30 - 16.30

Byron MacDOUGALL (University of Vienna)
Individuality and Rhetorical Style

Christophe ERISMANN (University of Vienna)
The Logical Constitution of Individuals

Coffee break 16.30-17.00

17.00-18.00

Dirk KRAUSMÜLLER (University of Vienna)
Social Pressure and Self-Determination: Patriarch Methodios on the Conditioning Power of Signs

Conference dinner 19.30 for invited guests

Friday, March 3

Session 3

Depicting Individuals in Ninth Century Byzantium

Chair: Henry Maguire (Johns Hopkins University)

9.00 - 11.00

Maria EVANGELATOU (University of California, Santa Cruz)
Personhood and World Order: Insights from Ninth-Century Byzantine Illuminated Manuscripts

Katherine MARSENGILL
Observations on Ninth-Century Byzantine Portraiture

Coffee break 11.00-11.30

11.30-12.30

Charles BARBER (Princeton University)
The Invisible Individual

Lunch 12.30-14.30 for invited guests

Session 4

Describing Individuals

Chair: Andreas Rhoby (Austrian Academy of Sciences)

14.30 - 16.30

Piotr GROTOWSKI (University of Cracow)
Ecclesiastical Saints in Byzantine Art – Veritable or Imaginative Portraiture?

Stephanos EFTHYMIADIS (Open University of Cyprus)
Describing an Individual Saint in Hagiographical Texts

Coffee break 16.30-17.00

17.00-18.00

Elvira WAKELNIG (University of Vienna)
The Byzantine Influence on Arabic Literary and Visual Depictions

Conference dinner 19.30 for invited guests