

# International Conference **BISHOPS UNDER THREAT**

Fritz Thyssen Stiftung  
für Wissenschaftsförderung

**TOLETUM**



Universität Hamburg

Contexts and Episcopal  
Strategies between Late  
Antiquity and the Early  
Middle Ages in the West



**Online, 24-26 June 2021**



Online, 24-26 June 2021

Contexts and Episcopal Strategies between Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages in the West

BISHOPS UNDER THREAT

International Conference

Universität Hamburg

U+H

TOLETUM

Network for the Research of the Iberian Peninsula in Antiquity

Fritz Thyssen Stiftung

an der Universität Hamburg

## Bishops under Threat: Contexts and Episcopal Strategies between Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages in the West

The late antique and the early medieval periods witnessed the flourishing and consolidation of episcopal powers in the West. The episcopate thus become an actual factual power, alongside the secular aristocracy and the rulers. This influential position exposed them to various threats, both political and religious. Our main goals in this conference are to present a typology of the different threats bishops confronted in the exercise of their episcopal ministry, to address the influence of a given political, social or religious context and, finally, to analyse the different strategies they developed to confront this situation of adversity and which allow us to understand to some extent the shaping or reinforcing of ecclesiastical hierarchies in a more effective manner.

The proposed study framework covers the late antique and the early medieval periods in the West, offering different thematic and regional case studies from Italy, Gaul, Spain and Germany, among others, with the aim of obtaining as global a view as possible. These spaces experienced the same processes of the disintegration of imperial structures, the making of new political realities and the rise of the ecclesiastical structures as vital articulators of social life. However, such phenomena occurred at different rates and according to the particularities of each territory on different scales, from regional to local, which allows a comparative exercise in which similarities and differences will be presented in a balanced way.

Thursday, 24.06.2021

17.00 h

**Prof. Dr. Sabine Panzram**  
*Ancient History / Universität Hamburg*  
**Dr. Pablo Poveda Arias**  
*Ancient History / Universität Hamburg*  
Welcome and Introduction

17.15 h

**Dr. hab. Robert Wiśniewski**  
*Ancient History / Uniwersytet Warszawski*  
Suffering Bishop and the Priests of Satan. Clerical Violence and Its Image in Late Antique Literature

17.45 h

Coffee break

### Regional Perspectives

Moderation

**Prof. Dr. Francesca Tinti**  
*Medieval History / Universidad del País Vasco*  
*Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea – Ikerbasque*

18.00 h

**Prof. Dr. Margarita Vallejo Gírvés**  
*Ancient History / Universidad de Alcalá*  
The Only Peninsular Voices of Byzantine Spania

18.30 h

**Prof. Dr. Julio Escalona**  
*Medieval History / Instituto de Historia*  
*Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas*  
The Tenth-Century Castilian Church:  
The Large Gap between Ideal and Reality

19.00 h

**Dr. Katharina Winckler**  
*Medieval History / Institut für Mittelalterforschung*  
*Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften*  
Suspicious Minds: “Court Bishops” and Bishops without Seat in Agilolfingian Bavaria

Friday, 25.06.2021

10.00 h

**Prof. Dr. Amalia Galdi**  
*Medieval History / Università degli Studi di Salerno*  
Threatened Bishops in Southern Italy  
between the Eight and Eleventh Centuries

10.30 h

**Prof. Dr. Katy Cubitt**  
*Medieval History / University of East Anglia*  
Episcopal Authority and Diocesan Structure  
in England c. 650-1066

11.00 h

Coffee Break

### Local and Individual Perspectives

Moderation

**Dr. Pablo Poveda Arias**  
*Ancient History / Universität Hamburg*

11.30 h

**Dr. David Natal**  
*Ancient History / University of London*  
The World of Yesterday. Space and Politics  
in the Life of Germanus of Auxerre

12.00 h

**Prof. Dr. Pablo C. Díaz**  
*Ancient History / Universidad de Salamanca*  
Dumio-Braga. A Funcional Duality, a Legal Anomaly

12.30 h

**Prof. Dr. Thomas Deswarte**  
*Medieval History / Université d’Angers*  
The Bishop and the King in the *Vita Sancti Ildefonsi*

13.00 h

Lunch time

### Bishops and Politics

Moderation

**Prof. Dr. Hans-Werner Goetz**  
*Medieval History / Universität Hamburg*

16.00 h

**Prof. Dr. Bruno Dumézil**  
*Medieval History / Lettres Sorbonne Université*  
Victims, Actors or Spectators? The Bishops  
of the Merovingian Kingdom during the  
Civil War of 575-613

16.30 h

**Dr. Marco Cristini**  
*Classics / Scuola Normale di Pisa*  
Sailing to Byzantium: Sixth Century Popes  
under Threat in Constantinople

17.00 h

Coffee break

17.30 h

**Prof. Dr. Philippe Depreux**  
*Medieval History / Universität Hamburg*  
Deposition as Weapon against Bishops  
in the Carolingian Empire

### Individualising Threats and Strategies

Moderation

**Prof. Dr. Sabine Panzram**  
*Ancient History / Universität Hamburg*

18.00 h

**Prof. Dr. Kristina Sessa**  
*Ancient and Medieval History / The Ohio State University*  
Episcopal Responses to War and Warfare  
in Late Antiquity

18.30 h

**Dr. Pablo Poveda Arias**  
*Ancient History / Universität Hamburg*  
Metropolitan Bishops under Threat in Fifth-Century Gaul

Saturday, 26.06.2021

9.30 h

**Dr. Isabelle Mossong**  
*Ancient History / Kommission für Alte Geschichte und Epigraphik des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts*  
Italy’s Late Antique Bishops in Exile:  
The Epigraphic Point of View

10.00 h

**Prof. Dr. Charles Mériaux**  
*Medieval History / Université de Lille*  
Bishops under Pressure: Priests and Episcopal  
Authority in Carolingian Francia

10.30 h

**Dr. Francesco Veronese**  
*Medieval History / Università degli Studi di Padova*  
The Role of Relics in Contexts of Episcopal Adversity  
in Carolingian Italy (8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Centuries)

11.00 h

Coffee Break

11.30 h

**Prof. Dr. Javier Arce**  
*Ancient History / Université de Lille*  
The Ordinary Life of the Bishop in Visigothic Spain.  
Concluding Remarks

### Contact

**Dr. Pablo Poveda Arias**  
Pablo.Poveda.Arias@uni-hamburg.de

**Prof. Dr. Sabine Panzram**  
Sabine.Panzram@uni-hamburg.de

DFG Center for Advanced Study “RomanIslam - Center  
for Comparative Empire and Transcultural Studies”  
Universität Hamburg  
Edmund-Simers-Allee 1 / R. 20-21  
D-20146 Hamburg  
+49 40 42838 9551

Historisches Seminar – Arbeitsbereich Alte Geschichte  
Universität Hamburg  
Überseering 35#5 / 2. OG, R. 02013  
D-22297 Hamburg  
+49 40 42838 4524

### Inscriptions

**The conference will be transmitted online via ZOOM.  
External participants are welcome. Please contact  
Dr. Rocco Selvaggi (Rocco.Selvaggi@uni-hamburg.de)  
by June 20 to gain access to the link.**

**Further information**  
www.toletum-network.com  
www.facebook.com/toletum.network

**Bishops under Threat: Contexts and Episcopal Strategies between Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages in the West**  
**International Conference, Department of Ancient History, Universität Hamburg – Toletum.**  
**Netzwerk zur Erforschung der Iberischen Halbinsel in der Antike, funded by Fritz Thyssen Stiftung**