



CALL FOR PAPERS

for the session of the

**AG Spätantike und Frühmittelalter / Study Group on Late Antiquity
and the Early Middle Ages**

at the MOVA/WSVA Congress

19-21 March 2018

in **Halle (Saale)**

on

„Pride and Provinciality“

Elites between Centre and Periphery

Centres, peripheries and their differentiation are a long-standing topic in Late Roman and Early Medieval archaeology. Usually, the remote areas and frontier regions of the late Roman Empire and the Merovingian kingdoms were treated as peripheries. Beyond these realms though, the issue of the definition of centres and peripheries raises again. A well-developed infrastructure and strategically favourable, commercially advantageous locations have long facilitated the settlement of worldly and spiritual elites. Reciprocally, the residential seats of elites usually constituted the social centres of any given territories. In contrast to these, peripheral regions often developed a dynamic of their own. Is it possible to recognise mutual dependencies and spatial and social disparities? How do peripheral centres, e.g. in (and beyond) the Merovingian kingdom, represent themselves? How do elites beyond the heartland portray themselves? Does their material culture mirror the stylistic idiom of the centre or are conscious distinctions at work?

We will pursue all of these questions at the session of the AG Spätantike und Frühmittelalter/Study Group on Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages (19th and 21st March 2018 in Halle/Saale, Germany). You are kindly invited to submit a paper which should present new research on the following topics:

- Periphery and peripheral centres in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages
- Centres of worldly and spiritual power beyond the late Roman and Merovingian heartlands
- Self-portrayals of elites outside the central regions
- The impact of Late Roman and/or Merovingian power on periphery

The session will be held in German and in English. Papers should not be longer than 20 minutes.

Please submit your abstract (300-500 words) to Roland.Prien@zaw.uni-heidelberg.de until

30th November, 2017.

Please forward this call to your colleagues who may not have been invited personally. There will also be an opportunity to present posters. We would like to advise you that our working group does not dispose of any financial funds. Participants are therefore kindly asked to cover their own expenses and to register for the conference.

*Dr. Roland Prien (spokesman),
Anna Flückiger, M.A., Dr. Michaela Helmbrecht, Alexandra Hilgner, M.A.,
Dr. Christian Later (advisory board)*