

# Military Organisation and Society in the post-Roman World

A workshop organised by the project  
The Militarisation of Early Medieval Societies. Nature, Control and  
Perception in a West-European Comparison



15th—16th August 2016

Freie Universität Berlin  
Friedrich-Meinecke-Institut  
Koserstrasse 20, 14195 Berlin  
Raum A 185

## Monday 15th August

13:30

Laury Sarti and Stefan Esders

*Introduction*

Philip Rance

*Soldier and Civilian in the Byzantine Empire c.600-  
c.900. A Militarised Society?*

15:30 *Coffee break*

16:00

Roland Steinacher

*Pannonia as the Empire's Drill-Ground*

Matthias Hardt

*Avars and Slavs – A military Relation?*

19:00 *Dinner at the Gasthaus Landauer*

## Tuesday 16th August

9:00

Kai Grundmann

*'Clipeus and Gladius of the Roman People'?  
Administration and Operations of the Ostrogothic  
Army in Italy*

Guido M. Berndt

*The Role of the Military in Lombard Italy. Some  
Preliminary Considerations*

11:00 *Coffee break*

11:15

Leif I. R. Petersen

*The Imperial Foundations of Frankish and  
Visigothic Military Organization: Some  
Methodological Considerations*

12:15 *Lunch in the Ristorante Piazza Michelangelo*

14:00

Ellora Bennett

*The Anglo-Saxon Military before Alfred. An  
Overview*

Ryan Lavelle

*The Development of Military Reforms under  
Alfred the Great of Wessex (871–899). A Review of  
Current Scholarship*

16:00 *Coffee break*

16:20-18:00

Philipp von Rummel and Lukas Bothe

*Summary and Conclusions*

*Final Discussion*



Above: Image of the dancing-warrior motif on the Sutton Hoo Helmet.

## The Militarisation of Early Medieval Societies. Nature, Control and Perception in a West-European Comparison

Since the end of Antiquity, the societies of Western Europe underwent a continual process of militarisation. This process intensified during the Early Middle Ages, and came to be a defining characteristic of the period. Militarisation can be identified by the lack of demarcation between the martial and civil spheres of the population; weapons became increasingly widespread and warlike attributes, activities, and values were widely recognised and respected. Militarisation impacted on how members of early medieval societies perceived their worldly position. As such, this research project employs both modern approaches to structural history and the history of mentalities, investigating the phenomenon of militarisation and its overall impact on the development of early medieval societies.



Fritz Thyssen Stiftung  
für Wissenschaftsförderung

### Contact:

Dr Laury Sarti (FU Berlin)  
Koserstr. 20  
Raum A 240  
D-14195 Berlin  
laury.sarti@fu-berlin.de  
+49 (30) 838 59214