



The Roman Army and the Dawn of Europe. Conceptual models and social experimentations: languages, institutions, law (4th – 8th centuries)

Study congress – Rome, 9-11 May 2019

Introduction

The importance of the army in Roman political and social history is a well-known and widely studied matter. It is equally known the role of the army as a vehicle for 'Romanization' of the Empire's provincial people. Less known is the impact that the organizational models carried by the army (administration, hierarchies, institutions, justice, fiscal revenue ...) had on the rising Barbarian and Romano-Barbarian societies, which progressively replaced the great construction of the Western Empire during the centuries between the passage from Late Antiquity to Early Middle Ages.

Increasingly open to the recruitment of non-Roman manpower, for centuries the Imperial army was also **the meeting place of different cultures**. Continuously forced to adapt to different situations and environments, the Roman army had to develop **multiple and innovative solutions** that allowed it to keep Roman control over very large territories with diminished troops, thus using the effective use of force as little as possible. Sometimes Roman officers imposed on the occupied territories models from Latin tradition (the use of language and writing, ownership structures, the separation between administration and religion, etc.). In other cases, they realized that it would be more useful and effective to adapt solutions already used by the local populations (simplified negotiating practices, formalism, reliance on divine judgment, gift economy, military and paramilitary clientele). Very often the groups of barbarians that penetrated the borders dealt with these very models, and they eventually adopted them in the moment of settling within the Empire, replacing their model of governance with the Roman one. The great flexibility and adaptability of these solutions (that allowed them to continue for a long time and to spread across the early-European spaces) today represent the greatest reason of interest for this kind of investigation.

From this basis – analyzing the defining moment when the Antiquity was concluded and a new age begun, that in some ways still lasts – some scholars, who belong to different disciplinary experiences and to different countries, gathered for the first time in Cagliari in October 2012. Their perspective ranged from political, social and economic history to law, anthropology, religion and iconography. The purpose of that first meeting was to reconstruct the *status quaestionis* in different areas: the result is the volume *Civitas, Iura, Arma. Organizzazioni militari, istituzioni giuridiche e strutture sociali all'origine dell'Europa (secc. III-VIII)*, F. Botta and L. Loschiavo (eds.), Il Grifo ed., Lecce 2015.

During the next spring, the group - in the meantime enriched with new specialists - will meet again to continue the research and to share knowledge. The conference, which will be held in Rome at the Department of Law of Roma Tre University, will pay close attention to cultural and specifically lexical aspects. Among the main purposes of the meeting, in fact, there is the one to avoid that the use of the same terms - which are recurrent along a temporal spectrum of various centuries and yet assume different meanings in different contexts - can generate confusion and misunderstanding among scholars from different disciplines, hindering (as in fact happened in the past) the necessary dialogue. At the center of many contributions there will also be the legal profiles with the greatest social impact: **marriage, succession, personal status, personal bonds, dispute resolution**.



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Thursday, 9th May – h. 15.00

Department of Law
via Ostiense 163 – Sala del Consiglio
opening and welcome: Giovanni Serges (Director of
the Department)
Chair: Stefano Gasparri (Venezia)

INTRODUCTION

Ian Wood (Leeds) – *The transformation of the military
in the Late Antique West*

THE WORDS OF THE SOLDIERS

Elvira Migliario (Trento) – *Significati di 'foedus' e
'foedera' in età imperiale*
Pierfrancesco Porena (Roma) – *'Hospitalitas'*
Wolfgang Haubrichs (Saarland) – *Il linguaggio della
guerra presso i popoli germanici occidentali*
Carla Falluomini (Perugia) – *I Goti e i termini
militareschi*

Friday, 10th May – h. 9.00

Department of Humanities
via Ostiense, 234 – Sala della Presidenza
Chair: Walter Pohl (Wien)

RITUALS, RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, IDENTITY AND ICONOGRAPHIC MODELS

Jean-Pierre Poly (Paris Ouest-Nanterre) – *Comptez,
comptez vos hommes ... Les unités de l'armée romaine
à la fin de l'Empire (394-437)*
Francesco Borri (Venezia) – *Ibi omnis nobilitas perit
Foroiulanorum. 'Warband' e 'Traditionskern' tra
sale dell'idromele e accademia*
Andrea Verardi (Roma) – *Cingulum mili-tiae*
Esperanza Osaba García (Bilbao) – *Acudir o non
acudir a la llamada de las armas*
Saverio Lomartire (Alessandria) – *Il potere militare e
il linguaggio delle immagini IV-VIII sec.*

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Chair: Wolfgang Haubrichs (Saarland)

SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND JURIDICAL MODELS

Andrea Triscioglio (Torino) – *I limiti del munus
hospitalitatis. Come conciliare esigenze socio-
economiche e militari nel Tardoantico*
Stefan Esders (Berlin) – *About Castrum, centena,
hundred*
Stefano Gasparri (Venezia) – *Fare, arimannie,
arimanni: l'esercito longobardo fra mito e realtà*
Francesco Castagnino (Milano) – *Creare una
famiglia. Il ius connubii e i figli dei soldati prima e
dopo la caduta dell'impero*
Iolanda Ruggiero (Roma) – *Disporre dei beni dopo la
morte. I privilegi dei militari in tema di successioni
dalle costituzioni imperiali alle leges barbarorum*

Saturday, 11th May – h. 9.00

via Ostiense 163 – Sala del Consiglio
Chair: Arnaldo Marcone (Roma)

GEOMETRIES OF THE POWER AND MILITARY JUSTICE

Valerio Marotta (Pavia) – *'Civitas' e 'militia' fra III e
VI secolo*
Luca Loschiavo (Teramo/Roma) – *Ius speciale o
personalità del diritto? Il diritto dei soldati e le
legislazioni romano-barbariche*
Soazick Kerneis (Paris Ouest-Nanterre) – *La justice
militaire des populations barbares de l'Empire. Les
premières applications de l'ordalie*
Fabio Botta (Cagliari) – *La responsabilità solidale. La
responsabilità penale in solido dal 'contubernium' alla
faida tra clans*
Walter Pohl (Wien) – *Dall'esercito agli eserciti: cambi
di ordinamento, cambi di identità?*

Contact and information :

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