

Preface

The present book »Transformations of City and Countryside in the Byzantine Period« is the outcome of a conference at the Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum, as part of the Museum's research field »Processes of Social Change and Dynamics«, and the Leibniz ScienceCampus Mainz »Byzantium between Orient and Occident«, held in Mainz in November 2016. The edited volume focuses on the later periods of the RGZM research field – Late Antiquity and the Byzantine period to the Early and High Medieval periods – covering regional studies from the eastern Mediterranean, and even incorporating a short excursus into Central Europe.

Core topics of both themes of the research field are treated, namely questions about agglomeration (urbanization and deurbanization/ruralization) and about socio-ecological developments in landscapes. Economic aspects are also covered, all from a process-based perspective incorporating change and internal dynamics.

The conference, and the resulting volume, therefore not only mark a stepping stone in Byzantine studies, but also for our RGZM research field. As the former and present heads of this research field we congratulate the editors for this innovative publication.

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