



Norway grants



The Cult of Saints and Legitimization of Elite Power in East Central Europe and Scandinavia until 1300

Conference Programme

November 8-9, 2021

University of Warsaw, Faculty of History
The Columned Hall (Sala Kolumnowa)
Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28, Warsaw, Poland

Live streaming of the conference will be available on the
[YouTube channel of the Faculty of History](#)
([University of Warsaw](#))

Conference Programme

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University of Warsaw, Faculty of History,
the Columned Hall (Sala Kolumnowa), ground floor

November 8th 2021 (Monday)

- 8.45 – 9.00 **Registration**
- 09.00 – 09.20 **Welcome and introduction**
Łukasz Niesiołowski-Spanò (dean of the Faculty of History, University of Warsaw)
Jón Viðar Sigurðsson (dean of the Department of Archaeology, Conservation and History, University of Oslo, ELITES project)
Grzegorz Pac (ELITES project, University of Warsaw)
- 9.30 – 10.30 **Session I – Ecclesiastical elites I**
chair: **Jón Viðar Sigurðsson** (ELITES project, University of Oslo)
Steffen Hope (ELITES project, University of Oslo), Legitimizing episcopal authority in twelfth-century Denmark
Eszter Konrád (National Széchényi Library) Sanctity in service: saints in the legitimization of the presence of the Order of Preachers in Hungary
- 10.30 – 10.50 **Coffee break**
- 10.50 – 12.20 **Session II – Ecclesiastical elites II**
chair: **Steffen Hope** (ELITES project, University of Oslo)
Haraldur Hreinsson (University of Iceland), The apostles and ecclesiastical elites in medieval Iceland
Grzegorz Pac (ELITES project, University of Warsaw), The Prague nunnery and its patroness Saint Ludmila – legitimization and mutual support
Sara Ellis Nilsson (Linnaeus University), A mutually dependent relationship: saints and the legitimization of ecclesiastical elites before 1300 in Sweden and Denmark
- 12.20–14.00 **Lunch break**
- 14.00 – 15.30 **Session III – Secular elites**
chair: **Roman Michałowski** (ELITES project, University of Warsaw)
Karen Stark (Central European University), The authority of the Virgin: the promotion of the Marian cult in eleventh- to twelfth-century Hungary beyond royal patronage
Miłosz Sosnowski (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań), The aegis of Aegidius - the strategies of the use of saints in twelfth-century Poland
Karin Strinnholm Lagergren (Linnaeus University), The liturgical performance of saints' offices – a multimodal and performative event in a legitimizing context

- 15.30 – 15.50 **Coffee break**
- 15.50 – 17.20 **Session IV – Ecclesiastical and secular elites in tension**
chair: **Marcin R. Pauk** (ELITES project, University of Warsaw)
Karolina Morawska (ELITES project, University of Warsaw), The cult of Saint Florian and the legitimization of the ducal power in Kraków in the late twelfth century
Jerzy Pysiak (ELITES project, University of Warsaw), Saint Olaf versus the Crown of Thorns: on the political use of the cult of relics in thirteenth-century Norway
Kirsty Day (University of Edinburgh), The legitimization of ecclesiastical power in thirteenth-century East-Central Europe: Elizabeth of Hungary in Bohemia and the Polish Duchies

November 9th 2021 (Tuesday)

- 9.00 – 10.30 **Session V – Dynastic saints reconsidered**
chair: **Robert Wiśniewski** (University of Warsaw)
David Kalhous (Masaryk University), Many lives of one man: the transformation of Saint Wenceslas' story in medieval hagiography
Helen Leslie-Jacobsen (University of Bergen), Saint Olaf Haraldsson: the elite and Norway's lawgiver
Anna Dryblak (ELITES project, University of Warsaw), Saint Hedwig of Silesia: first dynastic saint of the Piasts and the legitimization of power in the time of change
- 10.30 – 10.50 **Coffee break**
- 10.50 – 11.50 **Session VI – Saints' cults in a transregional view**
chair: **Paweł Żmudzki** (ELITES project, University of Warsaw)
Kacper Bylinka (ELITES project, University of Warsaw), The cult of saints as constructing elite identity in medieval peripheries
Daria Segal (University of Iceland), Scandinavian and Anglo-Saxon saints in the Old-Church Slavonic litany of All Saints and their connection to the royal genealogy of Rurikovich
- 11.50 – 12.00 **Coffee break**
- 12.00 – 13.00 **Session VII – Afterword, conclusions, practical matters**
chair: **Grzegorz Pac** (ELITES project, University of Warsaw)
Haki Antonsson (University College London), Afterword
- Final remarks**



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ELITES Project

The conference is the part of the project 'Symbolic Resources and Political Structures on the Periphery: Legitimization of the ELITES in Poland and Norway, c. 1000 – 1300'. The project focuses on the forms and means of symbolic power the members of the political elites in the two peripheral areas of Europe (Norway and Poland) employed to manifest their privilege right to rule to their peers and subjects. These claims to rule of the elites, their ideological justification and legitimacy in the eyes of others, were the crucial problem in face-to-face societies inhabiting medieval Europe deprived of formal institutions and lasting state structures. What symbolic means did these elites manifest their entitlement to rule? How did they compete with other members of the elite? How did they assure their dominance over time?

Chronologically, this project focuses on the period 1000-1300, that is, the era between both Poland and Norway formally became Christian polities and the moment both were united as stable monarchies after long periods of civil wars and partitions. Thematically, the project comparatively investigates e.g. dynastic ideologies, cults and veneration of national saints, ruler ideologies, elite graves and symbolic expressions on coins, legitimation of episcopal and abbatial power, ceremonies of coronation and rituals of conviviality, narrations about the past etc.

The project is based on a close cooperation between the Polish and Norwegian medievalists from the University of Warsaw and the University of Oslo. The team consists of historians, archeologists, and numismatists coordinated by researchers with good experience of working on the two peripheral regions.

The project 'Symbolic Resources and Political Structures on the Periphery: Legitimization of the ELITES in Poland and Norway, c. 1000 – 1300' (2019/34/H/HS3/00500) is funded from the Norway grants as a part of the GRIEG call within the Basic Research Programme - Programme Operator: National Science Centre, Poland; Programme Partner: Research Council of Norway.

<https://elites.historia.uw.edu.pl>