

Approaches to Religion, Migration and Mobility in Antiquity and Early Middle Ages



Tabula Peutingeriana, ONB Vienna, Cod. 324

I. MigRel.Net Conference, 4–7 November 2026, SRIL Istanbul

Wednesday, 04.11.2026

<https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/69111484052?pwd=GNITd3ZySHY2sdxnk5xrLMyw3jUyig.I>

- 18:30 – 19:00 **András Handl & Olof Heilo**
Welcome & Introduction
- 19:00 – 20:00 Public Keynote Lecture
Anna Collar, Southampton
Mobility/Place: The Intangible and the Material
in the Exploration of Past Movement and Religion
Aperó

Thursday, 05.11.2026

<https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/66299338142?pwd=bEbGdm89KbpKifeWGayraWHuaZFJXv.I>

- 9:00 – 10:00 **Alexiana Dawn Fry, Stellenbosch**
Could I Have This Dance? Moving Together with/in the Ancient
Past and Our Present
- 10:00 – 11:00 **András Handl, Bern / Leuven**
How Roman is the Roman Church? Methodological Nationalism
in the Making of a Christian Rome
- 11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break
- 11:30 – 12:30 **Gillian Glass, Bergen**
Travels Between and Beyond: Comparative Approaches to Gender,
Literary Genres, and Languages in the Study of Second Temple Judaism
- 12:30 – 13:00 Discussion
- 13:00 – 14:30 Lunch break

- 14:30 – 15:30 **Elisa Uusimäki, Aarhus**
How to write travel history in light of ancient literary sources?
- 15:30 – 16:30 **Amelia R. Brown, Malta**
(Christian?) Frogs around a Mediterranean Pond: Plotting change & continuity in Christian and Hellenic Aegean Maritime and Migrant Cults, from Plato & Poseidon to St. Paul & St. Menas
- 16:30 – 17:00 *Coffee break*
- 17:00 – 18:00 **Jan Rügemeier & Caroline Teschmer, Bonn**
Bodies on the Move. Sexualities, Making Foreignness, and Mediating Difference in Plural Cities, Past and Present

Friday, 06.11.2026

<https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/64106023839?pwd=EGCNV58YlVWJkQ7pXl3WDCClfqOW7.1>

- 9:00 – 10:00 **Alison John, Liverpool**
Greek in the late antique West: migration, religion and language communities across the Mediterranean, 300 – 700 CE
- 10:00 – 11:00 **Dan Batovici, Vienna**
A Syriac Presence in Egypt: Deir al-Surian (the Monastery of the Syrians) in Wadi al-Natrun
- 11:00 – 11:30 *Coffee break*
- 11:30 – 12:30 **Madalena Toca, Vienna**
The Movement of Monks from Egypt to Palestine from the Fourth to the Sixth Century
- 12:30 – 13:00 Discussion
- 13:00 – 14:30 *Lunch break*
- 14:30 – 15:30 **Marianna Mazzola, Rome**
Reshaping and Obscuring Mobility: Retracing Syriac Orthodox Migration in the Tenth-Century Byzantine East through the Sources
- 15:30 – 16:00 *Coffee break*
- 16:00 – 17:00 **Mateusz Jakub Fafinski, Erfurt**
Studying Monastic Displacement in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages: Approaches and Methods
- 17:00 – 18:00 Keynote Lecture
Garbi Schmidt, Roskilde
Researching Migration Based on a Critique of Methodological Presentism

Saturday, 07.II.2026

<https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/63123513854?pwd=6HQf4sn2P5yUnl4zp8tLNSJOSSHe96.I>

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| 9:00 – 10:00 | Annamaria Paziienza, Venice
Crossing the Alps: The Mobility of Lower-Ranking Clergy in Carolingian and Post-Carolingian Italy |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | Round Table
Approaches to Religion and Mobility in Antiquity
Panelists: Elisa Uusimäki, Garbi Schmidt, Rens Tacoma, Anna Collar, András Handl |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 11:30 – 12:30 | MigRel.Net Kick-off Business Meeting |
| 12:30 – 13:00 | Closing Reflections and Future Plans

<i>Lunch break</i> |
| afternoon | Excursion to Eyüpsultan |

All thematic sessions will be streamed via Zoom. Please note that the programme times are given in Istanbul time (TRT) which is two hours ahead of Central European Time (CET).



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