

Welcome Address by Prof. Dr. Claudia Rapp, Head of ABF (IMAFO)

Dear DPP Team,

Dear Colleagues from near and far,

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you all, even as – to my great regret – I am unable to join you, due to foreign travel.

[The Division of Byzantine Research](#) within the [Institute for Medieval Research \(IMAFO\)](#) is proud to be the intellectual motor and administrative home of the DPP-Project.

Digitising Patterns of Power builds on the long research tradition of the [Tabula Imperii Byzantini \(TIB\)](#) in the historical geography of the regions of the Byzantine Empire.

The work of the [TIB](#), we are glad to announce, has just last month been recognised by the International Association of Byzantine Studies, as foundational for the entire field, through the establishment of a committee on historical geography in which our Viennese scholars play a leading role.

The [DPP-Project](#) demonstrates, in an exemplary fashion, the potential of this approach when it is combined with the development of new digital methods and a transregional comparative perspective. In the course of the next few days, you will raise and discuss many questions, especially relating to geographical context and to methodology, whether source-based fundamental research (Grundlagenforschung) or digital methods of gathering, managing and visualising data.

Let me conclude, then, by wishing you all a fruitful exchange of ideas and very productive meeting.

Within warm greetings,

Claudia Rapp