

Fortresses and warrior groups in the political culture of the Carolingian era

The medieval sub-project within the LOEWE focal point has a dual task. On one hand, in common with the sociological sub-project, we serve as a point of contact for the archaeological projects whenever socio-cultural formations are modelled from archaeological finds. On the other hand, we are concerned with the question about the role that military actors and fortifications played in the socio-political context of the 8th/9th century AD in Carolingian Europe.

This area of study has been neglected by medieval historiography in the past decades despite its undisputable relevance. We intend to cover three major aspects of the topic. First of all, we will investigate selected Carolingian fortifications and analyse their significance in the political, social and economic environment by using archaeological and historical material (T. Kohl).

Secondly, we will examine the expressions of warfare practiced by Carolingian elites and try to answer the question about their relevance in political culture of Carolingian Europe (D. Föllmer).

Thirdly, we will employ semantic analysis to shed light on how and in which contexts fortifications appear in Carolingian texts (B. Jussen).