



Institut für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung
Universität Wien, Universitätsring 1, 1010 Wien

EINLADUNG

zum 235. Institutsseminar
am Montag, dem 13. Mai 2019, um 17 Uhr c.t.
im Elise-Richter-Saal der Universität Wien

Catherine Cubitt

(University of East Anglia, UK)

‘Understand well also that now for many years the devil has led astray this people too greatly’: Reassessing the Reign of Æthelred ‘the Unready’

The reign of Æthelred ‘the Unready’ (978-1016) was a tumultuous one for Anglo-Saxon England. Æthelred came to the throne after the murder of his elder brother, Edward the Martyr (975-978), and from the 980s the Anglo-Saxon kingdom suffered from devastating Viking attacks which culminated in the conquest of England by the Danish king, Cnut. It is a reign rich not only in events but also in sources, unusually so for the Anglo-Saxon period. Æthelred has been the subject of four scholarly studies of his reign: the seminal work of Keynes on his charters published in 1980, followed later by important biographies by Ryan Lavelle (2002), Ann Williams (2003) and Levi Roach (2016). Is there more to say? This paper will look at the murkier aspects of Æthelred’s reign, analysing both the contemporary discourses around his rulership and the modern historiographical debates which have shaped contemporary understanding of his reign. It will highlight significant but neglected aspects of his rule and shed new light on the troubled nature of his reign.

Katy Cubitt is Head of the School of History and Professor of Medieval History at the University of East Anglia. Prior to her move to UEA in 2017, she worked for over twenty years at the University of York. She has research interests in the early medieval church, relations between England and the continent, the study of church councils and the history of the papacy in the seventh century. Her first book was a study of Anglo-Saxon Church Councils c. 650-c. 850 and she is currently completing a monograph on the practice of penance in tenth- and eleventh-century England, entitled *Sin and Society in Tenth- and Eleventh-Century England*.

Moderation: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Danuta Shanzer

Thomas Winkelbauer
Institutsdirektor

Gäste sind herzlich willkommen!