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Historisches Kolloquium im Wintersemester 2021/2022

WebEx-Vortrag am Mittwoch, 9. Februar 2022, 19:15 h

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The Bishops of Parma. Documentary Culture and Politics in the post-Carolingian period (ca. 888–962)

This paper undertakes a study of the early medieval documentation extant for Parma in order to show how the post-Carolingian period represented a pivotal moment for the engagement of bishops of the region with politics, both at a high and local level.

Looking at the documentary material from the angle of palaeography and diplomatics shows how bishops of that city were able to sway high politics to their advantage and assert themselves as the centre of local politics in the years 888–962. Moreover, my paper will show how this growth of episcopal authority impacted on the ways in which these prelates conceived and represented their office at the time.

Using the case of Parma, allows us to take a significant step forward in reframing the political and cultural history of the Kingdom of Italy during the post-Carolingian period as a time when bishops achieved an unprecedented degree of institutional autonomy and self-definition.

