

<b>M13</b>	<b>VIOLENCE AND THE CITY: LAW, TERRITORY AND CIVIC IDENTITY IN ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL TIMES</b>
<b>Organisers:</b>	Yannis Xydopoulos (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) Kostas Vlassopoulos (University of Nottingham) Eleni Tounta (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)
<b>Period:</b>	Ancient/Medieval
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday, 30 August 2012
<b>Time:</b>	09:00-12:30
<b>Room:</b>	217

### **Description**

In the ancient Greek literary sources, a variety of laws is mentioned regarding the punishment of criminals. In a well-known passage from the 4th century BC Athenian writer Dinarchus it is said that the dead body of a criminal should be disposed off the borders of the polis (Din. 1.77). So, one might wonder whether the limits of the city (hence, city will be meant as a civic entity, not as a city-state) except from a practical way (by putting boundary stones -horoi) were also defined in a theoretical one (by avoiding the pollution of the civic territory). Taking queue from this passage, the session seeks to investigate in a diachronic perspective the construction of identities through the study of violence as this was experienced in the ancient and medieval cities. Violence and identities are two notions closely connected to each other. Labeling a specific act as violent presupposes a certain view on public as well on individual attitudes. In the context of legitimate political power, violence (in its multiplicity of acts) is defined by laws, which reveal and impose the basic ideas regarding the state, the community and the individual, thus constructing (political) identities. Mutatis mutandis, cities in both periods were political entities with specific territorial and social boundaries being both vital part of the identity issue. The session will deal with the imposition of the Law as a part of the theoretical definition of the city's boundaries in Ancient and Medieval Times' European cities, as well as its consequences to the civic identity perception. It has been suggested that the term "territory" seems to have mattered less to the conception of the city than the people or the government. We would like to examine through the available testimonia whether this suggestion could be maintained or, on the other hand, if the territory was a vital part of the identity issue. Last, but not least, all the above are closely connected to the term "state". Therefore, one should examine its meaning and variations in the literary and epigraphic sources of the periods and the theoretical framework related to the different types of state organization and the subsequent various forms of socio-political interaction, as far as violence is concerned.

In this aspect, the aims of the session regard the creation of a much more clear picture than the one we have now on issues such as:

- "International" Law and cities
- How does the law construct the civic territory?
- The importance of "territory" in conceptions of civic identity in ancient and medieval times.
- Forms of violence within the limits of the city: individual and group crimes, political conspiracies, state/police repression, poverty, illness and moral violence.
- Social boundaries within the cities and the imposition of law.
- Outlaws and their lairs in the "territory"
- Exiles and their conception of the city

**Scientific Programme**

- 387 MAKING LAW GRIP: SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND LEGAL REMEDIES IN SOLONIAN ATTICA AND BIBLICAL ISRAEL**  
*David Lewis* (Durham University, Classics and Ancient History, Durham, U.K.)
- 521 HOW TO CAST A CRIMINAL OUT OF ATTICA: LAW AND TERRITORY IN ANCIENT ATHENS**  
*Mirko Canevaro* (Durham University / British School at Athens, Department of Classics and Ancient History, Durham, U.K.)
- 398 THE RETURN OF THE EXILES IN EARLY HELLENISTIC TEGEA**  
*Elias Koulakiotis* (University of Ioannina, History and Archaeology, Athens, Greece)
- 557 VIOLATING THE SAFETY OF THE OIKOS: TOICHÔRYCHIA AND ASSAULTS AGAINST HOUSES IN THE HELLENISTIC AND THE ROMAN IMPERIAL PERIOD**  
*Nikos Giannakopoulos* (University of Thessalonike, Department of History and Archaeology, Thessaloniki, Greece)
- 920 CRIME, SANCTUARY, AND BOUNDARIES IN LATE MEDIEVAL LONDON**  
*Shannon McSheffrey* (Concordia University, Department of History, Montreal, Quebec, Canada)
- 313 DEAD BODIES AND AN EMPIRE EN L’AIR: SECULAR AND SACRED AUTHORITY OVER URBAN TERRITORY IN THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD**  
*Ellen Wurtzel* (Oberlin College, Department of History, Oberlin, OH, USA)
- 934 LAW AND ORDER IN THE VENETIAN CORFU**  
*Katerina Konstantinidou* (University of Athens, Department of History, Athens, Greece)