

**Wittgenstein-Award Project**  
**“Mobility, Microstructures and Personal Agency in Byzantium”**

**Péter Bara**  
**Research Centre for the Humanities, Budapest**

***The Portrayal of Leo of Chalcedon in the Alexiad:  
Its Accuracy and Motivation***

**Tuesday, 27 October 2020, 13:00 to 14:00 CET**

**Virtual Lecture and Discussion**

The Wittgenstein Project Team invites you to a virtual lecture and discussion with Péter Bara (Research Centre for the Humanities, Budapest), the last of the MoByz Lecture-Series.

The virtual meeting hosted via Zoom will provide the unique opportunity to discuss with **Dr. Bara** his current work on “**The Portrayal of Leo of Chalcedon in the *Alexiad*: Its Accuracy and Motivation**”. Leo, the metropolitan of Chalcedon, was one of the loudest opponents of Alexios I Komnenos’ heavy-handed church policy during the 1080s. In the contemporary sources, Leo comes across as a competent theologian, canonist, and outspoken defender of ecclesiastical autonomy. His level of education is not an issue – indeed the emperor paid him the compliment of saying that he was λόγῳ σεμνυνόμενος – and his political loyalty is not in doubt, at least until early 1086. Moreover, he does not appear as a classic holy man, not even in the dream narrative of Thomas the deacon that represents him rather as a champion of ecclesiastical authority. However, Leo’s portrayal in the *Alexiad* is somewhat different. It is only in Anna Komnene’s mid-twelfth-century historical work that he appears as having a deficient education, politically subversive tendencies, and reputation for supernatural charisma. The talk surveys Anna’s representation of Leo of Chalcedon in Book 5 of the *Alexiad* and the agenda behind her portrayal.

After a 20-minute lecture by Dr. Bara, there will be time for discussion, moderated by Prof. Dr. Claudia Rapp.

*Péter Bara is a junior research fellow at the Research Centre for the Humanities (Budapest). He recently defended his dissertation on Leo, the late-eleventh-century metropolitan bishop of Chalcedon. Péter’s current research focuses on the Medieval and Renaissance reception of classical and Byzantine Greek paideia in Italy and in the Transalpine region.*

**Please feel free to share this invitation with anyone who might be interested in the topic.**

Pre-registration for this online event:

<https://tinyurl.com/y5cfarhz>

After registering, you will automatically receive a confirmation email containing information about the event as well as the Zoom Link, Username/ID and Password.

If you have any questions, please contact the Zoom host:  
Dr. Paraskevi Sykopetritou (Project Coordinator), [paraskevi.sykopetritou@univie.ac.at](mailto:paraskevi.sykopetritou@univie.ac.at)

**For further information and updates on future events you may also consult our website:**  
<http://rapp.univie.ac.at/>