

Book Presentation and Discussion: *TAKTIKON*: A Digital Introduction to the Byzantine State Officials of the Thematic Administration

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Abstract

Olga Karagiorgou will present and discuss her *TAKTIKON* project and the recent publication that came out of it. The project itself is in the process of compiling reliable chronological catalogues of all the Byzantine officials of the *themes* (the administrative divisions of the early medieval Byzantine state) arranged according to *theme*, administrative sector (military, civil, ecclesiastical) and office, with data culled from both the varied textual and abundant sigillographic record. Brought together, this information, presented through an online database, provides unparalleled insights into the prosopography and administrative structure of each *theme*, revealing at the same time important facets of the history of Byzantine institutions, of the political and social history of the empire, and of its artistic traditions.

The volume itself contains several original studies by specialists who focus on the principal *themes* located in the Greek mainland and the western half of Asia Minor. The material analysed includes hundreds of hitherto unpublished seals from territories within and without the empire, not least from findspots and collections in what is now Bulgaria, Turkey, Ukraine, and Russia. The volume's editor will discuss the conception of the project, the logistics of bringing together disparate material from different countries and institutions, as well as scholars from around the world, to shed light on a much discussed yet still perplexing chapter of Byzantine history.