



24th-25th September 2026

Early Medieval Concepts of Foreign Relations

Room 228, Hegelbau Philosophische Fakultät, Wilhelmstraße 36, 72074
Tübingen

Thursday 24th September

10.00 – 10.15 **Registration**

10.15 – 10.30 **Welcome and Introduction**

10.30 – 12.00 **Panel 1: Making Diplomacy Work**

Chair: Joaquín Serrano del Pozo

Jaqueline Bemmer (Leuven), *Inter-polity relations in early medieval Ireland*

Aitor Fernández Delgado (Alcalá), *Legal foundations of the officium legati in Early Byzantium*

12.00 – 13.30 **Lunch Break**

To participate, please register by contacting Sam Ottewill-Soulsby at samuel.ottewill-soulsby@uni-tuebingen.de

Thursday 24th September

13.30 – 15.00 **Panel 2: Iran and Its Heirs**

Chair: Tommy Benfey

Richard Payne (Chicago), *A Cosmological Conception of 'Foreign Relations' in Late Antiquity: Iran, its Ideology, and its Neighbours*

Hugh Kennedy (SOAS), *Caliphal Diplomacy in the Tenth and early Eleventh Centuries*

15.00 – 15.30 **Coffee Break**

15.30 – 17.00 **Panel 3: Unconventional Approaches**

Chair: Steffen Patzold

Jenny Benham (Cardiff), *Bird, Fly, Traitor, Spy: Conceptualizing Espionage and International Law in Europe 700-1100*

Jonathan Shepard (Oxford), *Soft Power, Make-Believe, Fear: Keeping up Appearances as a World Empire*

19.00 **Workshop Dinner**

Friday 25th September

9.30 – 11.00 **Panel 4: Viking Contacts**

Chair: Michaela Selway

Sam Ottewill-Soulsby (Tübingen), *Antiochus' Covenant: Carolingian Biblical Exegesis on Alliances with Pagans*

Csete Katona (Debrecen), *The Nomad Horseman as a Viking Ideal? Reconsidering the Evidence from Birka*

11.00 – 11.30 **Coffee Break**

11.30 – 12.00 **Closing Remarks**