



Mount Athos in Medieval  
Eastern Mediterranean Society

## **Job Advertisement, Byzantinist**

At the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz the position of a

**doctoral researcher (*wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter/in*)  
(salary scheme 13 TV-L, 65%)**

is to be filled by 01.05.2021 (or as soon as possible thereafter) for a period of three years.

The position is situated within the project "[Mount Athos in Medieval Eastern Mediterranean Society: Contextualizing the History of a Monastic Republic \(ca. 850-1550\)](#)" (MAMEMS), which is funded by a Starting Grant of the European Research Council (ERC). MAMEMS constitutes the first comprehensive examination of the monastic communities of Mount Athos as independent actors in medieval Eastern Mediterranean Society. This "monastic republic" was intimately connected with the Byzantine Empire, the various Orthodox principalities of the Balkans and Caucasus, South Italy, as well with the Ottoman Empire. By taking advantage of considerable advances in subfields like prosopography, analyzing and making available a set of sources (lists of commemoration) that are either poorly studied or unedited, and by bringing together an interdisciplinary team (a Byzantinist, Slavicist and Kartvelologist) under the direction of the Principal Investigator (Dr. Zachary Chitwood), MAMEMS will transform the way the Holy Mountain is viewed within scholarship and the general public via a triad of leitmotifs: wealth, ethnicity and gender (WEG). The exploration of these topics is undergirded by the creation of a prosopographical database, *Prosopographica Athonica*, built with OpenAtlas and containing entries for every monk to have resided on the Holy Mountain, every Athonite benefactor and every person to have visited there from ca. 850 to 1550, that is from the time of the first surviving documents in the Athonite archives until the founding of the last of the major Athonite houses, Stavronikita. This database will finally allow a concrete analysis of how medieval Mount Athos was embedded within wider networks of economic interests, church leadership, intellectual exchange and patronage.

### **Your duties include:**

- Participating in the creation of a prosopographical database, which is to encompass all documented benefactors, monks and visitors associated with the Holy Mountain.
- The researching and writing of a dissertation on a list of commemoration from an Athonite monastery under the joint supervision of Dr. Zachary Chitwood (primary advisor) and Prof. Johannes Pahlitzsch (secondary advisory).
- Regular participation in project events, including regular meetings every two weeks and three major international workshops.

### **Your profile:**

- An outstanding master's thesis in Byzantine Studies, Classics, Medieval Studies or a related field.
- Reading knowledge of medieval Greek; knowledge of further project-relevant languages (Modern Greek, Rumanian, Slavic languages) is advantageous.
- Experience in interdisciplinary work.
- Oral proficiency in English or German.

### **What MAMEMS can offer you:**

- Intensive interdisciplinary discussion, for example by means of an associate membership, within one of the thematic research groups in Mainz, including: the [Research Training Group 1867](#) ("[Early Concepts of Humans and Nature: Universal, Specific, Interchanged](#)"); the [Research](#)

[Network “40.000 Years of Human Challenges: Perception, Conceptualization and Coping in Premodern Societies”](#); or the [Leibniz ScienceCampus “Byzantium between Orient and Occident”](#).

- The opportunity for extensive training within the field of Digital Humanities by learning [OpenAtlas](#).
- The prospect of publishing your dissertation in open-access format with a major scholarly press.

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The Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz is keen on increasing the proportion of women within the sphere of scholarship and therefore especially welcomes applications from female researchers.

The following application materials are to be submitted electronically in a single .pdf file (in German or English):

- A letter of application.
- A detailed c.v., including a list of publications and contact information for three scholars willing to provide letters of recommendation.
- A writing sample which demonstrates the applicant’s aptitude for scholarship (preferably a master’s thesis).

Please send these materials with the subject heading: **MAMEMS\_Name** by **28.02.2021** by e-mail to:

**[mamems@uni-mainz.de](mailto:mamems@uni-mainz.de)**

Please direct any queries you might have regarding this position or MAMEMS to Dr. Zachary Chitwood, who can be reached at the e-mail address above.

**Timeline for the review of applications:**

- The review of applications will begin immediately.
- Finalists will be invited to participate in an interview via Skype.

For further information regarding the project, please consult:

<https://mamems.uni-mainz.de/>.