

# Change and Transformation of premodern Credit Markets:

The importance of small-scale credits

**Venue:** Akademie der Wissenschaften  
Karlstraße 4  
69117 Heidelberg

**Date:** 28 – 30 October 2019

**Beginning:** 28 October 2019, 13:00

This interdisciplinary conference focuses on the development of credit markets to mobilize large amounts of capital in the medieval and early modern period. Although the existence of premodern capital markets in Europe is nowadays an undisputed fact, there is little empirical knowledge about the functioning of these medieval and early modern credit markets. Economic theories are capable of explaining economic trends for example, why certain forms of credit or credit intermediaries prevailed against competing alternatives in premodern markets. However, even the most sophisticated models have limited scope to take account of market functioning if relevant data is missing. Small-scale credits and informal credits are quite difficult to identify in the sources except for micro-historical studies. However, the financial dealings of artisans, peasants and townsmen actually represent the credit transactions of nearly the entire historical population and therefore cannot be neglected. An investigation about the development of capital markets should therefore take into account both historical and economic considerations.

The questions we set out to discuss during our conference are the following:

To what extent did informal credit institutions spread across Europe and how did they provide access to credit for the majority of the population? Of special importance are the following thematic strands:

- 1.) Which financial needs did individuals in premodern (medieval and early modern period) markets have and how did they cope with financial difficulties?
- 2.) Instead of searching in the medieval period for the precedents for modern economic institutions, the focus should be shifted to institutions and actors, which either do not exist or are not directly connected to financial service anymore.
- 3.) Of special interest are the low finance and the understanding of the use of everyday credit and how the majority of the population actually made a living.

## HEIDELBERGER AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN

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## CONTACT & ORGANIZATION

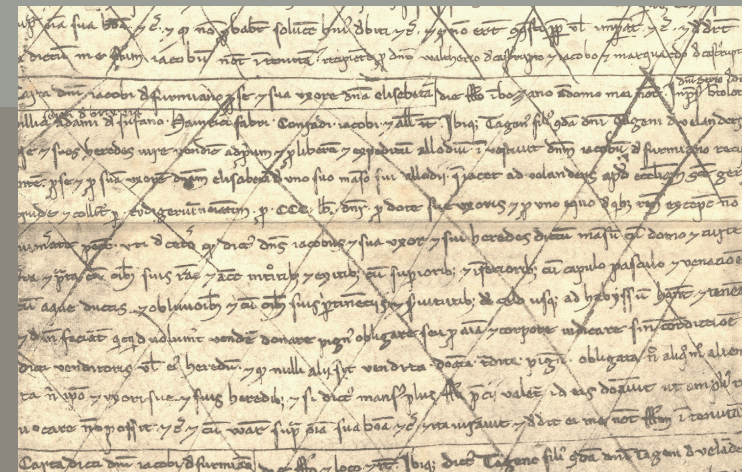
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## REGISTRATION

Interested scholars are cordially invited.  
If you wish to attend this conference,  
please register by 21 October 2019 at:  
stephan.koehler@uni-mannheim.de

Titelbild:  
Imbreviatur des Jakob Haas von 1237, aus: Hans von  
Veltolini (Hg.), Die Südtiroler Notariats-Imbreviaturen  
des 13. Jahrhunderts. Teil 1 (Acta Tirolensia 2). Inns-  
bruck: Wagner 1899, Neudruck Aalen: Scientia 1973.  
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International Academy Conference, Heidelberg  
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**HEIDELBERGER AKADEMIE  
DER WISSENSCHAFTEN**

Akademie der Wissenschaften  
des Landes Baden-Württemberg

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## ORGANIZATION

Dr. des. Stephan Köhler

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## MONDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2019

13:00 **REGISTRATION AND OPENING REMARKS:**  
Schallum Werner (Heidelberg), Stephan Köhler (Mannheim)

13:15 Keynote speech: Gilles Postel-Vinay (Paris)

13:50 COFFEE BREAK

14:20 **SECTION I: THE FUNCTIONALITY OF PRE-MODERN CREDIT MARKETS: AN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REAPPRAISAL**  
Chair: Ulla Kypta (Hamburg)

14:25 Matthew Stevens (Swansea)  
**COLONIZATION AND CREDIT IN MEDIEVAL WALES**

15:00 Gabriela Signori (Konstanz)  
**SMALL LOANS IN LATE MEDIEVAL URBAN ECONOMICS**

15:35 Sven Rabeler (Kiel)  
**SMALL CREDIT IN A SMALL TOWN. CLERICAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE CREDIT MARKET IN KAUFBEUREN IN THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY.**

16:10 COFFEE BREAK

16:40 **SECTION 2: A SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF SMALL-SCALE CREDIT: URBAN AND RURAL ENVIRONMENTS COMPARED**  
Chair: Daniel Smail (Harvard)

16:45 Stephan Köhler (Mannheim)  
**RURAL AND URBAN CREDIT IN MEDIEVAL TYROL**

17:20 So Nakaya (Osaka)  
**SMALL LOANS TO RURAL MEN IN LATE MEDIEVAL TUSCANY**

17:55 Benjamin Hitz (Basel)  
**WHAT CAN COURT RECORDS SHOW US ABOUT MEDIEVAL CREDIT NETWORKS? THE CASE OF 15TH-CENTURY BASEL**

19:00 DINNER

## TUESDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2019

10:00 **SECTION 3: THE MATERIALITY OF CREDIT AND ECONOMIC DATA**  
Chair: Jochen Streb (Mannheim)

10:05 Philipp Roessner (Manchester)  
**CREDIT, VELOCITY AND MONETARY REGULATION AS STATE CAPACITY AND STATE FORMATION: THE EXAMPLE OF THE EARLY SAXON THALER/DOLLAR, 1490S-1530S**

10:40 David Chilosì (Groningen)  
**COMPARING INTER-URBAN TRANSACTION COSTS: CAPITAL AND WHEAT MARKETS NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE ALPS, 1350-1800**

11:15 Tony Moore (Reading)  
**RECONSTRUCTING CREDIT IN MEDIEVAL LONDON FROM STATUTE RECOGNISANCE ROLLS**

11:50 LUNCH BUFFET

14:00 **SECTION 4: PRACTICES OF SMALL-SCALE CREDIT AND THE EVOLUTION OF BANKING**  
Chair: Hiram Kümper (Mannheim)

14:05 Marcella Lorenzini (Milan)  
**THE OTHER SIDE OF BANKING: LENDING SYSTEMS IN EARLY MODERN ITALY (17TH-18TH CC.)**

14:40 Pierre-David Kusman (Brussels)  
**HIGH FINANCE, BANKING AND SMALL-SCALE MONEY-LENDING: A NEW TRINITY OF FINANCIAL FUNCTIONS FOR LOMBARDS IN THE LATE-MEDIEVAL LOW COUNTRIES ?**

15:15 Christian Hagen (Kiel)  
**SHORT AND LONG TERM TRANSFORMATIONS OF URBAN CREDIT MARKETS. CHRISTIAN AND JEWISH CREDITORS AND DEBTORS IN LATE MEDIEVAL VIENNA**

15:50 COFFEE BREAK

16:20 **SECTION 5: ESCAPING POVERTY? THE IMPORTANCE OF SMALL-SCALE CREDIT IN PRE-MODERN EUROPE**  
Chair: Ulf-Christian Ewert (Münster)

16:25 Hannah Robb (Manchester)  
**TRUST AND CONTRACT IN THE 15TH CENTURY**

17:00 Mauro Carboni (Bologna)  
**LENDING TO THE WORKING POOR: THE RISE OF PUBLIC PAWN BANKS IN EARLY MODERN ITALY**

17:35 Tanja Skambraks (Mannheim)  
**STRATEGIES OF SURVIVAL: PAWNBROKING AND CREDIT RELATIONS IN EARLY MODERN ROME**

## WEDNESDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2019

09:30 **FINAL DISCUSSION**  
Chair: Annette Kehnel (Mannheim)

10:30 COFFEE BREAK

11:00 **PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE PUBLICATION**

12:00 **DEPARTURE**