

Credits, Correspondence and Conflicts in Late Medieval Grisons

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Europae, Ortelius Abraham [1570]. Universitätsbibliothek Basel, Kartenslg AA 12.

Initial idea/ Starting Point

Today, Grisons is often perceived as a peripheral region because the area is geographically on the edge of Switzerland. But to what extent is this image true for the late Middle Ages, when the territory and people of today's Grisons did not yet belong to a nation-state like entity (Confederation/Switzerland)?

Administrative context

ikg: Financing (4 years, 40%)

UZH: Scientific supervision (Prof. Dr. Simon Teuscher)

Overarching research question

In which geographical areas of action were late medieval "Grisonian" actors involved?

Object of investigation:
Count Georg of
Werdenberg-Sargans

Subordinate research questions

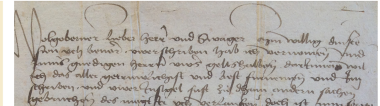
In which supra-regional relationships was Count Georg involved and how were these relationships established, maintained and dissolved?

What significance did these relationships have for Count Georg and for people from his local surroundings?

Theory, method and sources

Actor-centered perspective, Transnationality-approach

Analysis of correspondence and other written documents (mainly deeds) with references to loans, guarantees, visits, etc.



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First findings/ Theses

Although Count George's rule was localistic, his scope of action encompassed a much larger geographical area, reaching at least as far as Lucerne, Milan and Innsbruck.

A large number of supra-regional relations and activities were important for the maintenance of Count George's position of power. At the same time, this simultaneous activity for different lords also leads to conflicts.

Through his supra-regional relationships, Count Georg acted as a cross-border broker, passing on relationships to people in his surroundings and thus integrating them into supra-regional networks.

Literature (selection)

Holenstein, André: Mitten in Europa. Verflechtung und Abgrenzung in der Schweizer Geschichte, Zürich 2014.

Höh, Marc von/ Jaspert, Nikolas / Oesterle, Jenny Rahel: Cultural Brokers at Mediterranean Courts in the Middle Ages, Paderborn 2013 (Mittelmeerstudien 1).