

Digitizing the Middle Ages

New Approaches in History & Archaeology

Max Planck Institute
For Legal History and
Legal Theory
Prof. Dr. Caspar Ehlers
ehlers@rg.mpg.de

Law and Mission [*Recht und Mission*]

The history of law in the Middle Ages is not only key to understanding the development of modern law in – and partly also beyond – Europe. It can also contribute valuable insights into the origins and possible forms of legal normativity by providing case studies of the complex interaction of law with other cultural aspects/factors, and due to the close connection between law and religion. Such connections are particularly apparent in the interrelatedness of secular/temporal and ecclesiastical law, and in the synthesis of Christian and profane/secular normative ideas during the

Middle Ages. These and other facets of medieval legal and normative cultures emerge particularly clearly in the context of the ever-present tensions between claims to particularity and universality, respectively. Within the Research Field, individual projects study topics spanning the period from Late Antiquity to the year 1070. These examine not only the areas of the former Western Roman Empire but also Byzantine canon law from the seventh to the ninth centuries, particularly in the context of imperial ideology. The Research Field has obvious points of fruitful overlap with projects in the other two Departments. As global legal history is shaped both by multinormativity and by constant interplay between secular and normative ideas of order.

Written Sources (*Tradition*)

In order to approach language use and the use of key words, it is necessary to evaluate text bodies and show the spatial as well as diachronic distribution in maps and diagrams.

Remains (*Überreste*)

The interpretation and classification of archaeological findings play a key role. The results of archaeozoology and archaeobotany are used for this purpose. Comprehensive databases provide the necessary frame of reference.

7133 – 3 Regionen	Eurasia: 66%	Sub-Sahara Africa: 32,4%	Asia: 1,6%	–	–
7133 – 5 Regionen	Near East: 53,3%	North Africa: 37%	Eurasia: 8,6%	Asia: 1,1%	Sub-Sahara Africa: 0,1%
7134 – 3 Regionen	Eurasia: 70,0%	Asia: 26,2%	Sub-Sahara Africa: 3,8%	–	–
7134 – 5 Regionen	Eurasia: 35,5%	North Africa: 34,8%	Near East: 24,3%	Asia: 4,5%	Sub-Sahara Africa: 1,0%
7144 – 3 Regionen	Eurasia: 51,0%	Sub-Sahara Africa: 43,6%	Asia: 5,5%	–	–
7144 – 5 Regionen	North Africa: 52,9%	Near East: 42,1%	Eurasia: 2,3%	Sub-Sahara Africa: 1,6%	Asia: 1,0%
7145 – 3 Regionen	Eurasia: 81,4%	Sub-Sahara Africa: 11,7%	Asia: 6,8%	–	–
7145 – 5 Regionen	Eurasia: 54,2%	Near East: 24,1%	North Africa: 19,6%	Asia: 1,3%	Sub-Sahara Africa: 0,8%

Tabelle 5: Bioethnographische Zuordnung der autosomalen Merkmalskombinationen zu 3 bzw. 5 Populationsgruppen.

4.9.2 Mitochondriale Merkmalskombinationen:

Aufgrund der übereinstimmenden Haplotypen der Individuen 7133 und 7145 verbleiben insgesamt also 3 mitochondriale Haplogruppen, für eine geographische Abfrage auf www.empop.online (Abfrage / Haplogroup-Browser, 21. Oktober 2016):

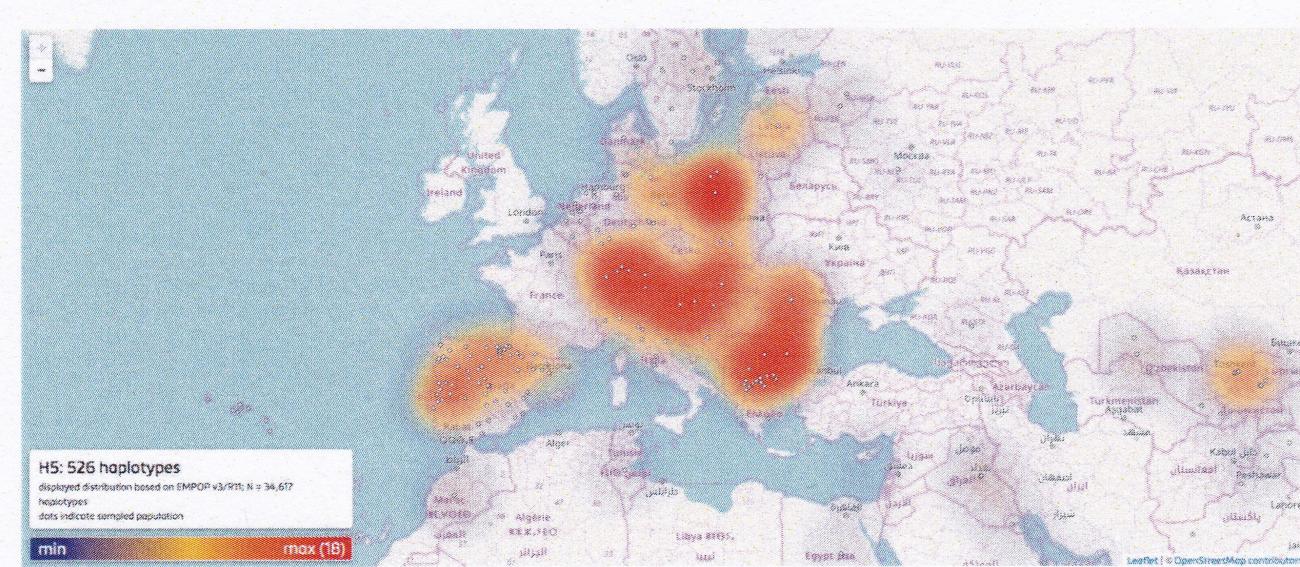


Abb. 13: HeatMap der Haplogruppe H5, Individuum 7144



Anthropology

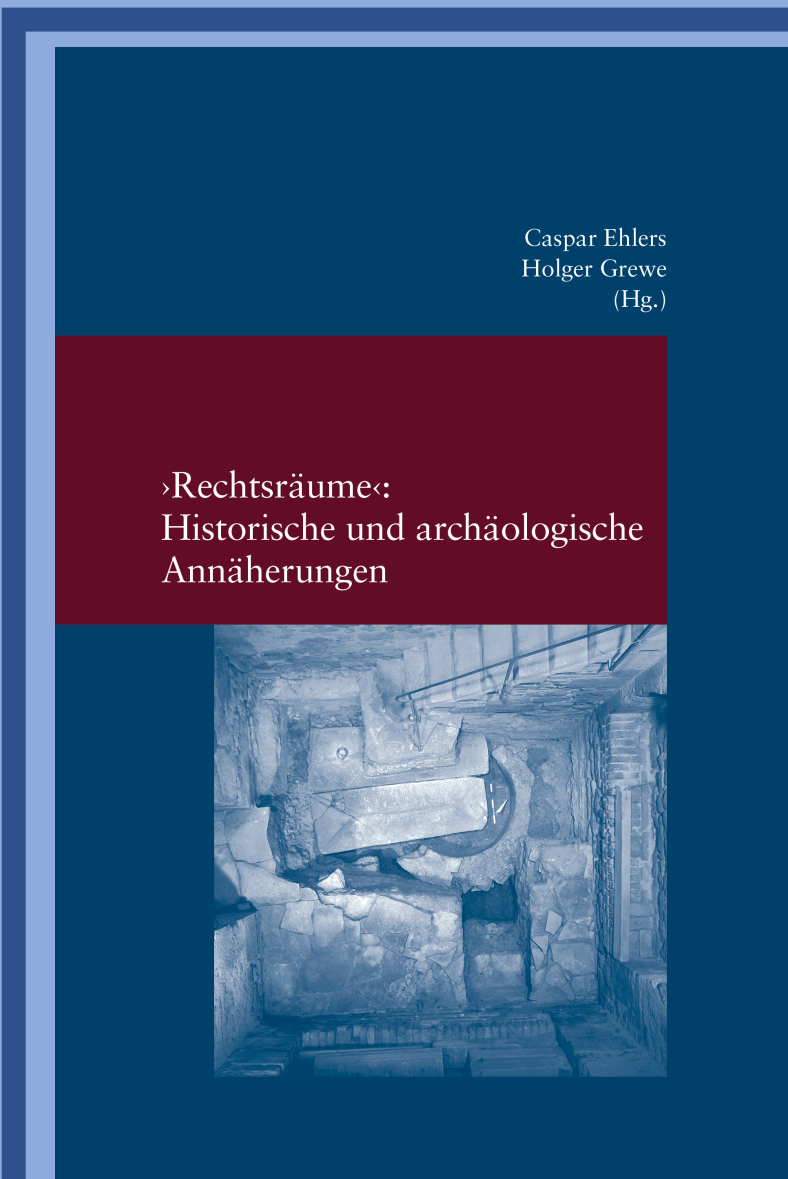
A valuable access to human history brought the deep analysis of the so-called *Ancient DNA*. However, the possibilities should not be overestimated, and the limitations of the method should be taken into account. Then, for example, a deep reconstruction of the relationships and migrations can be created.

Spaces

One of the many methods of researching the first millennium is the cross-temporal examination of spaces. Especially under the aspect of the generation of knowledge and its dissemination as well as the adoption of legal and cultural practices, this analytical approach has proven very successful.

Digital Humanities: „Big Data“

From the four aspects presented above, many conceivable digital applications can be derived that definitely work with Big Data. Spatial and temporal text analyses, for example, or genome databases of archaeological finds worldwide require the input and maintenance of standardised data and the development of intelligent algorithms for successful evaluation under specific and mutually compatible parameters.



Recent Publication

The studies in this edited volume trace the dynamic changes caused by the spatial, linguistic and cultural translation of norms and practices. Archaeologists, natural scientists and historians examine processes whose analysis requires interdisciplinary and transnational approaches as well as diachronic comparison. See centre box above.