



The Public Defense of the Doctoral Dissertation of

Igor Razum

on

The Changing Face of Reform:

*Roman Ideals and Central European Reflections following the
Fourth Lateran Council*

will be held on

Thursday, 19 October 2023, at 11:00 am

Examination Committee

Chair: László Kontler, CEU, History Department

Members: Katalin Szende, CEU, Department of Medieval Studies

Gábor Klaniczay, CEU, Department of Medieval Studies (supervisor)

Daniel Ziemann, CEU, Department of Medieval Studies (supervisor)

External readers and external members:

Emilia Jamroziak, University of Leeds, Leeds, UK

Stefan Schima, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

The doctoral dissertation is available for inspection on the CEU e-learning site. Should you wish to access it and/or join the defense contact Csilla Dobos (dobos@ceu.edu)

Dissertation Abstract

The dissertation deals with the thirteenth-century ecclesiastical reforms in Central Europe following the Fourth Lateran Council. The analysis is based on comparative sources (papal letters, local chronicles, charters) from the three polities, Hungary-Croatia, Poland, and Bohemia. Although similar knowledge-transfer studies had been done related to Western Europe, a comparative perspective on these territories has heretofore been lacking. This study also moves away from traditional center-periphery or transfer studies and engages in assessing the contemporary developments within a paradigm of entangled histories and vibrant communication between the papacy and the region. The material allowed for a review of not only the fundamental aspects of reform, which was directly defined in the canons of the Lateran Council but also of underlying papal policies, related to asserting the papacy's power and authority within the ecclesiastical structures and hierarchies of the region, as well as bolstering those structures to withstand secular contestation. The dissertation reveals the connections between the polities from an ecclesiastical perspective, as well as the papacy's expansive approach to these Church provinces.

The dissertation is divided into four chapters. The introduction sets up the territorial scope as well as the time period of the research. It also provides a discussion of the quality of the various sources, important historiographical constructs, and the methodological aspects of the analysis. Another important section presents the specific scholarship on the Fourth Lateran Council, within a

broad period of the past century of research. Finally, the introduction establishes the main questions that the dissertation addresses in the chapters and places them within the context of previous scholarly work.

The first chapter provides an overview of the Fourth Lateran Council within the context of the three councils that preceded it in the twelfth century. It contextualizes both the invitations to the assemblies, meaning the convocation bulls as well as the political implications of these councils, considering the investiture contest and the ongoing tensions between the empire and the papacy during this time. The main part of the chapter is an analysis of the canons of the Fourth Lateran Council, comparing them again with the preceding Lateran councils, interpreting their meaning within the contemporary ecclesiastical and societal developments, as well as providing insight into scholarly work on the possible impact of the conciliar decrees predominantly in Western Europe.

The following chapter further details the ecclesiastical and political situation in Central Europe in the High Middle Ages, giving an overview of the main social, cultural, and political processes and events during this period, primarily through the scope of modern historiography, while delving deeper into select events that paint a distinct picture of ecclesiastical policies by the papacy and local agents as well as their interaction with the rulers.

The key part of the thesis is the third chapter, which analyzes the particular aspects of the reform of the Fourth Lateran Council as well as the papal policies of Innocent III and his successors in the Central European polities. It shows the

actions and interactions of papal agents, mainly legates, in these Church provinces, as well as the instrumental roles played by mendicant preachers in crusade preaching, missionary, and anti-heretical activities. The importance of local synods is shown as well, exemplifying in a normative way the interaction and appropriation by local agents of the Lateran reform, not in a simple transfer but through meaningful modifications applicable to the realities of Central Europe.

The final chapter further develops the construct of the ideal or normative cleric as imagined by these thirteenth-century local synodal acts. It demonstrates a convincing image of contemporary clerical life and its intended reform of morals, structures, organization, everyday piety, and devotion, as well as the interaction with the laity based on the legislation of local clerics, comparing the extant synods, most prominently the Buda synod of 1279.

The dissertation finds its place within the studies of medieval ecclesiastical history approaching the particulars of thirteenth-century Lateran reform and the papacy's specific policy. However, rather than being a comprehensive national ecclesiastical history it provides a thematic view towards the comparison of the three Central European realms and determines the similarities of papal action towards these areas as well as the distinct responses of the local actors. Within these interactions lays the mosaic of the Lateran reform, both the rule of canon law and the underlying theme of papal power and authority, making this process a foundational development for both the papacy and the local institutions.

Curriculum Vitae

Education

- 2014 – 2023 PhD in Medieval Studies, Department of Medieval Studies,
Central European University, Vienna, Austria
- 2012 – 2014 MA in Medieval Studies, Department of Medieval Studies,
Central European University, Budapest, Hungary
- 2010 – 2013 MA in History, Department of History, University of Zagreb,
Croatia
- 2007 – 2010 BA in History, Department of History, University of Zagreb,
Croatia

Work and research experience

- 2018 – 2019 Curator-trainee, Museum Castle Veliki Tabor/Museums of
Hrvatsko zagorje, Croatia
- 2015 – 2016 Research assistant to the Head of the Department of Medieval
Studies, Central European University, Budapest
- 2015 – 2016 Member, DAAD – MOB project: “Communication and
knowledge transfer in medieval monastic networks” (FOVOG-
CEU)

Fellowships and Awards

- 2022 Three-month Write-up grant, CEU
- 2018 Advanced Doctoral Student Award granted by the Central
European University, Budapest
- 2017 – 2018 DAAD Short-Term Research Grant, Universität Heidelberg;
Supervisor: Professor Nikolas Jaspert

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- 2014 – 2017 Full CEU Doctoral Fellowship
- 2014 Tanasa Award granted by the Department of Medieval Studies,
Central European University, Budapest, Hungary
- Academic Achievement Award granted by the Central
European University, Budapest, Hungary
- 2013 – 2014 Full CEU MA Fellowship
- 2012 – 2013 Partial CEU MA Fellowship

Key Publications and Products

co-authored with Hrvoje Gračanin, “Toma Arhiđakon i križarstvo” [Thomas the Archdeacon and the Crusades]. *Povijest u nastavi* 10, no. 1 (2012): 45-64

“Clerical Reform in Central Europe Following the Fourth Lateran Council.” *Annual of Medieval Studies at CEU* 21 (2015): 36-46.

“Via pateret discentibus ad doctrinam: The Role of the Fourth Lateran Council in the Educational and Pastoral Reform of the Thirteenth Century.” In *The Fourth Lateran Council: an Event that Transformed Europe*, ed. Ivan Majnarić, Daniel Patafta, Marko Jerković, 155-176. Zagreb: Kršćanska sadašnjost, 2019.

“Ecclesiastical Reformer and Politician: The Two Faces of Bishop Stephen II of Zagreb, 1225-1247.” In *Medieval Bosnia and South-east European Relations: Political, Religious, and Cultural Life at the Adriatic Crossroads*, ed. Dženan Dautović, Emir O. Filipović and Neven Isailović, 137-146. Leeds: Arc Humanities Press, 2019.

co-authored with Agata Zielinska. “The Papacy and the Region, Church Structure, and Clergy.” In *Oxford Handbook of Medieval Central Europe*, ed. Nada Zečević and Daniel Ziemann, 457-481. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022.

Key Conference Contributions

The Fifth Biennial Conference of the Medieval Central Europe Research Network, Bratislava, April 2023. Title of the talk: “The synod as an instrument of reform in thirteenth-century Hungary-Croatia and Poland.”

Peti kongres hrvatskih povjesničara. Krize, sukobi i solidarnost u povijesnoj perspektivi, Zadar, October 2016. Title of the talk: “‘Obedientiam vel reverentiam audeat exhibere’: uloga papinstva i biskupa u građanskom ratu kralja Emerika i hercega Andrije” [‘Obedientiam vel reverentiam audeat exhibere’: the role of the papacy and episcopate in the civil war between King Emeric and Duke Andrew].

Innocent III and his time. From absolute papal monarchy to the Fourth Lateran Council, Murcia, December 2015, paper title: “A View Across the Sea: Innocent III and Ecclesiastical Control in Dalmatia.”

Concilium Lateranense IV. Commemorating the Octocentenary of the Fourth Lateran Council of 1215, Rome, November 2015. Title of the talk: “The reformed clergy in thirteenth-century Hungary and Croatia: Lateran ideas and local realities.”

Leeds International Medieval congress, July 2015. Title of the talk: “The Impact of the Fourth Lateran Council on Clerical Education in Hungary, Poland, and Bohemia.”