



The Public Defense of the Doctoral Dissertation of

Mišo Petrović

on

**The Development of the Episcopal Office in Medieval Croatia-Dalmatia:
The Cases of Split, Trogir and Zadar
(1270-1420)**

will be held on

Tuesday, 28 September 2021, at 4:00 pm CET

Examination Committee

Chair: Constantin Iordachi, CEU, Department of History
Members: Katalin Szende, CEU, Department of Medieval Studies (supervisor)
Gábor Klaniczay, CEU, Department of Medieval Studies
Daniel Ziemann, CEU, Department of Medieval Studies
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Damir Karbić, Croatian Academy of Sciences

The doctoral dissertation is available for inspection on the CEU e-learning site.

Should you wish to access it contact Csilla Dobos (dobos@ceu.edu)

Summary of the dissertation

This dissertation deals with analyzing changes in the episcopal personnel and management of the episcopal sees of medieval Croatia-Dalmatia by closely observing the figure of the medieval bishop. My approach to the topic is both power-oriented, with emphasis on social-power relations with the bishop and his episcopal office being placed at the center of research. For this purposes, I have compared developments in the archdioceses of Zadar and Split, as well as the diocese of Trogir, the suffragan of Split, all three comprising much of the territory of medieval Croatia-Dalmatia. These bishoprics were largely selected due to their specific ecclesiastical position, the quality of the available source material and the prestige enjoyed by their contemporaries and in modern historiography, all which enables me to carry an in-depth comparison between the researched dioceses.

Since these bishoprics were relatively small and located on the fringes of Latin Christendom, their position offers an opportunity for a more in-depth research of the episcopal office and the person of the bishop. I was, therefore, interested in exploring whether there was any change in the type of person who was selected as bishop over time and how their personal qualities and connections played a role in allowing them to obtain this high episcopal position. Were changes in the episcopal office possible due to reforms conducted by the bishops from within or from outside of the diocese?

The region of Croatia-Dalmatia, where these dioceses were located, was often fragmented between various political powers, which had effect on the relationship between the communities and their bishops. These bishops operated in a multi-jurisdictional environment encompassing various ecclesiastical (cathedral chapter, other prelates, pope) and secular (city government, rural nobility, ruler) centres. Therefore, I was interested in observing if the episcopal authority was changed and how through the interactions that the bishop had with different institutions and groups of people.

The dissertation is divided into five major parts tracking the episcopal developments over a span of 150 years and involves analysis of 36 individuals who became, or strived to become, the archbishops of Split or Zadar or the bishop of Trogir. It deals with the bishopric itself, the person of the bishop and with general issues connected to the episcopal authority in Croatia-Dalmatia during the period between 1270 and 1420. In the chapters I consider how the episcopal office was influenced by the personal qualities of the individuals holding the office. What was the role played by the intricate relations between the bishops and various local and regional institutions of the medieval society? These interrelations are closely analyzed within the context of the institution of the Church. While these questions can be applied to Christendom in its entirety, I am primarily interested here in observing the local experiences and changes which may in turn be used in the future to contribute to a broader comparative research of ecclesiastical regions.

Each chapter is preceded by a historical overview which contextualizes the major developments during the observed period by looking at the actions of the popes, rulers and other institutions and individuals in the region. In the first chapter I analyze how the social context in which the dioceses have been established helped to define the late medieval bishoprics of Croatia-Dalmatia and what the role played by various local and broader-ranging institutions in the selection of bishops was. In the second chapter I seek to identify the most important pillars of episcopal authority and the patterns of the bishops' behavior toward important ecclesiastical institutions in the diocese as well as the changes – if any – introduced by the bishops in their everyday episcopal governance. The third chapter connects the internal changes in the bishoprics with the role played in these developments by lay institutions, primarily the commune, the rural nobility and the rulers, and the gradual centralization of power over the ecclesiastical hierarchy by the pope. For the fourth chapter, I have selected three members of the higher clergy, each from one of the researched bishoprics, in order to analyze the challenges that were encountered by the fourteenth-century bishops. The selected prelates are Archbishop Nicholas Matafari of Zadar (r.1333-67), Bishop Bartholomew of Trogir (r.1349-61) and Archbishop Hugolin of Split (r.1349-88). In this chapter I track these three episcopal careers from beginning to end by observing how these individuals obtained their positions, the challenges they faced during their time in office and the consequences of their administration on the general development of their dioceses. The last chapter observes how the

ecclesiastical and political turmoil at the turn of the fourteenth into the fifteenth century affected relations between the bishops and their dioceses by concentrating on the contacts between these prelates, the Apostolic See and the secular rulers. These areas of analysis and subsequent opinions are summarized in the conclusion which considers the different features of the person of the bishop and also combines these aspects with the gradual changes in the office and position of the bishop. Since the information collected for this work is not available elsewhere in a systematically arranged form, provide a short summary of each of the presented individuals. These descriptions include the bishops' career and family connections as well as basic information about their time in office. The work also includes images, family trees and maps relevant to the period and the bishops themselves.

Curriculum vitae

Education

Doctor of Philosophy in Late Antique, Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, September 2015 – May 2021.

Master of Arts in Medieval Studies, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, September 2014 – June 2015.

Master in History and Master of Education in History, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatia, October 2011 – July 2014.

University Bachelor in History, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatia, October 2008 – June 2011.

Academic Work Experience

Member of the Reaccreditation Committee, Reaccreditation of the Doctoral Study Programmes in Croatia for the doctoral programme “The Adriatic – a Link between Continents” in Zadar, Agency for Science and Higher Education in Croatia, September 2018 and of Archeology at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb and of History at the Croatian Studies in Zagreb, Agency for Science and Higher Education in Croatia, December 2017.

Teaching Assistant on a course + tutorial, “Central Europe in the High and Later Middle Ages,” Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, January – March 2017.

Assistant editor to the volume “Medieval East Central Europe in a Comparative Perspective: From frontier zones to lands in focus,” edited by Gerhard Jaritz and Katalin Szende (London and New York: Routledge, 2016).

Conferences

Third Medieval Workshop in Rijeka, Faculty of Humanities in Rijeka, Croatia (October 16, 2015).

Politics and society in central and South-Eastern Europe (13th-16th centuries), Banat Museum in Timișoara, Romania (October 29, 2015).

V. Kongres hrvatskih povjesničara [V Congress of Croatian historians] in Zadar, Croatia (October 5-8, 2016).

Bishops' Identities, Careers and Networks in Aberdeen, UK (May 26-27, 2017).

Power of the Bishop III: Bishops as Diplomats 1000-1400 in Cardiff, UK (June 9-10, 2017)

International Medieval Congress 2018 in Leeds, UK (July 2-5, 2018).

Regions and Regional Exchanges in Medieval Central Europe: International Cooperation and Workshop Series in Heidelberg, Germany (April 24-25, 2019).

Articles

“The Role of the Church in the Two Succession Crises in Hungary in the Fourteenth Century,” *Annual of Medieval Studies at CEU* 22 (2016): 77-88.

“Papal Power, Local Communities and Pretenders: The Church of Croatia, Dalmatia and Slavonia and the Struggle for the Throne of the Kingdom of Hungary-Croatia (1290-1301)” *Banatica* 26/2 (2016): 77-88.

“Politicized Religion: The “Contested” Prelates of Croatia, Dalmatia and Slavonia during the Struggle for the Throne of the Kingdom of Hungary (1382-1409),” *Papers and Proceedings of the Third Medieval Workshop in Rijeka*, edited by Suzana Miljan and Kosana Jovanović (Rijeka: FFRi, 2018), 37-53.

“From Victory to Defeat: The Political Career of Bishop Paul of Zagreb (1379-1394),” *Past, Present, Future II: Victory and Defeat*, edited by Robert Kurelić and Igor Duda (2018) (accepted, 2019).

“Episcopal Appointments and Careers of the Archbishops of Split (1294-1426),” *Bishops' Identities, Careers and Networks in Medieval Europe*, edited by Sarah E. Thomas, Medieval Church Studies series by Brepols (accepted, 2019).

“Prelates in the Service of the King: Paul Horvat and Andrew Benzi as Diplomats during the Period of Instability in the Kingdom of Hungary-Croatia (c.1382-c.1420),” *Power of the Bishop III: Bishops as Diplomats*, edited by Peter Coss, Chris Dennis, Melissa Julian-Jones and Angelo Silvestri, Medieval Church Studies by Brepols (accepted, 2019).

Scholarships

Henrik Birnbaum Memorial Scholarship Fund, 2016/2017

Henrik Birnbaum Memorial Scholarship Fund, 2017/2018

Erasmus+ Student Mobility Program, Università Roma Tre, 2018/2019

Frankopan Scholarship from the Franopan Fund, 2019/2020

CEU Doctoral Research Support Grant, 2019/2020

Scholarship of the Scholarship Foundation of the Republic of Austria, 2020

CEU Write Up Grant, 2020/2021