



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA
DIPARTIMENTO DI BENI CULTURALI

Martedì 29 Giugno 2021, ore 10

In presenza presso la Sala Conferenze (terzo piano), via degli Ariani 1, Ravenna

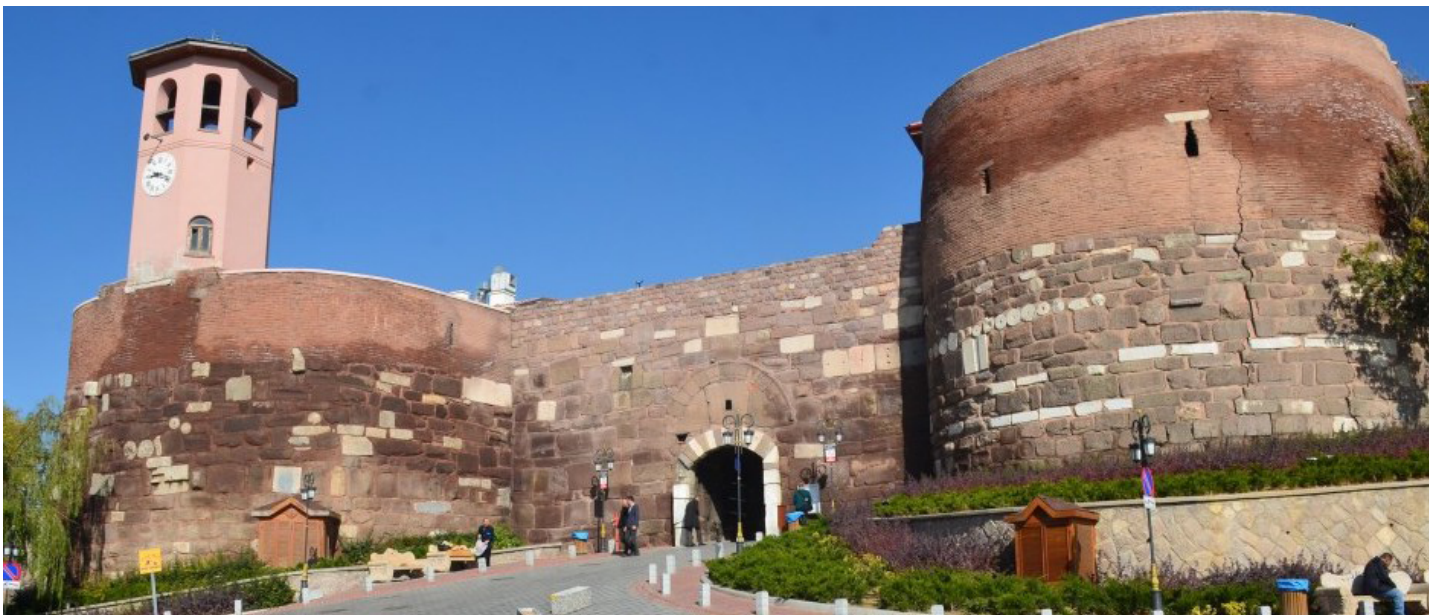
Online su TEAMS al link: <http://bit.ly/CittàBizantinafraTardaAntichitàeAltoMedioevo>

Seminario per il Dottorato in Beni Culturali e Ambientali e il gruppo di ricerca BOM. Bisanzio e l'Oriente Mediterraneo

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The Byzantine City in the transition between Late Antiquity and Early Middle Ages



This paper will propose a different perspective on the transformation of the Byzantine city from ca. 600 to 1204. The changes in urban functions, landscape, structure and fabric will be explored by bringing together the most recent results stemming from urban archaeological excavations, the results of analyses of material culture (ceramic, coins, seals) and a reassessment of the documentary and hagiographical sources.

The diachronic approach I am proposing here will hopefully allow me to move away from the more traditional interpretative frameworks which have so far limited the transformation of the Byzantine city to the passage from Late Antiquity to the early Middle Ages. Moreover, as an all-encompassing overview of the fate of Byzantine urbanism has not been so far fully proposed this contribution will also help to fill a historiographical void.

This paper will, therefore show, that the transformation experienced by the Byzantine urban landscape can afford us a better grasp of changes to the Byzantine central and provincial administrative apparatus as well as the fiscal machinery, military institutions, socio-economic structures, and religious organization. It must be emphasized that regardless of the variegated and changeable forms of Byzantine urbanism, cities *always* remained the foci of political and social attention on the part of both secular and religious authorities and furthermore the center of the economic interests of local landowning elites. Indeed, urban structures, infrastructures and functions always developed according to local and peculiar practices as well as expedient needs. In this sense, Anatolia, the Balkans, southern Italy and the Aegean as well as the so-called insular world of Byzantium reflected their multifaceted and diverse, although in general resilient, fiscal and political bonds with the capital and its court

In this light, this paper will include not only the better excavated and published examples Byzantine urbanism as located in the so-called Byzantine heartland (like Ephesos, Amorium, Pergamon, Corinth e Ankara), but it will also focus on those urban (and quasi urban) sites as dotting the insular-coastal Byzantine *koine* (like Butrint, Syracuse, Cagliari, Comacchio, Amalfi and Pollentia). The latter encompassed areas too often simply labeled as peripheral although showing a common material culture, economic resilience and fluidity in local administrative practices.

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