

Angevin Archiregnum in East Central and Southeastern Europe in the 14th Century: View from the Periphery

The focus of the project is research on the functioning of the political entity governed by the Angevin dynasty from the beginning of the 14th century until the 1380's. It starts from the assumption that this political entity and manner in which it functioned during the 14th century should be approached as "Arch-Kingdom" (Archiregnum Hungaricum).

The research primarily focuses on the terms "(political) center" and "periphery", and the aim is to understand the nature of connection between the two and the role of the actors from the "periphery" in this process. In order to analyze these processes it was necessary to step out of the boundaries set by contemporary national borders and corresponding historiographies, which is achieved by adopting contemporary theoretical models and through the involvement of researchers from various historiographical traditions.

The aims of the project are: to research the structure of the government of the East-Adriatic cities and to analyze their connections with the royal government; research the role of the elites from the southeastern rim of the Angevin Archiregnum in its political (dis)integration; to understand the repercussions of the interaction between the (elites of) individual political entities that formed the periphery of the Angevin Archiregnum on the formation of their individual relationships with the center; to analyze the manner in which the political center strives to become the center that radiates the dominant system of symbols, values and beliefs; to look at the power of local actors/institutions through the prism of territorial organization and extraction of material resources. The completion of these aims will result in the understanding of functioning of the Angevin Archiregnum from the perspective of its southeastern periphery, a vast area from the Adriatic Sea to the Carpathians, and in the development of a research frame and specific knowledge necessary for comparison with similar European political formations.