

# *The Austrian Academy of Sciences and its Research in Late Antique Christianity in Southeastern Europe (20th–21st c.)*

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The presentation will offer an overview of the research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences on early Christianity, i.e. on Christian art, cult and culture. The Academy, which is the largest non-university institution for research and science in Austria, stands for innovative basic research in the arts and humanities and the social and natural sciences as well as for interdisciplinary exchange of knowledge and for ensuring the preservation and interpretation of cultural heritage. Within the last 150 years numerous scientific projects in Southeastern Europe were undertaken. Particularly noteworthy is the Balkan-Commission (already established in 1897) with its historical-archaeological and philological-ethnographic research on the Balkan Peninsula. The numerous projects, having a special focus on Late Antique Christianity and its materials legacy, were carried out for example in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia and the results were published in several publication series (for example *Schriften der Balkan-Kommission*). Furthermore, these studies did not/do not concern only archeology but various other disciplines rather, such as Byzantine Studies, Epigraphy, History, Historical Geography, Numismatic, Sigillography, Theology, etc.