

## *Pax Normanna* research programme (2022-2026)

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### The first generations of the conquest – 2: to settle

Symposium at Centro Europeo di Studi Normanni (Ariano Irpino) 18-19 October 2024

This third meeting of the *Pax Normanna* programme<sup>1</sup> is a continuation of the symposium organized in Oxford on September 22-23 2023, which was devoted to “those who leave”<sup>2</sup>. It will consider more specifically the issues surrounding the settlement of the conquerors, by comparing the different situations encountered in the Norman worlds in Normandy, in Great Britain and Ireland, in southern Italy and in Sicily, in Ifrîqiya and in the Holy Land. It therefore also refers to the inaugural *Pax Normanna* conference held at Cerisy-la-Salle in October 2022 on the theme of “the pacification”<sup>3</sup>. If these questions have been widely addressed by the historiography devoted to the expansion of the Normans, we would like to focus the discussions on a few themes that will bring out more clearly the modalities and stages of the setting up of the first generations of conquerors. In particular, we will consider:

- The question of documentary bias: is the establishment of newcomers the subject of a unilateral discourse of the conquerors? Conversely, how can we perceive the voice of the conquered populations, whether they are dominated or whether they rally the new power? Is there a source bias that needs to be overcome by an *ad hoc* methodology? How can we find out the various types and possibilities of reaction from local populations, their assessment of the settlement dynamic underway, the possible discourses of resistance, contestation and accommodation, and the relationships between a given type of discourse and the socio-political backgrounds in which the source is written? Markus Krumm’s comparative analysis of Falcon of Benevento and Alexander of Telesè’s account on the Norman conquest of southern Italy, for example, take into account the socio-political context in which these discourses were written.
- The circulation of knowledge built up by the newcomers in the regions they have conquered, including during their long-term settlement, and the circulation of this knowledge with the local populations.
- The acquisition of new lands, rights or functions, trying to discern the rhythms and modalities of these acquisitions. This may vary according to the conditions of the conquest or, on occasion,

<sup>1</sup> For more information on this research programme, see : <https://mnm.hypotheses.org/5368> and <https://www.efrome.it/p/pax-normanna>

<sup>2</sup> Abstracts of the papers are available at the following address: <https://www.mfo.ac.uk/sitefiles/e-abstracts-oxford-pax-normanna.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> A report of this conference available at the following address: <https://mnm.hypotheses.org/5516>

according to the agreements reached between the local authorities and the conquerors. We must also consider the competition between the various players involved in the granting of titles (count, duke) which led to the emergence of new political entities or the installation of newcomers as rulers of former entities.

- The ways in which space was controlled: construction of castles, occupation of pre-existing fortifications, border glacis, setting up of religious houses, and the symbolic and material domination of space including, through objects such as seals, charters, inventories for lands, cadastration, etc.
- The social and geographical mobility made possible by the settlement of the conquerors, to be examined from the angle of the opportunities offered by the conquest and the ways in which the newcomers seized them.
- Post-conquest migration and those in its wake, the demographic stakes that led to new waves of migration.
- Rivalries and cooperation, or to use a neologism, the “coopetition” that may have occurred between the conquerors themselves or with local elites (which also includes strategies of matrimonial alliances, the granting of titles – and by whom – and systems for distributing goods).
- The legal conditions under which newcomers settled. For example, did they enjoy special protection under the law (e.g. *murdrum*)? What was the legal regime followed in the event of a dispute between the Normans and the local populations, or the nature of the arrangements that were reached? Was there any legal innovation following the long-term settlement of the newcomers?
- The networks that were set up or juxtaposed with others, whether they have been partly imported or incorporating indigenous elements.
- More generally, relations with non-native populations (from rejection to cooperation and various forms of alliance) and the appropriateness or otherwise of using concepts such as accommodation, state-building and consensus-building to define these processes. This includes the confiscation of land and its distribution among the conquerors and/or between them and the locals; the measures of removal – exiles, hostages –, selective collaboration, the room for maneuver left to local populations, etc.).
- The solidarities which develop or are transformed in the context of a new settlement, whether they existed before the conquest, were formed during the conquest or in the conditions that resulted from it.
- The relationships with the central or local powers, civil or ecclesiastical, which the conquerors helped to establish, and which they occasionally challenged and often regulated, a prerequisite for lasting domination.
- The introduction (or not) of unknown socio-political or economic frameworks in the host regions (feudalism in Southern Italy and Sicily, for example) and the adaptation of local populations to these new infrastructures of political and economic power.
- Whether or not links are maintained with the regions of origin: is the dynamic of integration of the conquerors (at least in part) supported by relations with the “homeland”?

The list is not exhaustive. As was the case at the first meeting, new or little-known cases that are less well documented or have not previously given rise to a monograph will be welcome. The approach will combine surveys of individuals, particular groups, monuments or archaeological sites to provide an insight into the variety or complexity of the processes at work. It will also be a matter of continuing and completing the investigation to gauge an approach in terms of “generation(s) of conquest”.

30-minutes papers will be made in French, in Italian or in English. Paper proposals are expected by the 1st of June 2024 with a short abstract (or at least the broad lines of the topic). They must be sent to one of the following e-mail addresses:

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