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Edited by **Damián Fernández, Molly Lester and Jamie Wood**

Rome and Byzantium in the Visigothic Kingdom

Beyond Imitatio Imperii

This volume interrogates the assumption that Visigothic practices and institutions were mere imitations of the Byzantine empire. Contributors rethink these practices not as uncritical and derivative adoptions of Byzantine customs, but as dynamic processes in dialogue with not only the Byzantine empire but also with the contemporary Iberian context, as well as the Roman past. The goal of the volume is to approach Visigothic customs not as an uncritical adoption and *imitatio* of contemporary Roman models (an "acculturation" model), but as unique interpretations of a common pool of symbols, practices, and institutions that formed the legacy of Rome. The contributors argue that it is necessary to reconsider the idea of *imitatio imperii* as a process that involved specific actors taking strategic decisions in historically contingent circumstances.

BIOGRAPHY

Damián Fernández is Associate Professor of History at Northern Illinois University.

Molly Lester is Assistant Professor of History at the United States Naval Academy.

Jamie Wood is Professor of History and Education at the University of Lincoln.



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Amsterdam University Press
Nieuwe Prinsengracht 89
1018 VR Amsterdam

T +31 (0)20 420 00 50
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marketing@aup.nl

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