Preface and acknowledgements

This volume is one of the results of the ERC Advanced Grant Project ‘Social Cohesion, Identity and Religion in Europe, 400 – 1200 (SCIRE)’ led by Walter Pohl and carried out at the Institute for Medieval Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Department of History at the University of Vienna (ERC Advanced Grant No. 269591, 2011 – 2016). In a sub-project, a working group addressed the complex issue of Roman identities in the early Middle Ages. Previous results have already been published in two volumes: first, ‘Being Roman after Rome’, a special edition of the journal ‘Early Medieval Europe’ 22, 4 (2014), in collaboration with Rosamond McKitterick, University of Cambridge; second, the volume ‘Walchen, Romani und Latini. Variationen einer nachrömischen Gruppenbezeichnung zwischen Britannien und dem Balkan’, edited by Walter Pohl, Ingrid Hartl, and Wolfgang Haubrichs, which was published in Vienna in 2017. It deals with the names given to Romans after the fall of the Roman Empire, and especially with the Germanic outside designation *walhoz, Walchen, Welsh, Vlachs, Walloons, which developed a remarkable dynamic until the present day. In addition, a companion volume to the present one on the Transformations of Romanness is in preparation, and will discuss the problems raised by the attribution of late antique/early medieval archaeological evidence to ‘Romans’ (or in German, Romanen).

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Walter Pohl, Clemens Gantner, Cinzia Grifoni and Marianne Pollheimer-Mohaupt, Vienna, August 2017