The region now known as Catalonia has a rich history. Many modern Catalan historians, as well as their colleagues from other areas from at least the nineteenth century have seen the Carolingian period, when the region was the Spanish March of the Frankish empire, as key in the development of the Catalan ‘nation’. Classic works in the historiography on the period make repeated claims about the cultural identity of locals as being important to their political actions. My presentation calls these claims into question and seeks to ground our understanding of the developments in the Carolingian Spanish March in the context of the early Middle Ages rather than in modern nationalist concerns.

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