The following contributions originate from a panel held in June 2018 at the First Convegno della Medievistica italiana at Bertinoro. It deals with four, somehow secondary, figures of the Carolingian expansion: William of Aquitaine, Gerold of Baviara, the Saxon Widukind and the Lombard king Adelchis. They were both winners and losers acting in different regions of the empire and for dissimilar reasons. The parallel analysis of their lives, through the difficult and contradictory evidence of the time, could enrich our understanding of the Carolingian conquest and its changing discourse.

Keywords:
- Carolingian Empire
- Carolingian Aristocracy
- Opposition to Charlemagne
- Early Medieval Narratives