

Listed here are the lectures and seminars on Late Antiquity taking place in Oxford between January and March 2012

The activities of the Oxford Centre for Late Antiquity are made possible by the generous support of John Beale, Peter Bell, Lewis Chester, Paul Pheby, and an anonymous donor through Trinity College

The details of all these events are also available on the OCLA web-site:

www.ocla.ox.ac.uk

Information correct as at 13 March 2012

Changes inevitably take place as term progresses, and there is a link to an updated version of this booklet here:

http://www.ocla.ox.ac.uk/home_eve.shtml

COLLOQUIUM

From *Polis* to *Madina*: New Research into Byzantine and Umayyad Urbanism in the Near East

Saturday 4 February 2012, Danson Room, Trinity College, Oxford



- 10.00 **Alan Walmsley** (University of Copenhagen), *Early Islamic Gerasa/Jerash: modelling a near eastern city in transformation*
- 10.50 **Louise Blanke** (University of Copenhagen), *Latrines, water supply and farming: new evidence for urban development in Jerash*
- 11.40–12.00 *Coffee/tea break*
- 12.00 **Fanny Bessard** (Institut français du Proche-Orient, Paris), *Economic efflorescence and social change in Jerash in the 7th–8th centuries CE*
- 12.50–14.00 *Lunch break*
- 14.00 **Elias Khamis** (Oxford University), *Scythopolis/Baysan: urbanism in transition*
- 14.50 **Katia Cytryn-Silverman** (Hebrew University, Jerusalem), *A Temple, a church and a mosque: Tiberias' religious centre from Roman through Islamic times*
- 15.40–16.00 *Coffee/tea break*
- 16.00 **Luke Treadwell** (Khalili Research Centre, Oxford), *The copper coinage of Syrian Umayyad cities: an overview of the state of the field*
- 16.50 **Hugh Kennedy** (SOAS), *Concluding Remarks*

At the end of day, a drink will be served for any who would like to remain and talk informally.

This colloquium is free, except for a £12 levy on the door (£7 students), for a sandwich lunch and the costs of coffee and tea. Space in the Danson Room is limited, so it is essential to register in advance by emailing <morgan.dirodi@history.ox.ac.uk>



SPECIAL LECTURE

(With the Seminar for Late Antique and Byzantine Studies)

Philip von Rummel

(German Archaeological Institute, Rome):

'The Fading Power of Images: Material culture and identity in late antiquity and the early middle ages'



The third-century Ludovisi sarcophagus

Tuesday 17 January 2012, at 5pm

Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies,
66 St Giles', University of Oxford

Dr von Rummel will also be talking, at 5pm on Thursday 19 January, at the Late Roman Seminar (in Corpus Christi College), on 'The Search for the Vandals in their North African Kingdom: Archaeological Perspectives'



Raising children in Late Antiquity

AFTERNOON COLLOQUIUM

Saturday 10 March 2012

Corpus Christi College,
MBI al-Jaber Auditorium

13:30–15:20

Laurence Brockliss (University of Oxford):
'The Historiography of Childhood'

Brigitte Pitarakis (Comité Français des Études Byzantines): *'"Moulding wax": The material culture of childhood in Late Antiquity and early medieval Byzantium'*

RESPONSE: **Arietta Papaconstantinou**

15:20: Tea/coffee

15:40–18:30

James Corke-Webster (University of Manchester): *'An unusual childhood: Origen's upbringing in Eusebius of Caesarea's Ecclesiastical History'*

Caroline Schroeder (University of the Pacific): *'Monks and their children: family and childhood in early Egyptian monasticism'*

RESPONSE: **Kate Cooper**

18:30: Drinks reception



The event is free but please register with Jenny Thompson: jenny.thompson@history.ox.ac.uk

The colloquium is organized by Jenny Thompson with the support of Paul Pheby

The Eighth Century: The end of Late Antiquity?

Colloquium: All Souls College, Oxford, 12 March 2012

MORNING SESSION – IBERIA AND THE WEST (Chairman: Robert Portass)

- 10:00 **Introduction**
Robert Portass (St. Hilda's College, Oxford)
- 10:15 **The 8th century AD: An Iberian solution for a Mediterranean problem**
Isaac Sastre (Wolfson College, Oxford – FECYT)
- 10:35 **The transformation of public architecture in the Iberian Peninsula, 7th–9th centuries AD**
Javier Martínez (Lincoln College, Oxford)
- 10:55 **Rereading the written record of eighth-century Iberia**
Graham Barrett (Balliol College, Oxford)
- 11:15 Discussion
- 11:40 *Coffee break*
- 12:00 **France in the 8th century AD**
Jo Story (Leicester)
- 12:25 **Sicily in the 8th century AD**
Emanuele Vaccaro (Cambridge)
- 12:50 Discussion
- 13:10 *Lunch*
- AFTERNOON SESSION – THE EAST
- 14:00 **North Africa in the 8th century AD**
Anna Leone (Durham)
- 14:25 **Egypt and Palestine in the 8th century AD**
D. Reynolds (Birmingham)
- 14:50 Discussion
- 15:10 *Coffee break*
- 15:30 **The missing archaeology of 8th-century Anatolia: Potential and limitations of circumstantial evidence**
Philipp Niewöhner (Oxford)
- 15:55 **Cyprus in the 8th century AD**
Pamela Armstrong (Oxford)
- 16:15 Discussion
- 16:30 **Final remarks**
Chris Wickham (All Souls College, Oxford)
Bryan Ward-Perkins (Trinity College, Oxford)

This colloquium is organized by Isaac Sastre and Javier Martínez. If you wish to attend, it is essential to register by emailing javier.martinez@arch.ox.ac.uk

Seminar on Jewish History and Literature in the Graeco-Roman Period

The following seminars will be held from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. on **TUESDAYS** in the Oriental Institute.

17 January 2012 (Week 1)

Professor Tessa Rajak (Oriental Institute and Somerville):

The synagogue paintings of Dura Europos: triumphalism and competition

24 January 2012 (Week 2)

Dr Holger Zellentin (Nottingham):

The Byzantine context of the Yerushalmi

31 January 2012 (Week 3)

Dr Dennis Mizzi (Malta):

Ritual purity at Qumran and in the Dead Sea Scrolls

7 February 2012 (Week 4)

Dr David Lincicum (Mansfield College):

Philo and the physiognomic tradition

14 February 2012 (Week 5)

Dr James Aitken (Cambridge):

The significance of Greek translations of non-canonical works

21 February 2012 (Week 6)

Dr Juha Pakkala (Helsinki):

Omissions in the textual transmission of the Hebrew Bible

28 February 2012 (Week 7)

Professor Tim Whitmarsh (Corpus Christi):

Adventures of the Solymoi

6 March 2012 (Week 8)

Dr Michael Law (Oriental Institute)

The many portraits of Solomon

Convener: Martin Goodman

Graduate seminar: The Qur'an and Late Antiquity

TUESDAYS, 5–6.30pm at the Oriental Institute, Pusey Lane

The seminar will provide a forum for exploring and reflecting on the relationship of the Qur'anic corpus to its wider Late Antique religious context. The first three sessions will provide an introductory survey of the state of Qur'anic studies and the Qur'an's historical context, while the remaining meetings will be devoted to thematic cross-sections and case studies, such as Qur'anic eschatology, monotheism and polytheism in the Qur'an, the Qur'an and Jewish Christianity, Abraham in the Qur'an, and Qur'anic law. Each session will involve an introductory presentation to be given by one of the conveners or a guest speaker, which will then be followed by a discussion of secondary readings (most of) which participants are expected have read beforehand (please contact one of the conveners for a detailed syllabus with bibliography). All primary sources will also be made available in English translation.

17 January 2012 (Week 1): **Guy Stroumsa** and **Nicolai Sinai**:

Introduction to the seminar; the state of Qur'anic studies

24 January 2012 (Week 2): **Robert Hoyland**:

The Middle East and Arabia in the sixth century

31 January 2012 (Week 3): **Guy Stroumsa**:

The religious scene: Christianity, Judaism, Manichaeism, Zoroastrianism

7 February 2012 (Week 4): **Emmanouela Grypeou** and **Nicolai Sinai**:

Eschatology in the Qur'an and before

14 February 2012 (Week 5): **Nicolai Sinai**:

Monotheism and the mushrikūn

21 February 2012 (Week 6): **Holger Zellentin** (Nottingham):

Jewish Christianity and the Qur'an

28 February 2012 (Week 7): **Emmanouela Grypeou** and **Nicolai Sinai**:

Abraham before and in the Qur'an

6 March 2012 (Week 8): **Guy Stroumsa** and **Nicolai Sinai**:

Qur'anic law

Conveners: Guy Stroumsa and Nicolai Sinai <nicolai_sinai@web.de>

Khalili Research Centre Graduate Seminar

New perspectives on Umayyad history and visual culture

Mondays, 2–3.30pm

Khalili Research Centre Lecture Room

16 January 2012 (Week 1)

Dr Bryan Ward-Perkins (Trinity College):

The End of a Civilisation? The post-Roman Arab Near East and the Germanic West compared

23 January 2012 (Week 2)

Dr Judith McKenzie:

Alexandria on the Barada? A Nilotic vessel in the Great Mosque of Damascus

30 January 2012 (Week 3)

Professor Robert Hoyland:

Umayyad epigraphy

6 February 2012 (Week 4)

Dr Arietta Papaconstantinou:

Documents from everyday life: the papyri of Egypt and Nessana

13 February 2012 (Week 5)

Dr Luke Treadwell:

Towards a grammar of Umayyad numismatic iconography

20 February 2012 (Week 6)

Trent Jonson :

Coinages on the Umayyad fringes – Maghrib and Mashriq

27 February 2012 (Week 7)

Dr Elias Khamis:

The small finds from Baysan/Scythopolis

5 March 2012 (Week 8)

Dr Arezou Azad:

Early Islamic administrative documents from Bactria

Convener: Luke Treadwell

Late Roman Seminar

THURSDAYS at 5pm
Seminar Room, Corpus Christi College

19 January 2012 (Week 1)

Philipp von Rummel (Rome):

The Search for the Vandals in their North African Kingdom: Archaeological Perspectives

26 January 2012 (Week 2)

Bernard Green (Oxford):

The aspirations of the See of Rome under Leo the Great

2 February 2012 (Week 3)

Andrew Marsham (Edinburgh):

Execution with fire in Late Antiquity and Early Islam

9 February 2012 (Week 4)

Melissa Markauskas (Manchester):

Crimen maiestatis at the Milanese Court: An underappreciated aspect of the 385–6 Basilica Controversy

16 February 2012 (Week 5)

Clare Coombe (Reading):

The Delights of Claudian

23 February 2012 (Week 6)

Camille Gerzaguét (Lyon):

The concept of fugo mundi in Ambrose of Milan

1 March 2012 (Week 7)

Eric Rebillard (Cornell):

Communal hostility and communal resistance in episodes of persecution in North Africa, 180–305

8 March 2012 (Week 8)

Sigrid Mratschek (Rostock):

Creating Identity from the Past. The literary construction of history in the Letters of Sidonius

Conveners: Conrad Leyser and Neil McLynn

Patristics Seminar

Patristic Exegesis of Pauline texts

WEDNESDAYS 4.30–6pm
Christ Church: Stair 8, Room 2

18 January 2012 (Week 1)

Matthew Twigg:

Valentinian texts

25 January 2012 (Week 2)

Ben Goldstein:

Marcion

1 February 2012 (Week 3)

Stan Rosenberg:

Ambrosiaster

8 February 2012 (Week 4)

Jennifer Strawbridge:

Reception of 1 Corinthians

15 February 2012 (Week 5)

Scott Carroll/Green Collection and Green Scholars Initiative:

Ad fontes: new papyri of Romans and other resources of interest from the earliest Christian centuries

22 February 2012 (Week 6)

Mark Edwards:

Origen and Pelagius

29 February 2012 (Week 7)

Ken Wilson

Augustine

7 March 2012 (Week 8)

Scott Ables:

John of Damascus

Conveners: Mark Edwards (Christ Church) and Stan Rosenberg (Wycliffe Hall)

Ancient History Seminar

The following seminar in this series, held on Tuesdays at 5pm at the Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies, deals with a late antique topic:

6 March (Week 8)

Luigi Prada (The Queen's College):

Demotic + Greek = Coptic? Bilingualism and bigraphism in Graeco-Roman and Late Antique Egypt

Dr Ildar Garipzanov (Centre for Medieval Studies, Bergen):

'The Rise of Graphicacy and Graphic Symbols of Authority in Early Medieval Europe (c.300–1000)'

Thursday 1 March 2012 at 5pm

Balliol College, Lecture Room 23

This lecture will serve as an introduction to a forthcoming five-year research project which aims to investigate non-figural graphic representational signs (christograms, monograms, and more) that lie in the border zone between literary documents and figural imagery. The use of such signs increased considerably in the Mediterranean world in late Antiquity and spread to the north in the early Middle Ages. The rise of 'graphicacy' was closely related to the evolving perceptions of religious and political authority in that period.

45th Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies

'Being in Between: Byzantium in the Eleventh Century'

Oxford, 24–26 March 2012

[Full details](#)

Late Antique and Byzantine Seminar

A weekly seminar will be held on **Tuesdays at 5 p.m.** – **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGED DAY and VENUE** – in the New Seminar Room in St John's College (except for Weeks 1 and 2)

17 January (Week 1)

Philipp von Rummel (German Archaeological Institute, Rome):

OCLA Special Lecture: *The Fading Power of Images: Material culture and identity in late antiquity and the early middle ages*

Different venue: Ioannou Centre for Classical & Byzantine Studies

24 January (Week 2)

Peter Frankopan (Worcester College):

OCBR SPECIAL LECTURE: *The First Crusade: The Call from the East*

Different room: The Auditorium, St John's College

31 January (Week 3)

Andrew Marsham (University of Edinburgh):

God's Caliph Revisited: Authority in the Umayyad Caliphate

7 February (Week 4)

Philipp Niewoehner (Institute of Archaeology):

Kirse Yanı. A house in rural Caria and the transformation of residential Architecture in late Late Antiquity

14 February (Week 5)

Dimitri Korobeinikov (Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow):

Sultan and Emperor: Means and ends of diplomatic rapprochement between Byzantium and the Seljuks (11th–14th centuries)

21 February (Week 6)

Catherine Holmes (University College):

Political loyalties in the late medieval eastern Mediterranean

28 February (Week 7)

Peter Sarris (Trinity College, Cambridge):

The Economics of Salvation in Late Antiquity and Byzantium

6 March (Week 8)

Federico Montinaro (Paris):

Business as usual? The seals of kommerkiarioi and the Dark Age of Byzantium

Convener: Mark Whittow

Late Antique and Byzantine Art and Archaeology Seminar: 'Water Networks: seas, rivers, islands, aqueduct, hagiaσμα'

THURSDAYS (note change of day) of Weeks 1–7, 11am–12.30pm
St John's College, New Seminar Room

19 January 2012 (Week 1)

Alkiviadis Ginalis (Merton College):

Port hierarchy in central Greece: the coastal structures of Skiathos, an important junction of Aegean trading routes

26 January 2012 (Week 2)

Dr Philipp Niewöhner (Classics):

The hagiaσμα of St. Michael at Germia and its vicinity. Settlement continuity and discontinuity on the central Anatolian high plateau

2 February 2012 (Week 3)

Marlena Whiting (Lincoln College):

A river runs through it: the role of the Euphrates, Tigris and Orontes in transport and communication in Late Antiquity

9 February 2012 (Week 4)

Riley Snyder (Edinburgh):

The environment and the monumental: the impact of sourcing building materials for the construction of the water supply of Constantinople

16 February 2012 (Week 5)

Professor Jim Crow (Edinburgh):

Byzantine Naxos: How art can inform medieval landscape studies

23 February 2012 (Week 6)

Natalija Ristovska (Exeter College):

Byzantine crafted goods in the context of overseas artistic and commercial interchange: the cases of inlaid brass doors in Italy and painted glass in Rus' (10th–13th centuries)

1 March 2012 (Week 7)

Dr Archie Dunn (Birmingham):

Rivers and wetlands in the economic calculations of the state, the city, the landowner and the farmer

Convener: Dr Marlia Mango (St John's College)

Oxford Byzantine Society, Annual Conference 2012 Reality and Illusion: Seeing through the 'Byzantine Mirage'

Friday 17 and Saturday 18 February 2011

History Faculty, George Street

Over 50 graduates from international and UK institutions will give papers on their Late Antique or Byzantine research over two days.

The price will be £10 on the door for both days, which will include lunch, teas and coffees, and drinks to round the event off at the end of Saturday's proceedings.

Because of limited space it will be essential to register beforehand. Registration and full details of the programme of presentations will be available shortly on the OBS website: <http://oxfordbyzantinesociety.wordpress.com/>

45th Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies 'Being in Between: Byzantium in the Eleventh Century'

Oxford, 24–26 March 2012

[Full details](#)

Medieval Archaeology Seminar

MONDAYS in Weeks 2, 4, 6, and 8 at 3pm
Institute of Archaeology Lecture Room

Week 2 (23 January)

Maureen Mellor:

The archaeology of stuff: Scorched interiors from mid-Saxon to late medieval

Week 4 (6 February)

Eleanor Standley:

*Dress accessories and their role in everyday life in two regions of Britain,
c.AD 1300–1700*

Week 6 (20 February)

Chris Fern:

The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Tranmere House (Sutton Hoo)

Week 8 (5 March)

Isaac Sastre-de Diego:

Early Spanish churches through their liturgical sculpture

Conveners: L. Abrams/ H. Hamerow

Medieval Visual Culture Seminar

Fridays of Weeks 2, 4, and 6 at 1 pm
St Catherine's College

27 January (Week 2)

Leslie Brubaker:

Unrolling the narrative of gender: matronage and scrolls in late Byzantium

10 February (Week 4)

Anthi Papagiannaki (University of Birmingham):

*The world cast in deep relief: medieval Byzantine ivory and bone secular
caskets reconsidered*

24 February (Week 6)

Anthony Cutler:

Open Discussion – Techniques of ivory production and other medieval arts

Conveners: Milena Grabacic and Gervase Rosser

Slade Lectures 2012

Anthony Cutler

(Evan Pugh Professor of Art History,
The Pennsylvania State University):

The Empire of Things: Gifts and Gift Exchange in Byzantium, Early Islam, and Beyond

Wednesdays at 5pm

University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road

18 January (Week 1)

The Perfect Gift

25 January (Week 2)

Gifts to (and from) God

1 February (Week 3)

The Sovereign Gift

8 February (Week 4)

The Objects of Gift (1)

15 February (Week 5)

The Objects of Gift (2)

22 February (Week 6)

Gifts, Treasures, Rarities

29 February (Week 7)

The Afterlives of Gifts: Entropy and Rebranding

7 March (Week 8)

Gifts in Theory, Gifts in Practice

Late Antique and Byzantine Reading Group

This informal group of postgraduates and early career researchers
will meet in Hilary Term 2012 on

Friday of 2nd, 4th, 6th, and 8th Week at 5–6.30pm
in the Sainsbury Common Room, Worcester College.

For more details, email Edward Zychowicz-Coghill:
edward.coghill@history.ox.ac.uk

Late Antique Latin Poetry: Reading and discussion group

Anyone interested in joining this group is very welcome to
attend, or to email Jesús Hernández Lobato in advance:

jesus.hernandezlobato@classics.ox.ac.uk

Islamic History Reading Group

Anyone interested in joining this group
should email Joshua Olsson

<joshua.olsson@lmh.ox.ac.uk>