

**Workshop on the Treatise  
Concerning the Iconoclasts  
by Vrt'anēs Kertol (7<sup>th</sup> century)**

**Friday 30 and Saturday 31 October 2015**

*Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the  
Calouste Gulbenkian Professorship in Armenian Studies  
at Pembroke College, University of Oxford*

Listed here are the lectures and seminars  
on Late Antiquity taking place in Oxford  
between October and December 2015

*The activities of the Oxford Centre for Late Antiquity are  
made possible by the generosity of donors to the Centre*

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

**[www.ocla.ox.ac.uk](http://www.ocla.ox.ac.uk)**

*As at 24 November 2015*

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

[http://www.ocla.ox.ac.uk/home\\_eve.shtml](http://www.ocla.ox.ac.uk/home_eve.shtml)

**FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER**

15:15 OPENING, Harold Lee Room:  
**Thomas Mathews** and **Theo Maarten van Lint**

15:30–17:00 SESSION 1 (Chair: **Thomas F. Mathews**)

**Jaś Elsner:**

*Paganism, Iranian Idols and the Beneficence of Matter:  
Vrt'anēs K'ert'ol's Riposte to the Iconoclasts*

**Averil Cameron:**

*Vrt'tanes and the Byzantine Greek context*

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17:00–17:30 Tea/coffee break

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17:30 SESSION 2 (Chair: Theo Maarten van Lint)

**Pichette Auditorium Public Lecture**

**Elizabeth Bolman:**

*Doctrine and the Economy of Salvation at the Red Monastery*

**SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER** (Harold Lee Room)

09:30–10:50 SESSION 3 (Chair: **Robert Thomson**)

**Christina Maranci:**

*Is Vrt'anēs K'ert'ol the Author of Yalags  
Patkeramartic [Concerning the Iconoclasts]? Some Observations  
on the Historical and Manuscript Evidence*

**Robin Meyer:** *Dating Vrt'anēs' text*

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10:50–11:10 Coffee/tea break

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11:10–12:30 SESSION 4: Chair: Jaś Elsner

**Thomas Mathews:**

*The liturgical context of Vrt'anēs Kertol's text*

**Richard Price:**

*Armenian and Greek defences of icon veneration in the seventh century: a comparison*

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12:30–14:00 Lunch

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14:00–15:20 SESSION 5: Chair: **Emilio Bonfiglio**

**Andrew Louth:**

*John of Damascus' connections with Vrt'anēs*

**James Russell:**

*The Elephant in the Room: Dawt'ak the Rhetor's Gift List*  
(read in absentia by Theo van Lint)

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15:20–15:40 Tea/coffee break

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15:40–17:00 SESSION 6 (Chair: Andrew Louth)

**Zarouhi Hakobyan:**

*Seventh-century Armenian art: the immediate context*

**Theo van Lint:**

*Ezekiel's Throne Vision: Vrt'anēs Kert'ol and Armenian Reception*

17:10–18:00 SESSION 7

General discussion and closure

## Late Antique and Byzantine Seminar

**WEDNESDAYS** at 5pm in Michaelmas Term 2015

in the Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies, 66 St Giles'

14 October (Week 1)

**Jonathan Harris** (Royal Holloway, London):

*Byzantine refugees as crusade propagandists: The travels of Nicholas Agallon, 1454–5*

21 October (Week 2)

**David Potter** (University of Michigan):

*John of Cappadocia and the 'Gift from God'*

28 October (Week 3)

**Vered Shalev** (Wolfson):

*Byzantine Concentric Churches of Jerusalem and their Impact on Palestine and Beyond*

4 November (Week 4)

**Marlia Mango** (St John's):

*Androna and the Late Antique Cities of Oriens*

11 November (Week 5)

**Anthony Kaldellis** (Ohio State University):

*Lessons from a New History of Byzantium, 955–1097 AD*

18 November (Week 6)

**Adrastos Omissi** (Oriel)

*How Constantinople stopped its emperors going the way of the fifth-century West*

25 November (Week 7)

**Florin Curta** (University of Florida):

*The Vlachs in the French chronicles, Constantinople, and the echo chamber*

2 December (Week 8)

**Edward Zychowicz-Coghill** (Worcester):

*Between Conquest and History: Arabic Memory of the Fall of Byzantine Egypt*

Conveners: Marc Lauxtermann and Mark Whittow

## Late Antique and Byzantine Archaeology and Art Seminar

THURSDAYS at 11am–12:30pm in Michaelmas Term 2015,  
St. John's College, New Seminar Room (weeks 2–7);  
\*North Lecture Room (weeks 1 and 8)

\*15 October (Week 1)

**Beatrice Leal** (East Anglia University):  
*A reconsideration of the Madaba map*

22 October (Week 2)

**Georgi Parpulov**:  
*The origins of flower-petal ornament*

29 October (Week 3)

**Hugh Jeffreys**:  
*The triconch church and cemetery at Aphrodisias, c. AD 500–1300*

5 November (Week 4)

**John Mitchell** (East Anglia University):  
*Points of Station and Passage: screens, veils and interfaces*

12 November (Week 5)

**Fraser Reed** (Edinburgh):  
*Gate complexes as indicators of urban character in late antique Thrace*

19 November (Week 6)

**Georges Kazan** and **Jamie Cameron**:  
*Faith, Fact and Forensics: new research in the study of ancient relics*

26 November (Week 7)

**Andrea Zerbini**:  
*Mapping agrarian infrastructure in northern Jordan: the Productive Landscapes Project*

\* 3 December (Week 8)

**Robert Bewley**:  
*Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa: mission impossible?*

Conveners: Ine Jacobs and Marlia Mango

## Late Roman Seminar

THURSDAYS at 5pm in Michaelmas Term 2015  
Seminar Room, Corpus Christi College

15 October (Week 1)

**Ian Fielding** (Oxford):  
*Rutilius Namatianus and the metamorphoses of the late Roman world*

22 October (Week 2)

**Neil McLynn** (Oxford):  
*Mesopotamian mayhem: Julian's Persian expedition reconsidered*

29 October (Week 3)

**Sabine Fialon** (Université de Montpellier):  
*History, hagiography and narrative: the case of North Africa*

5 November (Week 4)

**George Woudhuysen** and **Justin Stover** (Oxford):  
*The lost Historia of Sextus Aurelius Victor*

12 November (Week 5)

**Matthieu Pignot** (Oxford):  
*Questioning Christian baptism: insights from Augustine's correspondence*

19 November (Week 6)

**Aleksander Paradzinski** (Oxford):  
*Elite barbarian women in the ideology and social practice of the later Roman empire*

26 November (Week 7)

**Adrastos Omissi** (Oxford):  
*All Roman emperors were usurpers: endemic usurpation in the Roman world 27 BC – c.500 AD*

3 December (Week 8)

**Hartmut Leppin** (Goethe- Universität, Frankfurt):  
*John of Ephesus' image of the Roman empire*

Conveners: Neil McLynn and Bryan Ward-Perkins

## Roman Discussion Forum

**WEDNESDAYS** at 1 pm in Michaelmas Term 2015  
Institute of Archaeology, Beaumont Street, Lecture Room

14 October (Week 1)

**Dr Silvia Valenzuela-Lamas** (University of Sheffield):  
*How Romans improved the productivity of animal husbandry: evidence from ancient Western Europe using stable isotopes and faunal remains*

21 October (Week 2)

**Dr Miko Flohr** (Universiteit Leiden):  
*Towards an economic geography of consumption in the Roman World?*

28 October (Week 3)

**Dr Tomasz Waliszewski** (Instytut Archeologii, University of Warsaw):  
*Olive oil production in Roman and late Roman Jordan*

4 November (Week 4)

**Dr Maria Carmela Gatto** (University of Leicester):  
*The Southwestern Fazzan in Garamantian times: new evidence from the Italian work in the Wadi Tanzzuft and the Tadrart Akakus*

11 November (Week 5)

**Professor Andrew Wilson** (University of Oxford):  
*Roman exploitation of water power: chronological trends and geographical spread*

18 November (Week 6)

**Dr Sabrina Marlier** (Musée départemental Arles antique):  
*The Arles-Rhône 3 shipwreck project, from the river to the museum*

25 November (Week 7)

**Dr Emma Cunliffe** (University of Oxford):  
*Endangered Archaeology: the Past, Present and Future of the Middle East*

2 December (Week 8)

**Professor Jean-Pierre Brun** (Collège de France):  
*Gold mining in the Eastern desert of Egypt from Ptolemy I to the Ummayyad period*

Organisers: Andrew Wilson, Jelena Jaric, and Maggie Burr, with the support of the Faculty of Classics, the School of Archaeology, and All Souls College

## The Cult of Saints in the First Millennium

**TUESDAYS** at 5.30–7.00 pm in Weeks 2, 4, 6, and 8 of Michaelmas Term 2015  
Radcliffe Humanities Building (please check below for the rooms)

20 October (Week 2), in the Seminar Room (3rd floor)

**Efthymios Rizos** (Linacre College):  
*Saints from the Latin East: the memory of north Illyricum in Greek hagiography*

3 November (Week 4), in the Colin Matthew Room (Ground floor)

**Lucy Parker** (Lincoln College):  
*Sanctity and society in sixth-century Antioch: the cult of Symeon Stylites the Younger*

17 November (Week 6) in the Colin Matthew Room (Ground floor)

**Elena Ene D-Vasilescu** (Wolfson College):  
*Saint Anne. Another heavenly wife*

1 December (Week 8) in the Seminar Room (3rd floor)

**David Lambert** (The Cult of Saints Project):  
*Lupus of Troyes and his Vita*

Convener: Efthymios Rizos

## Classical Archaeology: Bodies and Burial in Roman Asia

**MONDAYS** at 5pm in Michaelmas Term 2015  
Ioannou Lecture Theatre

The following seminar is relevant to Late Antiquity:

9 November (Week 5)

**Dr Jennie Bradbury** (University of Oxford):  
*Burial or ruins? The Homs Cairns, Syria during the Roman-Islamic period*

Conveners: Lucy Audley-Miller, Jane Masséglia, R. R. R. Smith

## Medieval Archaeology Seminar

MONDAYS at 3pm in Weeks 2, 4, 6, and 8 in Michaelmas Term 2015  
Institute of Archaeology Lecture Room

19 October (Week 2)

**Adrián Maldonado:**

*Rethinking the Archaeology of Early Medieval Iona*

2 November (Week 4)

**Florin Curta**

*Trade and settlement in al-Andalus and Volga Bulgaria (10th-11th cc.):  
a comparative approach*

16 November (Week 6)

**Dirk Rieger:**

*Conceptualization of urban space: housing in production-sites, emporia and  
consumer-towns in 11th- & 12th-century Lübeck*

30 November (Week 8)

**Abi Tompkins:**

*Exploring evidence for a Frontier Zone in the Avon Valley, 5th-7th centuries*

Conveners: L. Abrams and H. Hamerow

## Medieval Seminar

MONDAYS at 5pm in Michaelmas Term 2015  
in the Wharton Room, All Souls College.

The following seminar is relevant to Late Antiquity:

2 November (Week 4)

**Sarah Foot** (Christ Church):

*Bede: the problem*

Conveners: Chris Wickham and Mark Whittow

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

TUESDAYS, 2.30-4 pm in Michaelmas Term 2015  
Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Clarendon Institute,  
Walton Street

The following five seminars in this series are relevant to Late Antiquity:

13 October (Week 1)

**Maria Cioatǎ** (Manchester):

*Moses Gaster, Hebrew Tobit and folklore*

20 October (Week 2)

**Holger Zellentin** (Nottingham):

*Self-criticism within talmudic legal reasoning*

27 October (Week 3)

**George Carras** (Washington and Lee):

*Rabbinic echoes in Josephus' summary of the Jewish law*

17 November (Week 6)

**Yuval Shahar** (Tel Aviv):

*Roman emperors in talmudic literature*

24 November (Week 7)

**Susan Weingarten** (Tel Aviv):

*Food in the Palestinian and Babylonian Talmuds*

Convener: Martin Goodman

## Lunchtime Seminar in Jewish Studies

**Dov Yehuda Weiss** (Chicago):

*Sins of the Parents in Rabbinic and Patristic Literature*

**Thursday 26 November 2015**, 1-2pm

at OCHJS, Clarendon Institute, Walton Street

**Lecture by Professor Andrew Wilson:**  
*From Roman palm grove to medieval village:  
digging the South Agora at Aphrodisias*

**Wednesday 25 November** (Week 7)  
Institute of Archaeology Lecture Room at 5pm

This lecture on excavations at Aphrodisias will discuss late-antique restorations and transformations of the 'South Agora'.

**Syme Lecture**

**Thursday 12 November 2015 at 6pm**  
Leonard Wolfson Auditorium (Wolfson College)

**Roger Bagnall:**  
*The Council and the Clerk*

The lecture is based primarily on 4th-century Egyptian oasis material.

**Barbaric Splendour:  
The Use of Image Before and After Rome**

An archaeology conference hosted by the University of Oxford,  
exploring comparative approaches to visual culture  
between the late Iron Age and Early Medieval periods

**Saturday 14 November 2015**

Speakers include:  
Charlotte Behr, Chris Fern, Anna Gannon, Melanie Giles,  
Chris Gosden, Jody Joy, Siv Kristoffersen,  
Laurent Olivier and Leslie Webster.

Registration is now open, and closes on **31 October 2015**

More information is available at <https://barbaricsplendour.wordpress.com/>

**Special Lecture by R. R. R. Smith:  
Aphrodisias in Caria: Recent work, new finds**

Mon 23 November 2015 (7th week) at 5.00 pm  
in the Ioannou Centre, 66 St Giles'

This illustrated talk will report on recent excavation and research  
at the site and on some important new finds from the 2015 season.