

OCLA

OXFORD CENTRE FOR LATE ANTIQUITY



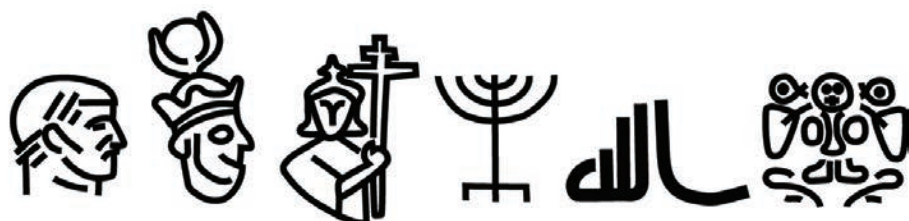
Listed here are the lectures, seminars and events on
Late Antiquity
in Oxford

Trinity term
2023-2024
(April - June)

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

<https://ocla.web.ox.ac.uk>

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



El Born Centre de Cultura i Memòria, Barcelona, Spain.
Photo: Vendi Jukić Buča (2024).





Preface

Dear All,

I am pleased to greet you again at the beginning of the new, and this year's final, Trinity term. The academic year is quickly coming to an end, but there are many seminars and events that will escort to end it in style.

There were some technical issues, so the design of this booklet had to be improvised. It, however, contains all the relevant information about the planned activities. If you have any questions about them, please contact the organisers directly to receive the quickest response and most accurate answers.

We are regularly publishing relevant news on OCLA's Facebook page, so do like and follow not to miss out on exciting opportunities and wider events. If you learn of other relevant events which might be of interest to members, don't hesitate to email us at ocla@history.ox.ac.uk.

Wishing you an interesting and engaging Trinity term,
Vendi



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Impressum

Director
Phil Booth

OCLA site administrators and content editor
Vendi Jukić Buča

Booklet design and typesetting
Vendi Jukić Buča

Contact us

If you would like to inform us about the events in your organisation, or wish to be sent occasional emails detailing forthcoming events in Oxford, please email Vendi Jukić Buča to ocla@history.ox.ac.uk.

Oxford, April 2024.

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Lectures and Events



Image: Frank Stella, Takht-i-Sulayman I, Menil Collection

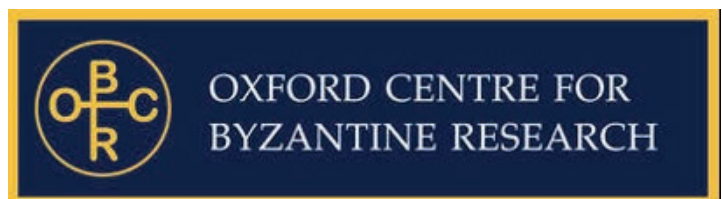
The After Rome and Further East Seminar presents a special lecture:

Orienting the Global First Millennium:
Iranosphere Perspectives

Professor Garth Fowden (University of Cambridge)

Trinity College | Levine Building Auditorium
Thursday, April 25, 2024 (Week 1)
5 pm | Reception to follow

Co-sponsored by The Bahari Fund for Sasanian Studies, The Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research,
and The Oxford Centre for Late Antiquity



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Lectures and Events



Alamut Valley, Alborz Mountains, Northern Iran (Wikimedia)

Mountains and the Historian

A workshop at the University of Oxford

May 30-31, 2024

Organized by Christian Sahner (Oxford) and Molly Greene (Princeton)

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With generous support from The Ludwig Fund of New College, The Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research, and The Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Registration required to attend; please contact christian.sahner@ames.ox.ac.uk

Overview:

The purpose of this workshop is to convene a diverse group of scholars working on mountains in different areas and periods. The goal is to present past or ongoing research as well as to learn from one another by comparing and contrasting different mountainous regions and peoples across time. The workshop is open to many different approaches, but some of the questions we hope to investigate include:

- o To what extent are mountain societies structured differently or similarly to those commonly found in lowlands?
 - o What kinds of polities often formed in mountainous environments?
- o To what extent did empires face difficulty in imposing their authority on mountains?
- o Why do mountains often have distinctive ethnic, linguistic, and religious profiles?

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Lectures and Events

- o What sources-written, archaeological, or otherwise-exist for studying mountains and their human populations?
 - o How are mountains represented in literature, art, and other forms of culture?
- o What characterized the economy of mountains and what natural resources were available for human exploitation?
 - o What was the relationship between sedentary and nomadic populations in mountains?
 - o What different forms of mobility connected mountains with lowlands?
- o How does the history of mountains compare to the history of other ecologically 'marginal' regions, including deserts, river deltas, and polar areas?
- o How have modern historians typically researched mountains, and is there room for the development of a subfield of historical 'mountain studies'?

Day 1 (May 30)

Location: Colin Matthew Room, Ground Floor, Radcliffe Humanities Building, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6GG

09:30-09:45:

Introduction

09:45-10:45:

Jason König (University of St Andrews, UK)

'Mountain Peoples and Mountain Environments in Classical Antiquity and Beyond'

10:45-11:45:

Christian Sahner (University of Oxford, UK)

'Mountains, "Heterodoxy", and Missionaries: The Case of North Africa, Syria, and Iran during the Early Middle Ages'

11:45-12:00:

Coffee

12:00-13:00:

Katharina Winckler (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria)

'Foreigners and Locals: The Control of Transport Routes and Territories in the Early Medieval Alps'

13:00-14:30:

Lunch

14:30-15:30:

Joshua Wright (University of Aberdeen, UK)

'Archaeology in High Asia: Mobility, Transhumance, and Urbanism'

15:30-15:45:

Coffee

15:45-16:45:

Mihailo Popović (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria)

'Terrifying Aspects of Mountains and their Wilderness in the Medieval Balkans and How to Overcome Them'

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Lectures and Events

Day 2 (May 31)

Location: Seminar Room, Third Floor, Radcliffe Humanities Building, Woodstock Road, Oxford,
OX2 6GG

09:30-10:30:

Molly Greene (Princeton University, USA)

‘Who Was Where? The Mountains, the Plains and the Transition to Ottoman Rule in Thessaly’

10:30-11:30:

Alebachew Belay (Debre Berhan University, Ethiopia)

‘Pagan and Christian Landscapes in the Central Highlands of Ethiopia (c. 6th to 19th c. CE): An
Archaeological and Historical Overview’

11:30-11:45:

Coffee

11:45-12:45:

Stephanie Joy Mawson (University of Lisbon, Portugal)

‘The Freedom of the Mountains: Zones of Refuge and Philippines Ethnohistory, 1565-1750’

12:45-14:15:

Lunch

14:15-15:15:

Jeremy Mumford (Brown University, USA)

‘Mountains and Bodies in the Andes: From Apu to Genome’

15:15-15:30:

Coffee

15:30-16:30:

Katherine Ledford (Appalachian State University, USA)

‘A landscape that resembles us : Some Challenges of Compiling an Anthology of Mountain
Literature’

16:30-17:00 Conclusion

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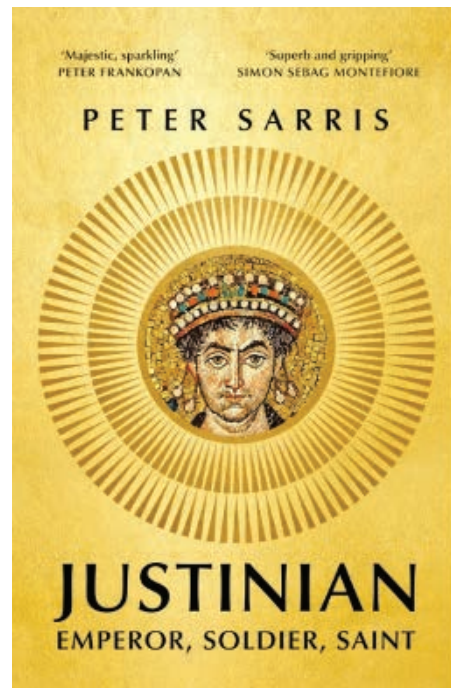


Lectures and Events

THE OXFORD CENTRE FOR BYZANTINE RESEARCH

In collaboration with The After Rome and Further East Seminar

Kindly invites you to the OCBR Annual Lecture for 2024



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Professor Peter Sarris

(University of Cambridge)

JUSTINIAN BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

Trinity College | Levine Building Auditorium

Thursday, June 13, 2024 (Week 8)

5 pm | Reception to follow



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Lectures and Events

The Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies presents:



Dinar struck in Damascus in 77/697 AH

Coin Legends and Protocol Texts in the 70s/690s:
Emblematic Identity and Monetization of
Exchange in the Umayyad State

Luke Treadwell (AMES/ St Cross)
AMES Faculty Building, 1 Pusey Lane
Lecture Room 1
Friday, May 3, 2024 (Week 2) | 4:30 pm

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Abd al-Malik's reforms have become a hot topic of debate over the last two decades. The papyrologists' insistence on granular history has punctured the grand narrative of abrupt state-wide transformation, while historians have pointed out that Muawiya's contribution to state formation was more substantial than current views of Abd al-Malik's post-*fitna* changes allow. Agency is the missing link in the ongoing conversation. We often talk of 'Abd al-Malik's coinage reforms as if the caliph was personally responsible for planning and implementation on a grand scale. A focus on the role of the Marwanid chancery allows us to glimpse overlooked connections between chancery formularies (in the form of protocol texts) and the legends on the new aniconic coinage. This leads us to the view that it was the scribal class who took control of the institutions of state after the *fitna*. They crafted a set of texts across media that served as the new emblem of the Umayyad state and opened the way towards rapid monetization of exchange which enabled the caliphal administration to monitor, raise and distribute funds effectively.

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Lectures and Events

From Sicily to Sumatra:

Conference in Honour of Professor Jeremy Johns

Friday 17 May – Saturday 18 May 2024

Leonard Wolfson Auditorium, Wolfson College, University of Oxford

Friday 17 May

10:00 *Tea, coffee, and biscuits in the Buttery*
10:30 Introduction

Panel 1: Early Islamic architecture
(Chair: Julian Raby)

10:45 **'A Sky without Columns': Visualizing the Architecture of the Cosmos and Supral Topography in Early Muslim Tradition**
Lev Arie Kapitaikin | Tel Aviv University
11:30 **The Concept of Mosque Adjacencies or the *Ziyāda* Two Ways**
Ruba Kana'an | University of Toronto

12:15 *Sandwich lunch in the Buttery*

Panel 2: Early Islamic crafts and artefacts
(Chair: Alain George)

14:15 **A Craft-Centred Approach to the Study of Early Islamic Woodwork**
Marcus Milwright | University of Victoria / University of York
15:00 **The 1910 exhibition *Meisterwerke Muhammedanischer Kunst* and eleven tombstones from 9th-century Egypt**
Teresa Bernheimer | LMU (Munich)

15:45 *Tea, Coffee, and Cake in the Buttery*

Panel 3: Architecture in Europe, North and South (Chair: James Allan)

16:15 **Elephant Tusks and Hanging Horns**
Mariam Rosser-Owen | V&A (London)
17:00 **Hidden Legal Iconography on the Portal of St. Stephen, Paris**
Elvira Miceli | University of Oxford

17:45 **Speech by Prof. Nasser David Khalili, founder of the Khalili Research Centre**

18:30 *House Prosecco in the Haldane Room*

Saturday 18 May

10:00 *Tea, coffee, and biscuits in the Buttery*

Panel 4: Material Culture and Society in the Maghrib
(Chair: Zeynep Yürekli)

10:30 **Multicultural Mediterranean Merchants: Mallorcan Judeo-Arabic in the Ledgers of the Fondo Datini**
Joseph O'Hara | University of Oxford
11:15 **From al-Andalus to Tunis to Spain (and back): Ways of Manuscript Circulation in the 15th- and 16th-century Mediterranean**
Laura Hinrichsen | Independent scholar
12:00 **The Qarawiyyin Mosque and Its Revivals: Moroccan Design in Colonial and Post-Colonial Encounters**
Péter Nagy | Qatar Museums

12:45 *Sandwich lunch in the Buttery*

Panel 5: The Deccan and Southeast Asia
(Chair: Umberto Bongianino)

14:30 **Fate and Faith: An Unsuspected Patron of Painting in the Deccan**
Julian Raby | Smithsonian Institution
15:15 **The Problem of Legibility: Religious Reformism and Devotional Practices in 17th-century Maritime Southeast Asia**
Jessica Rahardjo | University of Oxford

16:00 *Tea, coffee, and cake in the Buttery*

Registration deadline: 5 May 2024. Tickets include lunch and refreshments on both days. For further details and to purchase tickets, please scan the QR code below or visit <https://tinyurl.com/nhdkwuv>

Early-bird rate (until 25 April): £25 (students: £15)
Full rate: £30 (students: £20).



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Lectures and Events

OXFORD SYRIAC LUNCH SEMINAR

APR. 24 JOHAN LUNDBERG (OXFORD) THE SYRIAC DOTS: ORAL READING TRADITIONS RECORDED IN INK

MAY. 1 ALESSIA ZUBANI (OXFORD) BRIDGING KNOWLEDGE: CHRISTIAN CLERGYMEN AND THE TRANSMISSION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BETWEEN MEDIEVAL IRAN, CENTRAL ASIA, AND CHINA / **BENJAMIN SHARKEY** (OXFORD) A SYRIAC SCHOOL IN MONGOL KYRGYZSTAN

MAY. 8 YA'EL NU'EMAH-KREMER (OXFORD) HAGIOGRAPHY AT A CROSSROAD: A DISCOURSIIVE READING OF JACOB OF SERUGH'S *ON THE HOLY MACCABBEES*

MAY. 15 SIAM BHAYRO (EXETER) SYRIAC MEDICINE AND MAGIC: PAST PROBLEMS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

12:15–1:30, WEDNESDAYS,
WEEKS 1–4 TRINITY 2024

LECTURE ROOM, CAMPION HALL
BREWER STREET

PARTICIPATION IS OPEN TO GRADUATE STUDENTS AND POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS FROM ALL ACADEMIC FIELDS AND IS BY INVITATION.

THOSE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING ARE KINDLY ASKED TO CONTACT KATHERINE PAINTER (KATHERINE.PAINTER@BFRIARS.OX.AC.UK) BY THE SUNDAY PRIOR TO THE DATE(S) THEY WISH TO ATTEND SO THAT COMPLEMENTARY LUNCH CAN BE PROVIDED.

THIS SEMINAR IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GENEROUS SPONSORSHIP OF CAMPION HALL AND THE DOLABANI FUND FOR SYRIAC STUDIES

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Lectures and Events



Invisible
East

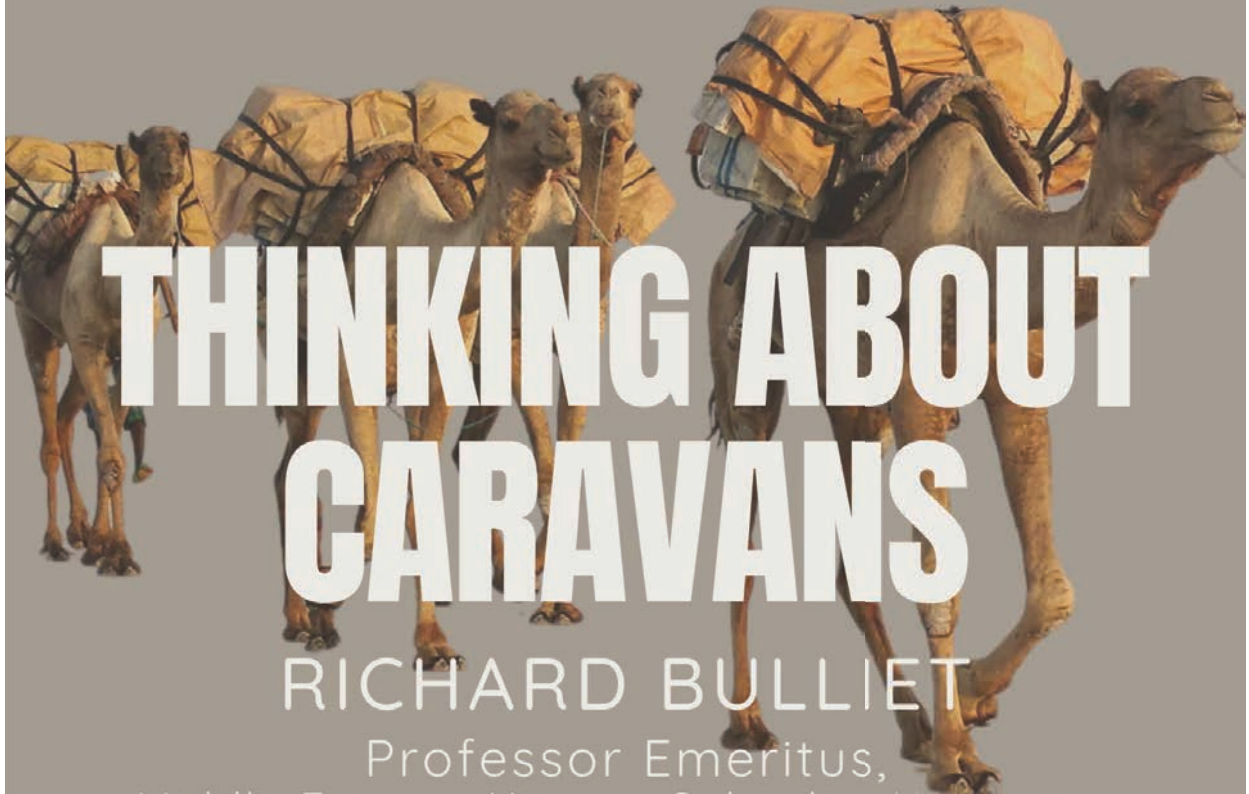


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Arts & Humanities
Research Council



THINKING ABOUT CARAVANS

RICHARD BULLIET

Professor Emeritus,
Middle Eastern History Columbia University

Friday, 10 May 2024, 5:30PM

Lecture Theatre,
Wolfson College,
Linton Road, Oxford, OX2 6UD

Convenors:

Dr Arezou Azad,
Prof Alain George,
Dr Christian Sahner

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Lectures and Events



Byzantine house, Paris 1889
Exposition universelle ©
Gallica – BnF

22 May 2024, 5:15 pm, Corpus Christi College, The Auditorium

Speakers

Maximilien Durand

Director of the Department of Byzantine and Eastern Christian Art at the Louvre Museum

Jannic Durand

Emeritus Director of the Department of Works of Art at the Louvre Museum

Creating the Louvre's New Department of Byzantine and Eastern Christian Art: Issues and Challenges in a Turbulent World

Discussant

Frédérique Duyrat

Director of Collections at the Ashmolean Museum

Convener

Olivier Delouis

Research Fellow in Byzantine Studies, Maison française d'Oxford & Campion Hall

A wine reception will follow

An Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research Special Lecture

A special Late Antique and Byzantine Seminar convened by Ine Jacobs (University College) and Ida Toth (Wolfson College)

With the support of All Souls, the Maison française d'Oxford, and the Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research

Contact: olivier.delouis@campion.ox.ac.uk

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Lectures and Events

2024 Zernov Lecture

Dr Sebastian Brock FBA
(University of Oxford)

'The Ecumenical Journey of the Writings of St Isaac the Syrian'

Introduced by David G.K. Taylor (Associate Professor in Aramaic and Syriac, Wolfson College, Oxford)

Tuesday 14 May at 5 p.m., Maison française d'Oxford, 2-10 Norham Road, OX2 6SE

Sebastian Brock is a leading authority in the field of Syriac studies which he taught for many years in the University of Oxford, where he remains Emeritus (<https://www.ames.ox.ac.uk/people/sebastian-p-brock>), and Fellow of the British Academy. He is widely recognised for his important work translating Syriac texts, especially those of 4th to 7th centuries, and making better known the mediating role of textual translation in late Antiquity, especially the cultural interface between Syriac and Greek. Among his many publications are *The Luminous Eye: The Spiritual World Vision of St Ephrem* (1985), *The Wisdom of Isaac of Nineveh [Syriac-English]* (Piscataway NJ, 2006), *A Brief Outline of Syriac Literature* (2nd edition 2011); *The Bible in the Syriac Tradition* (3rd edition 2023); *An Inventory of Syriac Texts Published from Manuscripts in the British Library* (2020). This lecture will explore the way in which the texts of the 7th century Isaac the Syrian form part of a multi-dimensional Christian heritage.

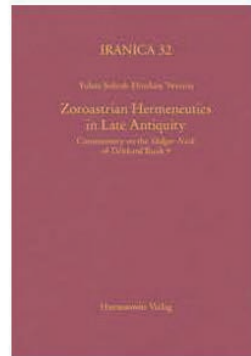
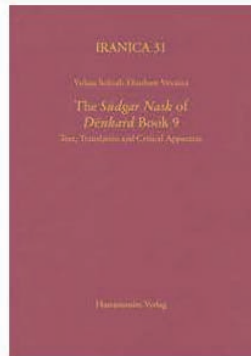
The Zernov Lecture is an annual event hosted jointly by the House of St Gregory and St Macrina, the Fellowship of St Alban & St Sergius and the St Theosevia Centre for Christian Spirituality, charities working in the field of Eastern Christian studies. It honours the memory of the Orthodox theologian and worker for Christian unity, Nicolas Zernov (1898-1980), whose vision lay behind the founding of these charities. The charities are pleased to be collaborating for this lecture with the Maison française d'Oxford (<https://www.mfo.ac.uk/>), especially given the connections between the Paris School of Theology and Oxford which Zernov represented.

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Lectures and Events

A celebration to mark the publication of



The Sūdgar Nask of Dēnkard Book 9

and

Zoroastrian Hermeneutics in Late Antiquity

Harrassowitz Verlag, 2023 and 2024

By Yuhan Sohrab-Dinshaw Vevaina
(AMES / Wolfson)

A panel discussion featuring:
Christian Sahner (AMES / New College)
Elizabeth Tucker (AMES / Wolfson)
Arash Zeini (AMES)

Wolfson College Auditorium
Monday, April 29th, 2024 (Week 2) | 5 pm
Discussion followed by a reception
With generous support from the Bahari Fund for Sasanian Studies

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Lectures and Events

Invisible East, The Khalili Research Centre, and
The Central Asian and Turkish Studies Cluster at Wolfson College
present a special lecture:



THINKING ABOUT CARAVANS

Professor Richard Bulliet (Columbia University)

Wolfson College | Linton Road, Oxford, OX2 6UD
Leonard Wolfson Auditorium
Friday, May 10, 2024 (Week 3) | 5:30 pm

Convenors:

Arezou Azad, Alain George, and Christian Sahner



Seminars

Mondays

Medieval History Seminar

Conveners: **I. Forrest, J. Smith & B. Thompson**

Mondays at 5 PM.

All seminars EXCEPT 20 May are in the Wharton Room, All Souls College.

Monday 20 May is in the Old Library, all souls College.

The Teams session can be accessed by logging in to Teams with your .ox.ac.uk account and joining the group 'Medieval History Research Seminar' (team code rmppucs). Alternatively, you can use this link: <https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3a932349f56c7c40a9b2e92e3763546bf2%40thread.skype/1713190287056?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22b36d0c45-29a3-4ae6-aa0f-346d7099825f%22%7d>

If you have any difficulties please email: medhistsem@history.ox.ac.uk

- (W1) 22 April **Lindy Grant** (Reading) 'Eleanor of Aquitaine: the power of a queen and duchess'
- (W2) 29 April **Elisabeth Lorans** (Tours/All Souls) confirmed. 'The transformation of the monastic enclosure at Marmoutier (Tours, France) between the 11th and the early 13th century'
- (W3) 6 May **Helen Flatley** (Somerville, Oxford) 'Reading the Arabic Documents of Medieval Toledo: Local Practice and Community Formation on the Iberian Frontier'
- (W4) 13 May **Emma Hornby** (Bristol) 'Intertextuality in medieval Spain: liturgy, iconography, architecture and music at San Miguel de Escalada in the tenth century'
- (W5) 20 May **Charles West** (Edinburgh) Helen Gittos (Balliol) and Mirela Ivanova (Sheffield), in discussion: 'Inventing Slavonic Cultures of Writing Between Rome and Constantinople. This seminar is in the Old Library, All Souls College.'
- (W6) 27 May **Laure Miolo** (Lincoln, Oxford) 'Establishing a school of astronomy and astrology in the fourteenth century? The case of the universities of Paris and Oxford'
- (W7) 3 June **Peregrine Horden** (All Souls, Oxford) 'A room with a view: Chichele's college'
- (W8) 10 June **Katherine Jansen** (Catholic University of America) 'The Relics of Rome'



Seminars

Wednesdays

Late Antique and Byzantine Seminar

Convened by **I. Toth, I. Jacobs & O. Delouis**

Wednesdays at 5 PM (weeks 1-5)

Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies, St. Giles

Teams link: <https://msteams.link/FW0C>

- (W1) 24 April **Thea Ravasi** (University of Newcastle) 'Imperial benefaction, sanitary and religious practices in 4th-century Rome. The archaeology of the Baptistery of St. John Lateran revisited'.
- (W2) 1 May **Polymia Synodinou** (University of Crete) 'The Church of the Holy Apostles (Hagioi Apostoloi) at Kavousi, Crete: Aspects of Byzantine Art under Venetian Rule'
- (W3) 8 May **Natalija Ristovskaa** (University of Oxford) 'The Byzantine Craft of Enamelling and its Links with Islamic Metalwork, ca. 800-1204'
- ¹⁸ (W4) 15 May **James Cogbill** (University of Oxford) 'Fourteenth-Century Byzantine History-Writers and the Problem of Emperors' Family Ties'
- (W5) 22 May **Maximilien Durand** (Musée du Louvre) and **Jannic Durand** (Musée du Louvre) 'Creating the Louvre's New Department of Byzantine and Eastern Christian Art: Issues and Challenges in a Turbulent World'
Venue: Auditorium, Corpus Christi College
Start time: 5.15 pm

In addition, this year the OCBR Annual lecture will take place on Thursday 13 June (W8)

- (W8) 13 June **Peter Sarris** (University of Cambridge) 'Justinian: Between East and West'.
Venue: Danson Room, Trinity College

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Seminars

Thursdays

After Rome and Further East Seminar

Organisers: **F. Bessard (History/ Trinity) & C. Sahner (AMES/ New College)**

Thursdays at 5 PM

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YTBIMzh1ZTktNjI5NC00ZjBiLWI2NTQtYmE3NThtjMGM1ZmNi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2246fd047f-c669-47f0-870f-e18ec40fb604%22%7d

Supported by the Bahari Fund for Sasanian Studies

- (W1) 25 April **Garth Fowden** (University of Cambridge) ‘Orienting the Global First Millennium: Iranosphere Perspectives’
Levine Building Auditorium Special lecture supported by the Bahari Fund for Sasanian Studies, the Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research, and the Oxford Centre for Late Antiquity
- (W2) 2 May **Andrew Marsham** (University of Cambridge) ‘Re-Framing the Umayyad Empire: Pastoralists, Plague, and Peripheries’ Teaching Room 5
- (W3) 9 May **Julia Bray** (University of Oxford) ‘Medieval Arabic Literature: What Do You Know, and What Can You Do with It?’ Teaching Room 5
- (W4) 16 May **Hannah-Lena Hagemann** (University of Hamburg) “Behold! Quraysh is praying behind Bakr!” Kharijite Rebellion and Bakri Tribalism from al-Jazira to Iran 7th-9th c.’ Teaching Room 5
- (W5) 23 May **Alebachew Belay** (Debre Berhan University) ‘Connected “Pagans” from Medieval Ethiopia: Monumental and Artifactual Evidence’ Teaching Room 5
- (W6) 30 May **Louise Rayne** (Newcastle University) ‘Detecting Irrigation and Desertification in the Middle East and North Africa Since the Medieval Period’
- (W7) 6 June **Dan Reynolds** (University of Birmingham) ‘Charlemagne’s Jerusalem: Rhetoric, Exegesis and the Ninth-Century “Holy Land”’ Teaching Room 5
- (W8) 13 June **Peter Sarris** (University of Cambridge) ‘Justinian Between East and West’ Levine Building Auditorium OCBR Annual Lecture for 2024; supported by the Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research



Seminars

Thursdays

Medieval Visual Culture Seminar

Organisers: **E. Lichmanova** (elena.lichmanova@merton.ox.ac.uk), **G. Rosser**, **M. Kauffmann**, **H. Skoda**
Thursdays at 5 PM.
St Catherine's College, Arumugam Building

- (W1) 25 April **Lucy Wrapson** (University of Cambridge) 'Colour Conventions and Material Hierarchies on Late-Medieval Rood Screens'
- (W4) 16 May **Livia Lupi** (University of Warwick)
'Artistic Practice and the Emergence of the Architect in Italy, c. 1300 – c. 1480'
- (W6) 30 May **Gervase Rosser** (University of Oxford) 'Irrational, Feminine, Subversive: The Cult of Miraculous Images in Medieval England'
- (W7) 6 June **Lara Frentrop** (University of Heidelberg) 'Objects of Desire: The Byzantine Art of Dining as Social and Romantic Agents'



Seminars

Thursdays

The Khalili Research Centre Research Seminar

Thursdays at 5:15 PM.

KRC Lecture Room, 3 St John Street

You can contact the KRC administrator for more info: kate.kwok@ames.ox.ac.uk

- (W1) 25 April **Mathieu Tillier** (Sorbonne University) 'Legal and Judicial Documents from Medieval Egypt: from Form to Function'
- (W2) 2 May **Edward Zychowicz-Coghill** (King's College London) 'Ideology and Contestation in the Foundation Narratives of the First Islamic Cities'
- (W3) 9 May **Elisabetta Raffo** (The Bruschetti Foundation) 'Alessandro Bruschetti and Collecting Islamic and Asian Art in Italy: When a Private Passion Becomes a Public Project'
- (W4) 16 May No seminar
- (W5) 23 May **Alessia Zubani** (Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies) 'From Alexandria to Baghdad: Mechanical Marvels and Cultural Interactions in the Ancient and Early Medieval Middle East'
- (W6) 30 May **Yeliz Teber** (The Khalili Research Centre) 'The Seals and Amulets of the Shrine of Hac Bekta : Writing Alevi-Bektashi Cultural History through Internal Sources'
- (W7) 6 June **Jeremy Johns** (The Khalili Research Centre) 'The Fermo Ewer and the End of Fāimid Relief-carved Rock Crystal'
- (W8) 13 June **Charlotte Maury** (Louvre Museum) 'Stratigraphy of Detached Album Pages from the Louvre Collection: Assembly of Papers and Scientific Imaging'

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Resources

Manar al-Athar open-access photo archive

The Manar al-Athar Digital Archive, based at the University of Oxford, provides high resolution, searchable images for teaching, research, publication and heritage work. These images of archaeological sites, buildings and artworks, cover the areas of the former Roman Empire which later came under Islamic rule and adjoining regions. The chronological range is from Alexander the Great through the Islamic period.

The archive is open-access so that it can be used by anyone anywhere in the world. Photographs can be freely downloaded as original high resolution images without water marks, making them immediately available in a format suitable for publication or research, simply by acknowledging the source.

Current strengths include Late Antiquity (AD 250–750), the period of transition from paganism to Christianity and, in turn, to Islam, especially religious buildings (temples, churches, synagogues, mosques) and monumental art, as well as Roman and early Islamic (Umayyad) architecture.

Manar al-Athar is Arabic for “Guide to Archaeology” and has been chosen because Manara, in Egypt, refers to both the Lighthouse of Alexandria (the Pharos) and to minarets. This conveys the transition, and often continuity, covered by the chronological range of the material.

The Manar al-Athar Digital Archive is in continuous development.

www.manar-al-athar.ox.ac.uk

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<http://www.manar-al-athar.ox.ac.uk/index.html>

‘The Last Statues of Antiquity’ database



‘The Last Statues of Antiquity’ database is from 4 May 2012 accessible to all and fully searchable, with over 2600 individual entries. The database consists of the published evidence for statuary and inscribed statue bases set up after AD 284, that were new, newly dedicated, or newly re-worked. This database was completed and made public in May 2012 (with only some minor revisions thereafter).

<http://laststatues.classics.ox.ac.uk/>

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Resources

'The Cult of Saints' database



The project maps the cult of saints as a system of beliefs and practices in its earliest and most fluid form, from its origins until around AD 700 (by which date most cult practices were firmly established): the evolution from honouring the memory of martyrs, to their veneration as intercessors and miracle-workers; the different ways that saints were honoured and their help solicited; the devotion for relics, sacred sites and images; the miracles expected from the saints.

Central to the project is a searchable database, on which all the evidence for the cult of saints will be collected, presented (in its original languages and English translation), and succinctly discussed, whether in Armenian, Coptic, Georgian, Greek, Latin or Syriac.

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Resources

HEIR



The Historic Environment Image Resource

HEIR is an expanding, online searchable image archive maintained by the School of Archaeology Archive. Users will find thousands of images of the Classical and Byzantine worlds available for their use among its holdings. Many are unique to this collection, having been donated by historians and archaeologists, while others come from obsolete media held in the teaching collections of multiple university departments.

HEIR can be accessed at <http://heir.arch.ox.ac.uk>. Questions about how to use HEIR or cite its images, can be addressed to heir@arch.ox.ac.uk. 25

Left: HEIR Resource ID 36894, late 19th century view of the forum. Right: HEIR Resource ID 78974, Kariye Mosque: Enrolment for Taxation, exonarthex Bay 1, east lunette, 25 September 2010. Photo and copyright Daniel C Waugh.

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EAMENA

Welcome to the Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East & North Africa (EAMENA) Database

Please visit us at our new location to access EAMENA v2:

[EAMENA v2 Database](#)

Supported by Arcadia Fund and based at the Universities of Oxford, Leicester, and Durham, the EAMENA Database brings together data from satellite imagery, photographic archives, and published reports to present information about archaeological sites and landscapes that are under threat. Using Arches, an open-source platform designed by the Getty Conservation Institute and World Monuments Fund, this resource is available online to researchers and heritage professionals across the MENA region, Europe, and beyond.

If you would like to gain user-level access to the database, please register:

[Register for Full Access](#)

Please allow us time to process your registration request.

Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa
الأثار المهددة في الشرق الأوسط و شمال إفريقيا

Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa

Supported by the Arcadia Fund and the Cultural Protection Fund and based at the Universities of Oxford, Leicester, and Durham EAMENA was established in January 2015 to respond to the increasing threats to archaeological sites in the Middle East and North Africa. This project uses satellite imagery to rapidly record and make available information about archaeological sites and landscapes which are under threat.

EAMENA's spatial database will provide the fundamental information for each site, including the level of risk and how each site relates to one another. It will be accessible to all heritage professionals and institutions with an interest and passion for the wonderfully rich and diverse archaeological heritage of the Middle East and North Africa. Not all damage and threats to the archaeology can be prevented, but they can be mitigated and so at the core of our project is the desire for excellence in heritage management. To this end, EAMENA works with relevant authorities on the ground to limit likely damage, share information and skills, strengthen networks and raise awareness. Fieldwork and outreach are essential components of the project and the EAMENA team will target investigations to the most threatened sites, visiting (where possible) to assess site conditions, make detailed records and liaise with national authorities to share data and findings.

<http://eamena.arch.ox.ac.uk/>