



OXFORD CENTRE FOR
BYZANTINE RESEARCH

Michaelmas Term Events 2020



Setif - Triumph of Dionysus Mosaic (Setif Archaeological Museum)

Marlena Whiting/Manar al-Athaar



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Church, Kissufim

Andres Reyes/Manar al-Athar



Seminars

Mondays

Medieval History Seminar

Convened by Ian Forrest, Julia Smith, Benjamin Thompson Student Administrator: Tanya Heath
Mondays at 5 PM.

An exciting range of papers will be presented online this term. Speakers will pre-circulate their paper on Teams, then introduce it assuming it has been read in advance by participants, before opening the floor to questions and discussion. This seminar relies on signing up to receive an online invitation to access papers and join the seminar itself. The papers and meeting invitations are available by joining the seminar's Microsoft Teams group – search in Teams groups for 'Medieval History Research Seminar', (Team code rmpuucs) then click 'Join Team'. Alternatively, send an email from your Oxford University email address to medhistsem@history.ox.ac.uk and request to be added to the group. Please note that the seminar papers will not be retrospectively available.

(W2) 19 October Marina Rustow (Princeton)
'Petitions from Medieval Egypt and the Problem of Premodern Rights'

W3) 26 October Robin Fleming (Boston College)
'The Material Fall of Roman Britain: Living with Little Corpses'

(W6) 16 November Helmut Reimitz (Princeton)
'Observing peoples as peoples: the study of ethnicity in late Antiquity and the early Middle Ages'



Abu Simbel - Small Temple - vestibule - facing southeast Ross Burns Manar al-Athar



Classical Archaeology Seminar

Tarquinia to Aphrodisias: Reading sites and monuments

Convened by Bert Smith & Andrew Wilson, via MS Teams, Mondays at 5 PM.

For more information please contact: bert.smith@classics.ox.ac.uk or
andrew.wilson@classics.ox.ac.uk

(W1) 12 October Charlotte Potts
'The Tarquinia: the first religious buildings'

(W2) 19 October Thomas Mannack
'Felsina (Bologna): The Tomb of the Panathenaic Amphorae and the Tomb of the Arnoaldi
Situla - Athenian Vases in Etruria'

(W3) 26 October Irene Lemos
'Lefkandi in Euboea: resilience and transformation from the Late Bronze to the Early Iron Age
Greece'

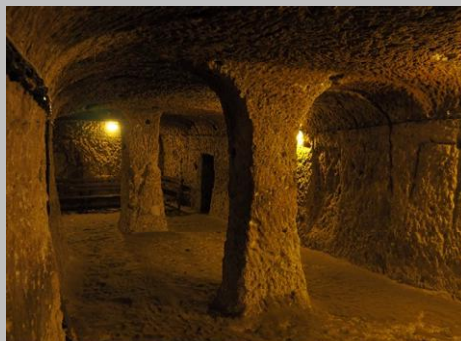
(W4) 2 November Maria Stamatopoulou
'Demetrias: the painted stelai'

(W5) 9 November Bert Smith
'Aphrodisias: New statues and contexts'

(W6) 16 November Peter Stewart
'Qinghai Province, China: Roman Imagery on a Belt from the Tibetan Plateau'

(W7) 23 November Andrew Wilson
'Aphrodisias: The Place of Palms and the end of the Classical City'

(W8) 30 November Ine Jacobs
'Aphrodisias: Encountering the limits of Classical Archaeology at the Tetrapylon Street'



Derinkuyu - underground city Marlena Whiting/Manar al-Athar



Tuesdays Early Slavonic Webinar



EARLY SLAVONIC WEBINAR

MICHAELMAS TERM 2020

Tuesdays at 5 pm (GMT+1) via Zoom

October 27

General Discussion for Postgraduates: Working with Slavonic Sources

Registration:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/ztZkdOmpqTlvHdFB9BPV78US0KdggSvJbkAo>

November 3

Adrian Jusupović (The Institute of History, Poland Academy of Sciences)
Basqaqs in Rus: A Social Strategy of Power

Registration:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/tZErceqqrj4uGtO8rkqwCYIsrPd4iUg-MHxU>

November 10

Marika Mägi (Tallinn University)
The Role of the Chudi in the Formation of Kievan Rus

Registration:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/tZErceqqrj4uGtO8rkqwCYIsrPd4iUg-MHxU>

November 17

Rima Greenhill (Stanford University)
From strange discovery to happy overture: Russian-English Relations, 1553-1613

Registration:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/tZErceqqrj4uGtO8rkqwCYIsrPd4iUg-MHxU>

November 24

Denis Masliuzhenko (Kurgan State University)
The Conquest of Siberia

***This talk will be given in Russian with notes in English**

Registration:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/tZErceqqrj4uGtO8rkqwCYIsrPd4iUg-MHxU>

December 1

Valerie Kivelson (University of Michigan)
Magic and Empathy: Animals in Muscovite Spells

***This talk begins at 4 pm**

Registration:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/tZErceqqrj4uGtO8rkqwCYIsrPd4iUg-MHxU>



Islamicate Manuscripts and Texts Colloquium



Islamicate culture, in the words of Marshall Hodgson, refers to “the social and cultural complex historically associated with Islam and the Muslims, both among Muslims themselves and even when found among non-Muslims.” In this colloquium, we will read texts from the Islamicate world, from Nile to Oxus and beyond, written in different languages and scripts of the pre-modern Islamicate world, including Arabic, New Persian, Middle Persian, Pāzand, and Hebrew.

Weekly online sessions every Tuesday of Michaelmas Term 2020 of up to 90 mins, each on a new document or set of documents from one part of the Islamicate world. Each session has 2 parts.

1) Speakers in the first 45 minutes give a historiographical, historical, and/or literary context to the texts. Participants do not need to know the primary source language (first 45 minutes). 2) The subsequent 45 minutes are devoted to a close, group reading of the text (s) by participants familiar with the source language. Participants need not attend both parts, and can join whichever part they prefer.

For any questions, please contact the convenors, Arezou Azad, Tommy Benfey, and Zhang Zhan, at invisible_east@orinst.ox.ac.uk.

(W1) 13 October Jeremy Johns, Director of the Khalili Research Centre; Professor of the ‘Art & Archaeology of the Islamic Mediterranean’

Research Centre Nadia Jamil, Senior Researcher in Arabic, ERC-DocuMult project, Khalili
‘Arabic deeds of sale and Islamic law in Christian Sicily’

Website: <https://torch.ox.ac.uk/event/arabic-deeds-of-sale-and-islamic-law-in-chr...>

Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/imt-arabic-deeds-of-sale-and-islamic-law-...>

(W2) 20 October Christopher Melchert, Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies
‘Al-Muzani’s al-Mukhtasar: An Arabic legal text from 9th century Egypt’

Website: <https://torch.ox.ac.uk/event/al-muzanis-al-mukhtasar-an-arabic-legal-tex...>

Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/imt-al-muzanis-al-mukhtasar-an-arabic-leg...>



(W3) 27 October Tommy Benfey, ERC-Go.Local Post-doctoral Researcher
'In Search of the Arkand: Astral Science between India, Sasanian Iran, and the Early Islamicate World'

Website: <https://torch.ox.ac.uk/event/in-search-of-the-arkand-astral-science-betw...>
Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/imt-in-search-of-the-arkand-astral-scienc...>

(W4) 3 November Christian Sahner, Associate Professor of Islamic History
'A Zoroastrian Critique of Islam in the Škand Gumānīg Wizār in Pāzand'

Website: <https://torch.ox.ac.uk/event/a-zoroastrian-critique-of-islam-in-the-skan...>
Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/imt-a-zoroastrian-critique-of-islam-in-th...>

(W5) 10 November Zhan Zhang, ERC-Go.Local Post-doctoral Researcher
'Embryonic New Persian: two letters by a Jewish Sogdian in eighthcentury Khotan'

Website: <https://torch.ox.ac.uk/event/embryonic-new-persian-two-letters-by-a-jewi...>
Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/imt-embryonic-new-persian-2-letters-by-a-...>

(W6) 17 November Judith Olszowy-Schlanger, Director of the Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies
'Jewish books in the Islamicate world and how to study them'

Website: <https://torch.ox.ac.uk/event/jewish-books-in-the-islamicate-world-specif...>
Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/imt-jewish-books-in-the-islamicate-world-...>

(W7) 24 November Zeynep Yurekli-Gorkay, Associate Professor of Islamic Art and Architecture
Book-picking from a Conquered Citadel in the Summer of 1517
Website: <https://torch.ox.ac.uk/event/book-picking-from-a-conquered-citadel-in-th...>
Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/imt-book-picking-from-a-conquered-citadel...>

(W8) 1 December Arezou Azad, Programme Director, Invisible East and Senior Research Fellow

Pejman Firoozbakhsh, AHRC-PersDoc Post-doctoral Researcher
'Remembering the Barmakids in a Persian Fürstenspiegel'

Website: <https://torch.ox.ac.uk/event/remembering-the-barmakids-in-a-persian-furs...>
Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/imt-remembering-the-barmakids-in-a-persia...>



Oxford Numismatic Society



Rome, Diadumenian Caesar, 217-8, AR Denarius.

Photos © Angela Grant 2020.

The following talks will take place over Microsoft Teams at 5pm and will be followed by a discussion. If you are interested in attending any of our talks, join our mailing list by emailing Daniel.etches@new.ox.ac.uk to receive meeting invitations and further details.

(W2) 20 October Dr. Volker Heuchert, Ashmolean Museum
'Greek and Roman Provincial Coins of Aporodisias'

The talk discusses the coinage of the Carian city of Aphrodisias from the late Hellenistic period to the middle of the third century A.D. It will also cover relevant numismatic publications, provide background information about Aphrodisias and discuss the representation of the city's coinage within the collection of the Heberden Coin Room of the Ashmolean Museum.

(W4) 3 November Dr. John Naylor, Ashmolean Museum
'The Watlington Hoard: Viking Armies and Alfred the Great's Coin Reforms in the late 870s'

The Watlington Hoard, discovered in 2015 by a metal-detectorist, was acquired by the Ashmolean Museum in 2017. A nationally-important find of coinage and metalwork - and the first major Viking hoard from Oxfordshire - it dates from the late 870s, a fundamental and tumultuous period in Britain's history. This talk will explore the contents of the hoard, especially the importance of its numismatic component. The wider implications of the Watlington hoard for our understanding of hoarding in late 9th-century southern Britain, interactions between the two remaining English kingdoms of Wessex and Mercia, and the movements of the Viking 'Great Army' after the Battle of Edington in 878 will also be discussed.



(W6) 17 November Dr. Frédérique Duyrat (Bibliothèque Nationale de France)
'Riches in the Ground. How did Ancient Greeks hide their wealth?'

(W8) 1 December Dr. Shailendra Bhandare, Ashmolean Museum / St. Cross College, Oxford
'Coinage and the Trading Worlds of the Indian Ocean – an Overview'

The Indian Ocean with its conduits for trade and commerce has been an important maritime space for connections between 'East' and 'West'. Ever since the 'discovery' of the monsoon winds, the Eastern Mediterranean World, the Arabian Peninsula, the East African Coast and the Persian littoral have been in contact with the Indian subcontinent and beyond through these linkages. Coins prove an important marker for many aspects of these trading networks. Much of the discourse around Indian Ocean networks however is compartmentalised into subsets of chronologies, often labelled by the constituent players like 'Roman Trade', 'Arab Trade', 'European Mercantile Trade', etc. The talk will attempt to reverse this, presenting through coins, how these networks have an enduring circulation for over two millennia. We would begin our numismatic journey in the first century CE with 'Periplus' and end in the 19th century with the Indian Rupee becoming a 'global trade currency' in the Indian Ocean.



Hoard of coins at the Museum of Byzantine Culture (Thessaloniki)

David Hendrix/Byzantine Legacy



Wednesdays

Late Antique and Byzantine Seminar

Late Antique and Byzantine Seminar

WEDNESDAYS at 5pm (BST) on Google Meet: meet.google.com/dqa-ytsv-okk

14 October (Week 1) **Maria Mavroudi** (Berkeley), *Byzantine and Islamic philosophy: a comparison of their modern historiographies*

21 October (Week 2) **“What is it that you do?” LABS research update** (part 1): Phil Booth, Monica Hellström, Ine Jacobs

28 October (Week 3) **Lucy Parker** (Oxford), *Stephen of Mar Sabas (d.794): the last holy man of late antiquity?*

4 November (Week 4) **“What is it that you do?” LABS research update** (part 2): Dimitris Skrekas, Marc Lauxtermann, Alexandra Vukovich

11 November (Week 5) **Ben Anderson** (Cornell), *The Oracles of Leo the Wise*

18 November (Week 6) **“What is it that you do?” LABS research update** (part 3): Mirela Ivanova, Peter Frankopan, Catherine Holmes

25 November (Week 7) **Adam Izdebski** (Berlin) and **Piotr Guzowski** (Białystok), *A palaeoecological approach to the Justinianic Plague and the Black Death: nuancing our understanding of late antique and medieval pandemics*

2 December (Week 8) **“What is it that you do?” LABS research update** (part 4): Ida Toth, Marek Jankowiak, Julian Baker

Etiquette:

- You will need a gmail account to join.
- Talks will be c. 40 minutes long, followed by half an hour of discussion.
- Please join the seminar promptly.
- Please remember to mute your microphone during the talk, but ideally leave your camera on, and please use it when asking questions.
- We recommend the *Sidebar* layout for the talk and the *Tiled* layout for the discussion (you can change them by pressing on three dots in the bottom right corner of the screen).
- In order to ask a question raise your physical or electronic hand, or post your question in the chat.

All welcome!

Conveners: Marek Jankowiak (marek.jankowiak@history.ox.ac.uk)
and Marc Lauxtermann (marc.lauxtermann@exeter.ox.ac.uk)



Byzantine Worlds

Centre for Research in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Byzantine Worlds

Michaelmas 2020

5th Annual Lecture in Medieval and Early Modern Slavonic Studies organised in conjunction with Cambridge Ukrainian Studies

Early Rus' Jewry: Byzantine Connections

Alexander Kulik (Hebrew University, Jerusalem)

14 October 2020, 17:00-18:30 UK Time - register [here](#)

Regular Programme

'As We Heard from the Enemy Himself': Intercultural Transmission in Early Medieval Armenia

Alison Vacca (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)

21 October 2020, 18:00-19:30 UK time - register [here](#)

Visions of Heaven and Hell: Byzantine Apocalyptic in the Seventh Century and Beyond

Bronwen Neil (Macquarie University, Sydney)

04 November 2020, 10:00-11:30 UK Time - register [here](#)

From Documents to the Digital Turn: Prosopography and Networks of the Lascarid Period

Ekaterini Mitsiou (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Vienna)

18 November 2020, 10:00-11:30 UK Time - register [here](#)

The Emergence of Islam in its Pre-Islamic and Byzantine Contexts

Nadia El Cheikh (American University of Beirut)

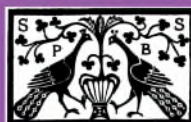
02 December 2020, 10:00-11:30 UK Time - register [here](#)

Image courtesy of Otto Nieminen/Manar al-Athar website

All seminars online. Sign up to each event by clicking on the links above.
<http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/programmes/byzantine-worlds>



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Resources

Manar al-Athar

The Manar al-Athar website <http://www.manar-al-athar.ox.ac.uk/>, based at the University of Oxford, is the inspired creation of Judith McKenzie (1957-2019). It is an open-access photo archive, providing high resolution, searchable images for teaching, research, and publication. These images of archaeological sites, buildings, and art, will cover the areas of the former Roman empire that later came under Islamic rule, such as Syro-Palestine, the Levant, Arabia, Egypt and North Africa, as well as some bordering regions, such as Georgia and Armenia. The chronological range is from Alexander the Great (i.e., from about 300 BC), through the Islamic period.

Photographs are freely available for use in academic and educational publications simply by acknowledging the source. They are downloadable as high resolution tifs for publications and research, or as smaller jpps for PowerPoint presentations and teaching. Images of each building are placed in a visual sequence that easily conveys the contexts of details.



Hovhannavank, Armenia

Matthew Kinloch/Manar al-Athar



Cult of the Saints

At the centre of the project is a [searchable database](#) on which all the early evidence for the cult of the saints is being collected, whether in Armenian, Coptic, Georgian, Greek, Latin or Syriac, with summaries of long texts and full quotation of key passages, both in the original language and in English translation. Every piece of evidence will be accompanied by a brief discussion, considering issues such as its dating and the details of cult that it reveals. This database will be fully searchable, making it simple to access all the evidence for the early cult of a single saint, such as Martin of Tours, or to narrow the search down – for instance, to evidence for churches dedicated to Martin in 6th-century Italy. It will also be possible to narrow searches to specific types of evidence (for instance, images only), or to specific cult practices (such as the creation of contact relics or the practice of incubation, sleeping at a shrine in the hope of a dream-vision).



Monastery of St Simeon, Aswan

Ross Burns/Manar al-Athar



Byzantine Legacy

David Hendrix runs www.thebyzantinelegacy.com from his home in Istanbul and has a multitude of Byzantine-related photographs which he is kindly willing to share for academic use.

Many are stored on Google Drive:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SnciXyGaIKBYWa489MsQAPsHi2gYGls?usp=sharing>

The collection of photos includes Istanbul, Ravenna, Thessaloniki, Rome, Mystras, Sofia, Trabzon, Arta, Ankara, Ephesus, Cappadocia, Myra, Korykos, Trigleia, Nesebar, and more.

David has a much larger collection on Flickr and continues to organise additional photos, so you can also request other sites if needed.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/byzants/albums>



Great Palace Mosaic Museum

David Hendrix/Byzantine Legacy

The Byzantine Legacy can be followed via

www.facebook.com/byzants/

<https://twitter.com/ByzantineLegacy>



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