



OXFORD CENTRE FOR
BYZANTINE RESEARCH

Hilary Term Events 2020



Setif - Triumph of Dionysus Mosaic (Setif Archaeological Museum) Credit: Marlena Whiting/Manar al-Athar



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Seminars Tuesdays



Faculty of Oriental Studies

Hilary Term 2020

Eastern Christianity

history, culture,
art, theology,
politics

Lecture Seminar Series (8th edition)

Multi-ethnic Eastern Christian communities are among the most ancient natives in the wider West Asia region. These lectures highlight the rich historical, literary, theological and artistic heritage of Christian communities in presently much-troubled part of the world.

Conveners: Dr Hratch Tchilingirian
Prof Theo Maarten Van Lint

Tuesdays, 5:00-6:30 pm, The Allen & Overy Room, Pembroke College, Oxford

For further details please contact:
hratch.tchilingirian@orinst.ox.ac.uk

*These lecture series are organised with the support of
Oxford Armenian Studies and Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.*

Week 2 | 28 January
Eastern Christians and the Environmental History of the Early Caliphate
– Prof Philip Booth

A. G. Leventis Associate Professor in Eastern Christianity, Faculty of Theology and Religion, Oxford

Week 3 | 4 February
This is Not a Sacrifice: Interpretations of the *Madagh* (animal 'sacrifice' ritual) among Armenians
– Dr Susan Pattie

Honorary Senior Research Associate, University College London; Director, Armenian Institute

Week 4 | 11 February
The Vatican and the Christian East: The Congregation for Oriental Churches & 'Oriente Cattolico/The Catholic East'
– Dr Anthony O'Mahony

Fellow, Blackfriars, University of Oxford

Week 5 | 18 February
A Portrait for the Father of the Nation: Catholicos Megerditch I Khrimian of Van, Image and Identity
– Dr Vazken Khatchig Davidian

C. Gulbenkian Postdoctoral Fellow, Faculty of Oriental Studies, Oxford

Week 6 | 25 February
Christianity in the Gulf: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Yemen
– Dr Hrayr Jebejian

General Secretary of the Bible Society in the Gulf

Week 7 | 3 March
Armenian ecclesiastical sites in the Kars Province, Turkey: current state, preservation and revalorisation of sculptures
– Dr Vendi Jukić Buča

Research Associate, Manar al-Athar, Faculty of Classics, Oxford

Week 8 | 10 March
Private Treatment and Public Healing Cults. Disease Management and Faith in Late Antique Egypt
– Prof Gesa Schenke

Institut für Ägyptologie und Koptologie, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster; Associate of the Faculty of Oriental Studies, Oxford



Wednesdays
Late Antique and Byzantine Seminar

Hilary Term 2020, Wednesdays 17:00
Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies, 66 St Giles'

Conveners: Marek Jankowiak and Marc Lauxtermann

Key: OCBR OCBR Special Lecture

- 22 January **Péter Bara** (Szeged), *Leo of Chalcedon: A debating canonist?*
- 29 January **Ashhan Akışık** (Wolfson), *Late Byzantine and early Ottoman literary representations of Constantinople*
- 5 February **Nikos Zagklas** (Vienna), *Vitriolic attacks in twelfth-century Byzantium: Poetry, satirical strands, and intellectual antagonism*
- 12 February **Roman Shlyakhtin** (Mainz), *Last border of Byzantium? Byzantine-Seljuk border zone in lower Sakarya valley from Komnenoi to Palaiologoi*
- 19 February **Constantin Zuckerman** (Paris), *On the History, improperly styled "Secret", of Nicetas of Paphlagonia, and the power of anathema over books*
- 26 February **Alexander Mallett** (Waseda, Tokyo), *Christians, Turks, and the origins of the First Crusade*
- 4 March **Alexander Riehle** (Harvard), *Is textual criticism dead? A report on the forthcoming edition of Nikephoros Choumnos' letter collections*
- 11 March **Andras Nemeth** (Vatican), *The Excerpta Constantiniana and the editor of the fragmentary historians: New fragments from Dexippus and Polybius*



Thursdays

The Late Antique and Byzantine Archaeology and Art Seminar

Hilary Term 2020, Thursdays 11-12:30

First Floor Seminar Room, Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies

Conveners: Ine Jacobs & Ida Toth

- 23 January **Ginny Wheeler** – *Water and wealth: aquatic display in a late antique neighborhood at Ostia (IV, III-IV)*
- 30 January **Carlos Cabrera-Tejedor** – *Archaeological excavations at the late antique basilica of Son Pereto, Balearic Islands (Spain)*
- 6 February **Phil Stinson** – *Current research questions: The Temple of the Julio-Claudian Sebasteion at Aphrodisias in Late Antiquity*
- 13 February **Roman Shlyakhtin** – *Stones, drones and renovations: current problems in the research of the Land Walls of Constantinople*
- 20 February **Pamela Armstrong** - *Excavations at the Monastery of Satyros, Constantinople, and the birth of the Küçükyalı Arkeopark*
- 27 February **Bryan Ward-Perkins** - *The saints in the mosaics of Ravenna*
- 5 March **Hugh Jeffery** - *Byzantine Aphrodisias: the archaeology of a medieval community*
- 12 March **Catherine Vanderheyde** – *The many sides of Byzantine sculpture: textual sources, materials, techniques, ornamental and anthropomorphic motifs*





Fridays
Byzantine Text Seminar

Hilary Term 2020, Fridays 10:00-11:30
Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies, 66 St Giles'

Convener: Marc Lauxtermann





Events

A Celebration of Mary Whitby

13 March 2020

Swire Room, University College, Oxford

Organisers: Phil Booth and Mirela Ivanova



Speakers will include Gillian Clark, Claudia Rapp, Marina Bazzani, Katerina Carvounis, Nadine Viermann, Filip Doroszewski, and others.

Full details will be circulated later in Hilary Term.

To register for the event, please contact either Phil Booth (philip.booth@theology.ox.ac.uk) or Mirela Ivanova (mirela.ivanova@univ.ox.ac.uk).



Conferences

The World of the Slavs: Forgotten Meeting Place of Different Cultures

Organised by: Adrian Jusupović (main co-ordinator, Warsaw), Jonathan Shepard (co-ordinator, Oxford/Cambridge, United Kingdom), Aleksandra Vukovich (co-ordinator, Oxford, United Kingdom).

30th January – 1st February 2020

Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw

<https://ihpan.edu.pl/en/about-us/cyclical-conferences/the-world-of-the-slavs-forgotten-meeting-place-of-different-cultures/>





Martyrdom on the Margins

Organised by: Hindy Najman, Oriel and Laing Professor of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture; Christian Sahner, Associate Professor of Islamic History

The idea of martyrdom features prominently in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Despite this, pre-modern Jews, Christians, and Muslims often understood martyrdom in radically different ways. This conference aims to explore both the similarities and differences between ideas of 'dying for God' in the three religions, stretching from the Hellenistic to the Medieval periods. In particular, it explores the concept of 'martyrdom on the margins,' that is, cases which diverge from the classic model of martyrdom most closely associated with the saints of the pre-Constantinian period. This may include, but is not limited to Jewish martyrs in the Seleucid and Roman periods, martyrs who emerged through intra-Christian violence, martyrs in Shi'i or Khariji Islam, or Jewish martyrdom at the time of the Crusades. It may also include reflections on the theological significance of martyrdom in the three religious traditions, the semantic range of the word 'martyr' in various pre-modern languages, the rhetoric of martyrdom and its connection to biblical tradition, early

Christian, Rabbinic, Islamic and the Qur'an. We are also interested in possible influence between and among the three religions.

The goal is to understand martyrdom more broadly by exploring non-traditional manifestations of the practice, both as an event in time and its literary, liturgical, and theological afterlives. By studying martyrdom 'on the margins,' we stand to better understand what is central to tradition more broadly, the ways in which innovation is introduced, how old practices are revived, and how minority traditions become majority ones. Contemplating practices on the margins also prompts us to rethink what constitutes a 'canon'; indeed, what texts constitute the most significant examples of martyrological literature and how can these be reconceptualized through study of sources often regarded as 'peripheral'?

Please register here <https://www.oriel.ox.ac.uk/martyrdom-margins>

February 20, 2020, Oxford (Location to be determined, for updates, see: <https://www.oriel.ox.ac.uk/workshops-and-conferences>)



Cyprus in the Long Late Antiquity. History and Archaeology
between the 6th and 8th centuries

18-20 March 2020

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

Organised by: Panayiotis Panayides & Ine Jacobs





Workshops

New Critical Approaches to the Byzantine World

New Critical Approaches to the Byzantine World TORCH Network

Hilary Term Workshop

NEW CRITICAL APPROACHES TO BYZANTINE GENDER



January 24

9.30 am – 5.15 pm

Doctorow Hall at St Edmund Hall

Followed by a Drinks Reception in the Old Hall

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THE OXFORD RESEARCH CENTRE IN THE HUMANITIES





New Critical Approaches to the Byzantine World

New Critical Approaches to Byzantine Gender

24th January 2020

Doctorow Hall, St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford

- 09.30 - 09.45 Arrival and Coffee
- 09.45 - 10.00 Introduction
- New Critical Approaches to the Byzantine World**
Mirela Ivanova (University of Oxford) and Alexandra Vukovich (University of Oxford)
- New Critical Approaches to Byzantine Gender**
Jules Gleeson (University of Vienna) and Matthew Kinloch (Dumbarton Oaks)
- 10.00 - 12.00 **Session 1: Producing and Categorising Gender**
Chair: Leslie Brubaker (University of Birmingham)
- Gendering the Dead**
Sophie Moore (Newcastle University)
- Byzantine Households and Questions of Reproduction**
Jules Gleeson (University of Vienna)
- Categorising Masculinities: Clerics and Scholars in Byzantium**
Maroula Perisanidi (University of Leeds)
- 12.00 - 13.00 Lunch
- 13.00 - 14.30 **Session 2: Poststructuralist and Queer Approaches**
Chair: TBC
- Gender and Character Hierarchies: Hagiography and Historiography**
Matthew Kinloch (Dumbarton Oaks)
- Gender, Queer and Trans Theoretical Approaches to Orthodox Culture**
Nick Mayhew (Stanford University)
- 14:30 - 15:00 Coffee Break
- 15:00 - 17:00 **Session 3: Byzantine Gender**
Chair: Matthew Kinloch (Dumbarton Oaks)

The final session will consist of a roundtable discussion facilitated digitally by **Leonora Neville (University of Wisconsin, Madison)**. This session will explore the current state of research and critical theory in the study of Byzantine gender, with a view to identifying potential directions of research and critical analysis.



The starting point for discussion will be provided by the intervention into the field made by Neville's recent book *Byzantine Gender*. Discussion of the intervention this book seeks to make and several of the central questions that it raises will lead into a wider discussion to be determined by participants. We envisage discussion including, but not being limited to, areas of discussion arising from previous network discussions:

- Social reproduction
- Sexual difference and theories of embodiment
- Afropessimism, intersectionality, race, colonialism, imperialism
- State, administration, sexuation
- Gender categorisation and historical change
- Queer histories

Core Discussion Reading

Neville, L., *Byzantine Gender* (Amsterdam, 2019).

Additional Discussion Readings

Arruzza, C., 'Gender as Social Temporality: Butler (and Marx)', *Historical Materialism* 23 (2015), 28-52.

Ballif, M., 'Re/dressing Histories; Or, on Re/covering Figures who have been Laid Bare by our Gaze', *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* 22 (1992), 91-8.

Clark, E., 'The Lady Vanishes: Dilemmas of a feminist historian after the "Linguistic Turn"', *Church History* 67 (1998), 1-31.

Constantinou, S., 'Performing Gender in Lay Saints' Lives', *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies* 38 (2014), 24-32.

Kaldellis, A., 'The Study of Women and Children: Methodological challenges and new directions', in P. Stephenson (ed.), *The Byzantine World* (Abingdon, 2010), 61-71.

17:00 - 17:15 Closing Remarks

17.15 - 18:30 Drinks Reception

For links to readings, additional bibliography, and further event details see <https://torch.web.ox.ac.uk/new-critical-approaches-to-the-byzantine-world-network#>

**This network and event are made possible by the generous support of
The Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research
The Oxford Centre in the Humanities**



THE OXFORD RESEARCH CENTRE IN THE HUMANITIES



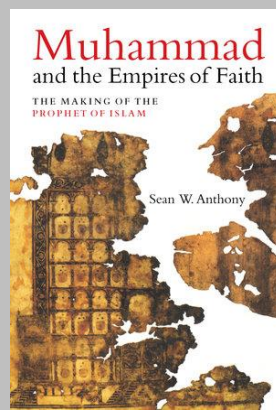
Talks

Sean W. Anthony

Associate Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, Ohio State University

A discussion of his forthcoming book:

Muhammad and the Empires of Faith: The Making of the Prophet of Islam (California, 2020)



Wednesday 19 February 2020

13.00-14.00

Ian Skipper Room, St Cross College

Adam Gaiser

Professor of Religion, Florida State University

“Tradition, Text and Taxonomy at the Origins of the Ibādī Movement:
A Study in Critical Approaches to Early “Khārijism””



Friday 21 February 2020

13.00-14.00

Spalding Room, Oriental Institute

For questions, please contact: christian.sahner@orinst.ox.ac.uk

A light lunch will be served at both events



Lectures

Byzantine Literature Lectures

Hilary Term 2020, Fridays 12:00-13:00
Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies, 66 St Giles'

Lecturer: Marc Lauxtermann





Peter Frankopan

- 8 January 'Shifting geopolitical landscapes' Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dublin, ROI
- 9 January 'Ireland and the Asia-Pacific strategy to 2025', Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dublin, ROI
- 16 January 'How - and why – to be a Byzantinist?' UCL, 6pm
- 26 February 'The Middle East, Gulf and the New Silk Roads' Manarat al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 5-6 March Conference on 'Isaac Komnenos Porphyrogenitus: Walking the Line in 12th-century Byzantium and beyond', Odense University, Denmark
- 11 March 'Reclaiming History: Moving away from Eurocentrism, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, 5pm
- 12 March 'The Silk Roads', University of Groningen, Netherlands 8pm
- 30 March 'Lords of the Desert' – in conversation with James Barr, Oxford Literary Festival
- 16 April 'Global Byzantium, Global History: Questions and a few answers' University of Cologne, Germany
- 21 April 'Cultural Encounters: Real and imagined spaces', Swedish Institute, Istanbul, Turkey
- 22 April 'Re-thinking classical, medieval and modern history', JR Jones Annual Lecture UEA
- 23 April *History, Maps and Changing How We Look at the World* Red Cross Lecture 2020, Churchill College Cambridge