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

Michaelmas term
2023-2024
(October - December)

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.
Exhibition 'The Book of Kells', Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
Photo: Vendi Jukić Buča

www.Arheologija.hr | https://bitly.ws/Wzjy

Ireland had a population of less than a half a million people living in fortified homesteads along its coast and inland waterways. Many of present-day cable lines were covered with forests. Wet weather, poor drainage and inadequate agricultural equipment resulted in many famines.

The social hierarchy in Ireland placed slaves and hostages at the bottom, peasants and soldiers in the middle, and kings at the top. Wealth resided in the land and Ireland's numerous petty kings or chieftains engaged in constant battles to maintain control over their small kingdoms. Between 700 and 900 AD the constant warring started which, with an improvement in the climate and the absence of great plagues, meant that Irish society was increasingly stable.

It is not known when or how the Irish first came into contact with Christianity. There were sufficient Christians in Ireland in 431 AD for Pope Celestine I to send them their first bishop, Palladius.
Dear All,

Due to Phil’s sabbatical, I am pleased to present the newest booklet at the beginning of the 2023 Michaelmas Term. We have organised several book launching events and there are plenty of seminars scheduled across the relevant sections of the University.

As always, please use OCLA’s email (ocla@history.ox.ac.uk) for any enquiries, feedback, and correspondence with us. Likewise, we encourage you to use OCLA’s social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter) to share news, the latest opportunities, and calls.

I wish you a successful start of the new academic year!

Vendi Jukić Buča
Secretary of OCLA
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.

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## Schedule

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Lectures and Events

THE 9TH RATANBAI KATRAK LECTURES ON ZOROASTRIANISM

Delivered by Prof. Dr. Alberto Cantera (Freie Universität Berlin)
101 years after the inauguration of the Ratanbai Katrak Lecturership at the University of Oxford
Convened by Prof. Yuhan S-D Vevaina for the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

‘With which Yasna shall I worship you’ (kana ʾḏβʾm yasna yazyāne)?
Zoroastrian Rituals in the Antique and Late Antique Iranian world

Lecture 4: ‘The Satisfaction of the yazata’ and ‘The Blessing of the ratu’:
On the Zoroastrian Long Liturgies
Time: 19 October 2023, 5:30pm
Location: Colin Matthew Room, The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH), Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6GG

Lecture 5: Ritual and Revelation: The Complex Liturgies Based on the Visperad
Time: 26 October 2023, 5:30pm
Location: Seminar Room, The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH), Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6GG

Lecture 6: Turning the Tables: From the daēnā to the Dēnkard
Time: 2 November 2023, 5:30pm
Location: Bahari Room, Weston Library, Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3BG

These lectures will also stream on Zoom: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81728008051

Contact: yuhan.vevaina@ames.ox.ac.uk

Prof. Dr. Alberto Cantera is the Director of the Institute for Iranian Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin. The focus of his work is on Zoroastrian textual history from Antiquity until the modern age, especially the Avestan texts, their reception in Late Antiquity, and their use in Zoroastrian rituals. He is responsible for transforming our collective understanding of the Avestan texts by emphasising their ritual character and is engaged in the monumental task of describing and understanding the history of Zoroastrian ritual practices. Since 2008 he has been the Director of the Avestan Digital Archive, the largest collection of Avestan manuscripts published online. Furthermore, he is the principal investigator of a long-term project preparing a new edition of all the Avestan texts used in the Zoroastrian rituals: Corpus Avesticum Berolinense. He is also one of the principal investigators of another long-term project in collaboration with the universities of Bochum and Cologne: The Digital Corpus and the Dictionary of Middle Persian. His published books include: Studien zur Pahlavi-Übersetzung des Avesta (Wiesbaden, 2004); Vers une édition de la liturgie longue zoroastrienne: pensées et travaux préliminaires (Leuven, 2014); and Introduction à l’avestique récent (Girona, 2019) together with Céline Redard; He is currently preparing a project on the Pahlavi nērangs or ritual instructions in the Iranian liturgical manuscripts.
Three lectures organised by Dr Andy Hilkens
(Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies)

Dan Batovici (KU Leuven/Cambridge)
‘The Epistolary Corpora of Ignatius of Antioch’
Monday 30 October, 5PM, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Lecture Room 1

A peculiarity of the reception of the letters attributed to Ignatius of Antioch is that the seven letters in the critical editions and translations published over the last century are virtually never found as such in the manuscript tradition. While the seven epistles of our editions are the result of an artificial découpage based on an extremely successful scholarly reconstruction of the so-called ‘middle recension,’ the manuscript witnesses across several manuscript traditions contain further Ignatian letters or longer recensions of the seven (and occasionally shorter and fewer letters) – which is how the historical reader would have encountered this early Christian author. Taking cue from recent conversations on the disconnect between the configuration of epistolary corpora in manuscripts and their reformulation in modern printed collections, this lecture explores how the various types of Ignatian collections adjust and negotiate the authorial image of one Ignatius of Antioch, the disciple of the apostles.

Madalina Toca (University of Vienna)
‘How to Collect a Corpus. Letters, Archives, and Authorship’
Monday 13 November, 5PM, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Lecture Room 1

A corpus of 2,000 letters from the fifth century is attributed to Isidore of Pelusium. Even though this is the largest letter collection of late antiquity and it was copied in significantly more manuscripts than the letters of far more prominent late antique authors, Isidore is a virtually unknown historical figure. Perhaps unsurprisingly, this led to doubts about the authenticity of the corpus and, for instance, to the proposal that the corpus was written in the next century and placed under the name of a (minor) local saint – Isidore of Pelusium. Such proposals may not have won the day, but uncertainties remain with regard to the earliest stages in the formation of the corpus. Who collected the two thousand letters? When and where was the corpus organised in the numbered collection that we find throughout the Greek manuscript tradition, and partially in Syriac? This lecture will discuss the current hypotheses and point to the relevance of letters in documentary papyri and papyrus archives for better situating the issue moving forward.

Luise Marion Frenkel (Universidade de São Paulo)
‘The Syriac reception of fifth-century anti-Nestorian refutations’
Monday 20 November, 5PM, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Lecture Room 1

Early church councils and the controversies associated with them are given great importance in modern histories of the church. However, the development of their authority is not straightforward, and it is often difficult to identify an early reception of ideas and characters. Late-antique Syriac manuscripts are perhaps the best sources for the early text-based circulation of (anti-)Nestorian arguments. The lecture will focus on the Syriac manuscript BL Add 17,148, which contains translations of two Greek works. The second is an entire copy of Epiphanius of Salamis’ De mensuris et ponderibus, with a colophon which mentions a date in the mid-seventh century. The first 44 folios preserve the only surviving copy of Theodotus of Ancyra’s Contra Nestorium. A. van Roey’s transcription and Latin translation with notes remains unpublished, and no other edition has been prepared. Van Roey identified in the words assigned to the character ‘Nestorius’ most of the Nestorian passages refuted in the first two books of Cyril of Alexandria’s Libri 5 Contra Nestorium (CPG 5217), and the arguments of his ‘orthodox’ opponent reflect ideas found in this and other works by Cyril as well as by Theodotus. So far, only select passages of Cyril’s Contra Nestorium and Theodotus’ Contra Nestorium have been identified in Syriac florilegia. In view of this evidence, what can be said about the relevance of figures such as Cyril of Alexandria and Nestorius during Late Antiquity? Is the attribution to Theodotus reliable, in view of the proliferation of pseudopigraphic dialogues? Can it be related to the growth of (official) conciliar proceedings and the characterisation of his agency at Ephesus and in Ancyra? Can the interest in Theodotus’ dialogue of the seventh-century Syriac copyists as well as of later owners of the manuscript be interpreted as an attempt to bypass Cyril of Alexandria’s authorship and the acrimony over Chalcedon?
THE OXFORD CENTRE FOR LATE ANTIQUITY INVITES YOU TO A CELEBRATION OF:

FROM THE LATER ROMAN EMPIRE TO LATE ANTIQUITY AND BEYOND

Prof. Dame Averil Cameron
From the Later Roman Empire to Late Antiquity and Beyond

Please join the author, Prof. Peter Brown (online) and Prof. Judith Herrin for discussion and questions

Tuesday 7th November, 5pm, Levine Building Auditorium, Trinity College
or online: https://tinyurl.com/v89b6zyp

Drinks will be served after discussion
Lectures and Events

A celebration to mark the publication of

The Definitive Zoroastrian Critique of Islam
Chapters 11-12 of the Škand Gumāṅg-Wizār
by Mardānfarrox son of Ohrmazddād

Translated with commentary by
Christian C. Sahner

By Christian C. Sahner (AMES/ New College)

A panel discussion featuring:
Averil Cameron (Classics/ Keble)
Nicolai Sinai (AMES/ Pembroke)
Yuhan Sohrab-Dinshaw Vevaina (AMES/ Wolfson)

St Peter's College | Dorfman Centre
Tuesday, November 21st, 2023 (Week 7)
5 pm | Discussion followed by drinks and nibbles

With generous support from the Bahari Fund for Sasanian Studies
Medieval Archaeology Seminar

Conveners: H. Hamerow & J. Kershaw  
Mondays at 3 PM.  
Institute of Archaeology, Lecture Room.

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Seminars

Mondays

Medieval History Seminar

Conveners: J. Smith (on leave), L. Smith, D. Addison, J. Merrington, L. Miolo, B. Thompson
Mondays at 5 PM.
Wharton Room, All Souls College and on Teams.

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, it can be accessed via this link: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3a932349f56c7c40a9b2c92e3763546bf2%40thread.skype/169572283048?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22%3a%22cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91%22%2e%22Oid%22%3a%22b36d0c45-29a3-4ae6-aa0f-346d7099825f%22%7d

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

(W1) 9 October  Andrew Jotischky (RHUL) ‘Graze, Forage, Cook: authenticity and authority in medieval monastic reform’


(W3) 23 October  Matthew Kempshall (Wadham) ‘Dante’s Political Theology’

(W4) 30 October  Meia Walravens (Trinity) ‘Networked Diplomacy: the Bahmani Sultanate in the Islamic world (ca. 1475)’

(W5) 6 November  Alison Ray (St Peter’s College and Bodleian Library) ‘The Pecia System and the Medieval Oxford Book Trade’

(W6) 13 November  Liesbeth van Houts (Emmanuel, Cambridge) ‘Towards a New Biography of Empress Matilda: what can be known about the women around her?’

(W7) 20 November  Nadine Vierrmann (Durham) ‘Translating Holiness: Relics and the Dynamics of Empire in the Late Antique Mediterranean’

(W8) 27 November  Rory Naismith (Corpus, Cambridge) ‘Coined Money in the Early Middle Ages: did it matter?’
Seminars

Wednesdays

Late Antique Latin Reading Group

Wednesdays at 11.30-12.30.
Hovenden Room, All Souls College

The Late Antique Latin Reading Group offers an opportunity to practise reading late antique Latin texts in an informal and friendly atmosphere. Each week we will read selected passages from a critical edition of a different Latin text (usually the equivalent of 2-3 OCT pages), ranging chronologically from Tertullian (2nd century) to Isidore of Seville (7th century). These will be circulated a week in advance via email, with some suggestions for (optional) further reading. Each text will be briefly introduced by one of the convenors, who will offer historical context.

The Late Antique Latin Reading Group is open to anyone engaged in research on the late antique world. Though prior knowledge of Latin is required, we welcome people with a range of abilities. We particularly welcome graduate students and early career academics. If you would like to attend, or you have any questions, feel free to contact either of the convenors.

Please do RSVP if you intend to attend, so that we can gauge numbers and circulate the readings.

David Addison (david.addison@all-souls.ox.ac.uk)
Alison John (alison.john@all-souls.ox.ac.uk)

(W1) 11 October Lactantius, De mortibus persecutorum
(W2) 18 October Claudian, De raptu Proserpinae
(W3) 25 October Gildas, De excidio et conquestu Britanniae
(W4) 1 November Anonymous, Panegyrici latini
(W5) 8 November Corpus iuris ciuilis
(W6) 15 November Caesarius of Arles, Sermones
(W7) 22 November Regula magistri
(W8) 29 November Isidore of Seville, Synonyma
Late Antique and Byzantine Seminar

Convened by I. Jacobs & Ida Toth

Wednesdays at 5 PM.

66 St Giles and online via Microsoft Teams by clicking here: https://bitly.ws/WAaV

(W1) 11 October Stratis Papaioannou (National Hellenic Research Foundation, Athens) 'Portraits of the Reader during the Middle Byzantine Period'

(W2) 18 October SPECIAL OCBR LECTURE Adrian Jusupovic (The Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw) 'Byzantine Princess Ruling Rus'

(W3) 25 October Miranda Williams, Tim Penn and Ine Jacobs (Oxford University) 'More than “the last monument of Byzantine rule in Cyrenaica”. Taucheira in Late Antiquity'

(W4) 1 November Michael Hanaghan (Australian Catholic University) 'Future Perfect? The Ontology of the Future in Sidonius’ Imperial Panegyrics'

(W5) 8 November Georgi Parpulov (Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities, and Dimitris Skrekas, University of London/Oxford University) 'Positions of Considerable Emolument: Cataloguing Greek Manuscripts in Oxford'

(W6) 15 November Mike Humphries (Oxford University) 'Punitive Mutilation in Byzantine Law: The case of nose amputation in Byzantium and beyond'

(W7) 22 November Paolo Sachet (L’Institut d’histoire de la Réformation, Geneva) 'The Greek Fathers in Print: the AGAPE Database and the Early Modern Patristic Editions'

(W8) 29 November Peter Bara (The Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest) 'Translators, Patrons, Scholars: Greek Texts in Latin Translations from Production to Audience, ca. 1050–1350'
Late Roman Seminar

Organised by C. Leyser & A. John
Thursdays at 4 PM.
Seminar Room, Corpus Christi College
**NB: 19 October and 9 November in Rainolds Room (Corpus Christi)**

(W1) 12 October  Miriam Hay (Institute of Classical Studies) ‘Monumentality and Materiality on late Roman Sarcophagi’

(W2) 19 October  **Rainolds Room** David Lambert ‘Hilarius of Arles or Helladius of Arles? Chronology, Textual Criticism, and the Reception of Augustine’s Ideas on Grace’

(W3) 26 October  William Bunce ‘Justinian the Jurist’

(W4) 2 November  Hatice Pamir (Mustafa Kemal University) ‘Evaluation of the recently discovered mosaics from the new phase excavations in Antioch and Daphne’

(W5) 9 November  **Rainolds Room** James Corke-Webster (KCL) ‘Letters of Refuge: From Ancient Lyons to Modern Calais’

(W6) 16 November  Giulia Marolla (Università degli Studi di Bari) ‘Power Dynamics in Fifth-century Gaul: Insights from Book 5 of Sidonius’ Letters’

(W7) 23 November  Ella Kirsch (Brown University) ‘Panic! at the Synod: the Social Lives of Stenographers at Fifth-Century Councils’

(W8) 30 November  Monica Hellström ‘Oratory at Constantinian Trier: Lactantius De mortibus persecutorum as performance’
Three lectures organised by Dr Andy Hilkens (Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies)
Luise Marion Frenkel (Universidade de São Paulo)
'The Syriac reception of fifth-century anti-Nestorian refutations"
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.

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

http://cultofsaints.history.ox.ac.uk
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](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.

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/
# Michaelmas Term 2023-2024

## October 2023

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**1st Week, Michaelmas Term**
- 17.00 Andrew Jowett (UMA) "Grace, Forage, and Authenticity in Medieval Manuscript Production"
- 10.30 Lactancius, De moribus pestilentialium. "Late Roman Religious and Social Practice in the Context of Pandemic" by Lactancius.
- 10.30 Claudian, De rebus gestis. "The History of Rome" by Claudian.
- 10.30 "Romantic Room". "David Lambert Visions of Asia on Heliodorus of Athens" by David Lambert.
- 16.00 William D. M. "Creative Writing: The Practice of the Poet"
- 16.00 "Exhibition Tour". "The Art of the Roman Empire" by Prof. Jane Smith.

**2nd Week, Michaelmas Term**
- 15.00 John Blair. "Powerful Women, Dangerous Minds: Female Rabbi and Priestesses in Roman Culture" by John Blair.
- 17.00 Social Justice. "Criminal Justice and Punishment in Late Antiquity" by Prof. Robert Jones.
- 18.00 "Theater Production". "The Roman Theater in the Time of the Caesars" by Prof. Sarah Williams.
- 19.00 "Symposium Dinner". "Dining in the Ancient World" by Prof. Michael Cooper.
- 20.00 "Film Screening". "The Roman Empire in Modern Film" by Prof. David Brown.

**3rd Week, Michaelmas Term**
- 15.00 "The Caesars in Art". "The Art of the Roman Empire" by Prof. Jane Smith.
- 16.00 "Archaeology Tour". "The Roman City of Ephesus" by Prof. Michael Cooper.
- 17.00 "Literary Reading Group". "The Poetry of Ovid" by Prof. Sarah Williams.
- 18.00 "Dinner and Dance". "Celebrating the Roman Empire" by Prof. David Brown.
- 19.00 "Symposium Festival". "Music and Performance in the Roman World" by Prof. Jane Smith.

**4th Week, Michaelmas Term**
- 15.00 "History of the Roman Empire". "The Rise and Fall of Rome" by Prof. Michael Cooper.
- 16.00 "Seminar on Ancient History". "The Roman Empire in the 2nd Century" by Prof. Sarah Williams.
- 17.00 "Film Screening". "The Roman Empire in Modern Film" by Prof. David Brown.
- 18.00 "Symposium Dinner". "Dining in the Ancient World" by Prof. Michael Cooper.
- 19.00 "Exhibition Opening". "The Art of the Roman Empire" by Prof. Jane Smith.

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**Schedule**

**Late Antique Latin Reading Group**
- 16.00 "Latin Reading Group". "Reading and Discussing the Works of Late Latin Authors" by Prof. Jane Smith.

**Medieval History Seminar**
- 15.00 "Medieval History Seminar". "The Middle Ages in Europe" by Prof. Michael Cooper.

**Middle Ages Seminar**
- 17.00 "Medieval History Seminar". "The Middle Ages in Europe" by Prof. Michael Cooper.

**Lectures and Events**
- 10.30 "Lectures and Events". "The History of the Roman Empire" by Prof. Michael Cooper.

**Calendar**
- 16.00 "Calendar". "Upcoming Events and Deadlines" by Prof. Sarah Williams.

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