Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminar, 2009-2010
Conversion in Late Antiquity: Christianity, Islam, and Beyond

First Colloquium:
‘Converting States’
16 January 2010

Corpus Christi College,
MBI Al Jaber Auditorium

9:30  **Session 1: East Asia**
Antonello Palumbo, “From Constantine the Great to Emperor Wu of the Liang: The rhetoric of imperial conversion and the divisive emergence of religious identities in Late Antique Eurasia”
Chair and discussant: Mark Whittow

10:30  Coffee

11:00  **Session 2: Legislation**
Uriel Simonsohn, “Conversion, apostasy, and penance: the shifting identities of the first generations of Muslim Converts”
Simon Corcoran, “From unholy madness to right-mindedness: or how to legislate for religious conformity from Decius to Justinian”
Chair and discussant: Fergus Millar

12:30  Lunch

1:30  **Session 3: Incentives**
Christopher Kelly, “Collusion, conformity, coercion: making Christians in late Antiquity”
Petra Sijpesteijn, “The Islamic state as an agent of conversion”
Chair and discussant: Hugh Kennedy

3:00  Coffee

3:30  **Session 4: Propagation**
Joel Walker, “How Christian was the Late Sasanian Empire?: Patterns of Conversion in the Late Antique Middle East”
Michael Bonner, “‘Even if the unbelievers dislike it’ (wa-law kariha l-mushrikūn): conversion and the early Islamic state”
Chair and discussant: James Howard-Johnston

5:00  **Conclusions and discussion**
Richard Bulliet and Chris Wickham

5:45  Reception

All are most welcome to attend but please register for the colloquium with Dan Schwartz (daniel.schwartz@orinst.ox.ac.uk). There is no charge to attend the colloquium; however, a sandwich lunch will be available on site for £5. If you would like to take part in the lunch please indicate this no later than Thursday 7 January.

Further details for this event, including paper abstracts, and information on the other colloquia of the Mellon Sawyer Seminar can be accessed on the web at [http://www.oca.ox.ac.uk/conversion/index.html](http://www.oca.ox.ac.uk/conversion/index.html).