

Listed here are the lectures and seminars on Late Antiquity taking place in Oxford between January and March 2010.

The Oxford Centre for Late Antiquity is generously supported by Lewis Chester, who read History at Trinity, by Paul Pheby who read Modern Languages at Exeter, and by an anonymous donor through Trinity College.

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

www.ocla.ox.ac.uk

(where any up-datings will be posted)

**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

/...continued

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.ocla.ox.ac.uk/conversion/>

OXFORD CENTRE for LATE ANTIQUITY



COLLOQUIUM (with the Corpus Classics Centre)

History and Identity in the Eastern Mediterranean 500–1000

Rainolds Room, Corpus Christi College, Saturday 13 February 2010, 9.30am–5.00pm



The young Mohammad meeting the Christian monk Bahira (Persian Ms, early 14th century)

Joseph Bali (Athens/Damascus) ‘*The Writing of History and the Political Setting: Bar Hebraeus’ Account of Late Antiquity*’

Tara Andrews (Oxford) ‘*History, Philosophy, and Armenian Identity in the Sixth Century*’

Dan King (Cardiff) ‘*Why were the Churches of the East so Interested in Greek Philosophy?*’

Hussein Omar (Cairo) ‘“*The Crinkly-haired People of the Black Earth*”: examining Egyptian Identities in Ibn Abd al-Hakam’s *Futuh*’

Amal Marogy (Cambridge) ‘*Arabic Linguistic Reasoning in Early ‘Abbasid Period: Tribal and Cultural Identity and its Linguistic Reflection in the First Arabic Grammar*’

Harry Munt (Oxford) ‘*The Prophet’s City before the Prophet: Ibn Zabala (d. after 199/814) on Pre-Islamic Medina*’

Adam Talib (Oxford) ‘*Topoi and Topography in the Histories of al-Hirah*’

Sarah Savant (Agha Khan Institute) ‘*Forgetting Iran’s Pre-Islamic Past, ca.800–1100*’

Contact: <philip.wood@ccc.ox.ac.uk>. Please pre-register with an email entitled ‘COLLOQUIUM’. Papers will be pre-circulated. Price: £10, including lunch and refreshments



After Rome: Augustinian Approaches



Augustine and the Sack of Rome: French illumination, 15th century

Afternoon Colloquium: Saturday 27 February 2010

Seminar Room, Corpus Christi College, Oxford

- 2.30 pm **Mark Vessey** (University of British Columbia):
Written after Rome: Augustine, Eusebius-Jerome, and the Beginnings of Literary History
RESPONSE: Gillian Clark (Bristol)
- 4.00 pm Tea/coffee break
- 4.30 pm **Eric Rebillard** (Cornell University):
Being Christian in the Age of Augustine: the bad, the good and the mediocre
RESPONSE: Isabella Sandwell (Bristol)
- 6.00 pm Drinks Reception

The colloquium is free, but those wishing to attend should register with Neil McLynn
<neil.mclynn@classics.ox.ac.uk>.

The colloquium is organized by Neil McLynn with the support of Paul Pheby



Ioannou Centre
for Classical &
Byzantine Studies,
Lecture Room,
66 St Giles, Oxford

The morning includes one paper from each of the main periods to give a sense of the developments involved. The afternoon examines some Late Antique aspects in more detail, and concludes with the Ottoman period.

Papers are 25 minutes long, followed by discussions. Coffee is available from 9.40 am.

I CHAIR: BRYAN WARD-PERKINS

- 10.00–10.45 **Ted Kaizer** (Durham): *Roman Syria from Pompey to Diocletian*
10.45–11.15 Tea & coffee

II CHAIR: JUDITH MCKENZIE

- 11.15–12.00 **Margarete van Ess** (Berlin): *Urban transformation of Baalbek from Roman to Late Antique Times*
12.00–12.45 **Elias Khamis** (Oxford): *The Great Mosque in Damascus*
12.45–1.45 Lunch

III CHAIR: LUKAS SCHACHNER

- 1.45–2.30 **Marlia Mango** (Oxford): *Aspects of the Material Culture of Early Byzantine Syria*
2.30–3.15 **Sean Leatherbury** (Oxford): *Early Christian Mosaics in Syria: Inscriptions and Iconographies*
3.15–3.45 Tea & coffee

IV CHAIR: NEIL MCLYNN

- 3.45–4.30 **Claire Fauchon** (Lyons): *Domestic Hospitality in Late Antique Syria from the Syriac and Greek Sources*
4.30–5.15 **Philipp Wirtz** (SOAS, London): *Syria under Ottoman Rule: 1517–1918*
5.15 Wine

The day is generously sponsored by the Oxford Centre for Late Antiquity and organised by Konstantin Klein, Jessica Ehinger, and Judith McKenzie. Attendance is free but, as places are limited, those wishing to attend please email: konstantin.klein@classics.ox.ac.uk or jessica.ehinger@spc.ox.ac.uk

The Oxford Byzantine Society presents

The 2010 International Graduate Conference

BEING BYZANTINE: definitions, limits and realities

5–6 March 2010

The History Faculty, George Street, Oxford

The Oxford Byzantine Society is pleased to announce that its international graduate conference will be taking place this year on the 5–6 of March 2010, in the History Faculty building. This year's conference will explore the Byzantine identity, both as a self-constructed reality and as viewed through the lens of others. What did it mean to be Byzantine, and how did that meaning change over time? Was there a particular understanding of identity and if so, what were the elements which contributed to its development?

Twenty-seven speakers from thirteen different cities across Europe will converge on Oxford to present papers discussing these questions and more. Each day will be broken into four thematic sessions containing three or four papers. The papers themselves will be twenty minutes in length, followed by a few minutes of discussion at the conclusion of each paper.

Coffee, tea, biscuits and a sandwich lunch will be provided on both days. At the end of each day there will be a wine reception. The Oxford Byzantine Society warmly invites anyone with an interest in Byzantium to attend.

Those interested in attending must register by no later than Sunday, 28 February 2010

To register, or if you have any questions please e-mail:
byzantine.society@googlemail.com

The conference will cost £6 for a single day or £10 for both days. This fee includes annual membership in the Oxford Byzantine Society. Registration fees will be payable on the day.

The Oxford Byzantine Society gratefully acknowledges the Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies, the Oxford Centre for Medieval History and the Oxford Centre for Late Antiquity for their generous assistance in making this conference possible.

OXFORD CENTRE for LATE ANTIQUITY



SPECIAL LECTURE

(with the Seminar for Late Antique and Byzantine Studies)

Michael Stone

(Hebrew University, Jerusalem):

*'The Armenian appropriation of biblical themes,
and creation of apocryphal literature'*



*The Crossing of the Red Sea, by Toros Roslin
(Armenian, 13th-century)*

Wednesday 10 March
2010 at 5pm

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

*Professor Stone is also talking
at 12 noon on Tuesday 9 March,
in the Examination Schools,
on 'Visions and Religious Ex-
perience in Ancient Judaism';
and at 5pm on Thursday
11 March, in Lecture Room 1 of
the Oriental Institute, on 'Early
Armenian Inscriptions from Je-
rusalem and the Holy Land' (to
the Armenian Studies Seminars)*

These events are funded through the generosity of Lewis Chester

Leverhulme Lectures

Thomas Mathews (New York University)

Byzantine Icons as a link in a chain of cultic panel paintings stretching from Antiquity to the Renaissance

Mondays 4–6pm, Lecture Room 1, Oriental Institute

18 January (Week 1)

An introduction to the corpus of panel paintings of the gods from Roman Egypt

25 January (Week 2)

Archeological evidence from the Fayum of the context of paintings in Karanis, Tebtynis and Theadelphia

1 February (Week 3)

The pagan religious tradition of making votive offerings of images, and its survival in Roman culture

8 February (Week 4)

The earliest evidence of Christian cultic images in the 2nd and 3rd centuries

15 February (Week 5)

Icons in church and the Eusebian theological dilemma of representations of Christ

22 February (Week 6)

The early Christian icons of St. Catherine's, Sinai: Votive offerings and dedications

1 March (Week 7)

The survival of pagan icons into the eighth century, and the confusion of pagan and Christian images

8 March (Week 8)

Icons as carriers of important themes in European art: the mother goddess, the enthroned god; sacra conversazione triptychs; the hierarchically organized double-register image

Late Antique and Byzantine Seminar

Wednesdays at 5 pm in the Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies

20 January (Week 1)

Dr Peter Thonemann (Oxford):

The origins of the Melissenoi'

27 January (Week 2)

Dr Yannis Papadogiannakis (Oxford):

An anonymous sixth-century Byzantine encyclopedist'

3 February (Week 3)

Professor David W. Phillipson (University of Cambridge):

Early Ethiopian Christianity: foreign contacts and indigenous tradition'

10 February (Week 4)

Professor Thomas F. Mathews (New York University):

The pagan piety of the Emperor Saint Constantine the Great'

17 February (Week 5)

Dr Vivien Prigent (British Academy):

Controlling the territory: sigillographic evidence for eighth-century Sicily'

24 February (Week 6)

Dr Marina Bazzani (Oxford):

Homage and request in the poems of Manuel Philes'

3 March (Week 7)

Dr Guillaume Saint-Guillien (King's College London):

Saint John of Patmos between East and West: an insular monastic community in the late medieval Aegean'

10 March (Week 8)*

Professor Michael Stone (University of Jerusalem):

The Armenian appropriation of biblical themes, and creation of apocryphal literature'

(jointly with the Oxford Centre for Late Antiquity)

Convener: Marc Lauxtermann

Late Roman Seminar

Thursdays 5pm, Seminar Room, Corpus

21 January (Week 1)

Hartmut Leppin (University of Frankfurt):
Roman identity in Evagrius

28 January (Week 2)

Roberta Mazza (University of Manchester):
Big questions, small answers? Debating aristocratic landholding in late antique Egypt

4 February (Week 3)

Roger Tomlin (Oxford):
Spes Saeculi: Augustine's worldly ambitions and career

11 February (Week 4)

Phil Booth (Oxford):
John Moschus's Spiritual Meadow as an historical source

18 February (Week 5)

Alan Ross (Oxford):
Disposing of Gallus: imperial entrances and exits in Ammianus book 14

25 February (Week 6)

Meaghan McEvoy (Oxford):
Rome and the transformation of the imperial office in the late 4th to mid-5th centuries

4 March (Week 7)

Daniel Schwartz (Oxford):
Coercion, persuasion, and belief: understanding the christianisation of the Roman Empire

11 March (Week 8)

Peter van Nuffelen (University of Ghent):
Orosius and the Rhetoric of History

Conveners: Neil McLynn and Bryan Ward-Perkins

Society and the Holy in Late Antiquity

Fridays, 2.00pm, the Memorial Room, Worcester College

This is a new seminar, open to all, including undergraduates. Papers will be 30 minutes long, so as to leave extensive time for discussion.

22 January (Week 1)

David Natal (Léon):
Social Conflict and Celestial Harmony: Poverty and the Framing of Local Identities in Ambrose of Milan

29 January (Week 2)

Jonathan Conant (San Diego):
Christianity and Local Culture in Late Antique North Africa

5 February (Week 3)

Jas Elsner (Oxford):
Sacrifice in Late Antiquity: The Visual Evidence

12 February (Week 4)

Riccardo Bof (Manchester):
Law, Marriage, and Divorce in the West: from Constantine to Teutberga

19 February (Week 5)

No seminar

26 February (Week 6)

Irene van Renswoude (Utrecht):
'I alone in your court was denied a hearing': The Rhetoric of Free Speech in Late Antiquity

5 March (Week 7)

Roberta Mazza (Manchester):
Religion and State in the Age of Justinian: Choricus of Gaza, Oration XIII
(Pre-circulated paper: e-mail conrad.leyser@worc.ox.ac.uk for a copy)

12 March (Week 8)

Edward Gibbon, Society, and the Holy in Late Antiquity: a Roundtable Discussion
Participants to be confirmed

Convener: Conrad Leyser (Worcester)

Patristics Seminar

Tuesdays at 4pm in Christ Church

19 January (Week 1)

Dr Mark Edwards:

Early Christians on the Non-Existence of Matter

26 January (Week 2)

Dominic Keech:

Ambrosian Hymnody and Nicene Exegesis in the Catechetical Sermons of Quodvultdeus of Carthage

(No seminar arranged for third week)

9 February (Week 4)

Dr Julia Konstaninovsky:

The ancient reception of Evagrius

16 February (Week 5)

Gavin McCormick:

Reading Acts 17 in Late Antiquity

23 February (Week 6)

Dr Kate Cooper:

From Martyrdom to Christendom? Christianity and the Law from Decius to Constantine

2 March (Week 7)

Dr Benedicta Ward:

Who were the desert fathers?

9 March (Week 8)

Stuart Thomson

Genre and the Stromateis of Clement of Alexandria

Led by Dr Edwards and Dr Rosenberg

Byzantine Archaeology and Art Seminar: Constantinople

Tuesdays 5–6:30 p.m., St John's College, New Seminar Room

19 January (WEEK 1)

Professor Cyril A. Mango:

Broken Bits of Byzantium

26 January (WEEK 2)

Simon Davies (Lincoln) & Georges Kazan (St John's):

Healing Cults and Their Shrines at Constantinople, AD 330–1453

2 February (WEEK 3)

Dr Marlia Mango:

Thermae, balnea/loutra, hamams; Baths at Constantinople

9 February (Week 4)

Professor Paul Magdalino (St Andrews):

The Church of ta Kyrou, Lay Piety, and Cultural Milieux in Middle-Byzantine Constantinople

16 February (WEEK 5)

Professor Jim Crow (Edinburgh):

Downhill all the Way? Managing the Water Supply of Constantinople

23 February (Week 6)

John Hayes (Oxford):

Pottery Connections in the Byzantine World: Constantinople, (Western) Sicily, the Po Delta, Jerusalem and Elsewhere

2 March (WEEK 7)

Dr Anne McCabe (Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents):

Some Inscriptions around Town

9 March (WEEK 8)

Dr Zeynep Yurekli-Gorkay (Oxford):

Constantinople after its Fall: The Making of an Ottoman Capital

Conveners: Lukas Amadeus Schachner, Georgi Parpulov

Seminar on Jewish History and Literature in the Graeco-Roman Period

Tuesdays at 2.30 p.m. in the Oriental Institute

19 January (Week 1)

Willem Smelik (UCL):

The Faces of Aquila: Translation and Transculturation

26 January (Week 2)

Tessa Rajak (Reading and Oxford):

Josephus' use of the Greek Bible

2 February (Week 3)

Albert Baumgarten (Bar Ilan):

Karaites-Qumran-the Calendar-and Beyond: at the beginning of the twenty-first century

9 February (Week 4)

Alana Nobbs (Macquarrie):

Distinguishing between Jewish and Christian Divine Names in Fourth Century Papyri

16 February (Week 5)

Julia Krivoruchko (Cambridge):

Greek loanwords in rabbinic literature

23 February (Week 6)

Emanuel Tov (Hebrew University):

The Post-Pentateuchal LXX Translations

2 March (Week 7)

Reinhart Ceulemans (Leuven):

Hexaplaric readings for Song of Songs and Jewish exegesis

9 March (Week 8)

Shifra Sznol (Bar Ilan):

Jewish Greek versions, Aramaic translations and rabbinic interpretation in the Cairo Genizah, the Constantinople Pentateuch, and other sources

Conveners: Martin Goodman and Alison Salvesen

Grinfield Lectures on the Septuagint 2009–10

These lectures concern the transmission and reconstruction of the text of the Septuagint, much of the evidence coming from Late Antiquity. They are open to the public, and held in the Examination Schools at 5pm on the dates shown.

Anneli Aejmelaeus

(Professor of Old Testament and Ancient Near Eastern Culture and Literature, University of Helsinki)

From textual transmission to critical edition

(Second series)

Thursday 18 February (Week 5):

Collation of Evidence

Thursday 25 February (Week 6):

Recensional developments

Thursday 4 March (Week 7):

Problems of the critical text

Medieval Archaeology Seminar

Mondays of Weeks 2, 4, 6, and 8 at 3pm in the Institute of Archaeology Lecture Room

25 January (Week 2)

Sarah Semple:

‘Gardens of the Gods’: plants and magic in Anglo-Saxon England

8 February (Week 4)

Dagfinn Skre:

The Economy of Viking-Age Scandinavia. Commodities and silver as ‘money’

22 February (Week 6)

Clifford Sofield:

Ritual in Context: identifying and interpreting ‘placed deposits’ in Anglo-Saxon settlements

8 March (Week 8)

Andrea Augenti:

Ravenna: founding a capital, imagining a community

Conveners: Helena Hamerow and Lesley Abrams

Medieval Church and Culture Seminar

Tuesdays at 5 pm, Garrard Room, Harris Manchester College

The following paper, within the term’s theme of “Passing on...”, is focused on the late-antique period:

19 January (1st Week)

Bryan Ward-Perkins (Oxford):

Transmission and forgetfulness: The curious contrast between the late-antique East and West

Conveners: Margaret Coombe, Brian FitzGerald, Henrietta Leyser, Elizabeth Russell and Lesley Smith

Roman Discussion Forum

Wednesdays 1pm, Institute of Archaeology, Beaumont Street

The following papers are specifically focused on Late Antiquity:

20 January (Week 1)

Ulrich Gehn (Oxford)

Late Roman togati and chlamydati. Dress code and rank (and some remarks on chronology)

17 February (Week 5)

Roger Wilson (University of British Columbia)

Funerary feasting in early Byzantine Sicily: new evidence from Kaukana

Conveners: Andrew Wilson & Hannah Friedman

‘Economies before Domesday’ Seminar

Thursdays 5 pm, All Souls College, Old Library

The following papers include discussion of Late Antiquity/early middle ages:

4 March (Week 7)

Chris Wickham (Oxford)

Thoughts on the economic divide between late Antiquity and the early Middle Ages

11 March (Week 8)

Helena Hamerow (Oxford)

Agricultural Investment and Innovation in Anglo-Saxon England

Convener: Andrew Wilson

Classical Archaeology Seminar

Rome: city and monuments

Mondays at 5 pm. Lecture Theatre, Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies, 66 St Giles

The following paper is focused on the late-antique period

15 February (Week 5)

Robert Coates-Stephens (British School at Rome):

The Forum Romanum in the Byzantine period

Conveners: Janet DeLaine and Bert Smith

Medieval Visual Culture Seminar

Fridays 1pm, History Faculty (Old Boys' School), George Street

The following paper is specifically focused on Late Antiquity:

29 January (Week 2)

Laja Kominko (University of York)

Holy space-time continuum in Late Antiquity: Loca Sacra and temporal interpretation of sacred architecture.

Conveners: Milena Grabacic and Gervase Rosser

For a full programme of the seminar, see

http://www.history.ox.ac.uk/medieval/seminars_lectures/2010_ht/medieval_visual_culture.html

Late Antique and Byzantine Reading Group

This informal reading group, with a membership primarily of graduate students (at both masters and doctoral level), usually meets every fortnight during term to discuss recent works on Late Antiquity/Byzantium. Members of the group agree what they want to discuss from the whole field of Late Antique and Byzantine Studies.

Anyone interested in joining the group (from inside or outside Oxford University) should contact the convener, Jenny Thompson <jenny.thompson@history.ox.ac.uk>