



Listed here are the lectures and seminars on Late Antiquity taking place in Oxford between October and December 2014

The activities of the Oxford Centre for Late Antiquity are made possible by the generosity of donors to the Centre

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

www.ocla.ox.ac.uk

As at 16 October 2014

Changes will inevitably take place as term progresses, so there will be a link to an updated version of this booklet here:

http://www.ocla.ox.ac.uk/home_eve.shtml



Mithras and the bull. From Rome, 2nd/3rd century AD, British Museum

THE EMPIRES OF FAITH PROJECT

‘Images of Mithras’

Thursday 16 October
2014 at 5pm

Sutro Room,
Trinity College

Empires of Faith is a Leverhulme funded project between the British Museum and Oxford. Its brief is to explore how images and objects were used to construct and disseminate religious iconographies out of the confrontation of the traditions of Greco-Roman image-making with those of a series of other cultures in Late Antiquity. The geographic scope of the project is from Britain and Spain in the west to South and Central Asia in the east.

This seminar will close with a drink to celebrate Empires of Faith, and to mark the beginning of the new late-antique academic year.

This event is funded through the generosity of donors to the Oxford Centre for Late Antiquity

A Central Asian trade hub: Khwarazm in the Late Antique and Early Islamic period

Wolfson College, Oxford, 28–29 November 2014

*Convened by Marek Jankowiak, Mark Whittow,
Luke Treadwell and Paul Wordsworth*

Friday, 28 November 2014, 17.00–18.30,
in Leonard Wolfson Auditorium, Wolfson College

Public lecture:

Irina Arzhantseva (Moscow): *The fortress of Por-Bajin*



All welcome

*The conference is organised with the generous support of the History Faculty,
Lorne Thyssen Research Fund for Ancient World Topics at Wolfson College,
and the Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research*

.../ Khwarazm weekend continued

Saturday 29 November 2014 Workshop, in the Buttery, Wolfson College *Programme subject to confirmation*

- 09.00–09.45 Luke Treadwell (Oxford):
Khwarazm between the Samanids and the Turks
- 09.45–10.30 Paul Wordsworth (Oxford):
Trade routes from Khurasan to Khwarazm
- 10.30–11.00 *Coffee*
- 11.00–11.45 **Marek Jankowiak** (Oxford):
Khwarazmian trade with the North in the tenth century
- 11.45–12.30 **Sasha Naymark** (New York):
Trade routes between Khwarazm and Bukhara
- 12.30–13.15 **Denis Genequand** (Geneva):
*Trade with Khwarazm ? An Archaeological Perspective from
North-Western Khurassan (9th–13th century CE)*
- 13.15–14.15 *Sandwich lunch*
- 14.15–15.00 **Michele Minardi** (Rome):
*The Islamisation of Khwarazm: the last days of Zoroastrian
funerary practices and calendar*
- 15.00–15.45 **Veronika Murasheva** (Moscow):
Title to be confirmed
- 15.45–16.10 *Tea*
- 16.15–17.00 **Irina Arzhantseva** (Moscow):
The excavations in Dzhan Kent (Jangikent)
- 17.00–17.45 **Heinrich Härke** (Tübingen):
The Soviet Chorasman Expedition
- 17.45–18.15 Final discussion and conclusions, followed by drinks

Please register for the workshop with <paul.wordsworth@orinst.ox.ac.uk>

Participants will be charged £15 (Students and Wolfson £10) for catering.

Late Antique and Byzantine Seminar

WEDNESDAYS in Michaelmas Term 2014
in the Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies, 66 St Giles', at 5pm

15 October (Week 1)

Michael MacDonald (Oriental Institute):

Lay-by graffiti. Casual snapshots of momentous change in Roman and Late Antique Arabia

22 October (Week 2)

George Woudhuysen (All Souls) and **Graham Barrett** (St John's):

Small wars in faraway places under the emperor Honorius

29 October (Week 3)

Claudia Rapp (Institut für Byzantinistik und Neogräzistik, Vienna) :

Towards a study of microstructures in Byzantine society: preliminary considerations

5 November (Week 4)

Mark Janse (University of Ghent):

The principle of pairing. A cognitive approach to Byzantine versification

12 November (Week 5)

Rebecca Darley (University of Birmingham):

Travel, wonder and science: Byzantine perspectives on Book Eleven of the Christian Topography and the Periplus of the Erythreian Sea

19 November (Week 6)

Andreas Rhoby (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Vienna):

Inscriptions and Manuscripts in Byzantium: a fruitful symbiosis?

26 November (Week 7)

Aslıhan Akışık (Seeger Center for Hellenic Studies, Princeton NJ):

Laonikos Chalkokondyles and the early Ottoman Historians: A Herodotean Approach to Source Material

3 December (Week 8)

Fanny Bessard (SOAS, London) :

Merchants and Markets in early Islam

Conveners: Marc Lauxtermann and Mark Whittow

Late Antique and Byzantine Archaeology and Art Seminar

THURSDAYS in Michaelmas Term 2014
St John's College, New Seminar Room, 11am–12.30pm

16 October (Week 1)

Professor Ross Burns (Macquarie University, Sydney):

Conversion of temples to churches in the Levant –preliminary findings for Syria and Lebanon

23 October (Week 2)

Dr Marlia Mango:

Country Life: the economy of material culture in the villages of late Roman Oriens

30 October (Week 3)

Dr Jane Chick:

Disorder and Diversity in Cyrenaica: a Late Antique pavement at Qasr el Lebia

6 November (Week 4)

Dr Ulrich Gehn (Europeana Ancient Greek and Latin Epigraphy project):

Some considerations on the late Roman toga

13 November (Week 5)

Professor Robert Hoyland:

The Arab conquests revisited

20 November (Week 6)

Dr Efthymis Rizos:

The military annona and its warehouses in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Balkans (3rd–6th centuries AD)

27 November (Week 7)

Dr Troels Myrup Kristensen (Aarhus University, and Wolfson College):

Meriamlik and Seleukeia: the spatial politics of city and saint

4 December (Week 8)

Dr Luke Treadwell and **Dr Marek Jankowiak** (Khalili Research Centre):

Update on the 'Dirhems for Slaves' project

Conveners: Dr Marlia Mango (St John's) and Dr Georgi Parpulov (Wolfson)

Late Roman Seminar

THURSDAYS in Michaelmas Term 2014
Danson Room, Trinity College at 5pm
unless otherwise stated (see Wks 1 and 8)

16 October (Week 1) in the **SUTRO ROOM, TRINITY COLLEGE**
Empires of Faith Project, 'Images of Mithras', with Philippa Adrych,
Robert Bracey, Dominic Dalglish, Stefanie Lenk, and Rachel Wood

23 October (Week 2)
NO SEMINAR
(Regius Professor of History's Inaugural Lecture at 5pm in the Examination Schools)

30 October (Week 3)
Hope Williard (Leeds):
Patronage in the Early Middle Ages

6 November (Week 4)
Sebastian Schmidt-Hofner (Tübingen):
The Compilation of the Theodosian Code and a Crisis of Imperial Rule in the Early Fifth Century

13 November (Week 5)
Peter Heather (KCL):
Constantine's Conversion (again), and the Christianisation of the Empire

20 November (Week 6)
Susan Walker (Ashmolean Museum):
Saints and Salvation: Gold-Glass from Late Antique Rome in the Wilshire Collection, Ashmolean Museum

27 November (Week 7)
Glenn McDorman (Princeton):
Remembering and Commemorating War in the Post-Imperial West

4 December (Week 8) **STARTING AT 5.30PM**
Ian Wood (Leeds):
The ancient and modern creation of Columbanian monasticism

Conveners: Conrad Leyser and Bryan Ward-Perkins

Khalili Research Centre Seminar

TUESDAYS in Michaelmas Term 2014
Lecture Room, Khalili Research Centre, 3 St John Street, 2.00–4.00pm

The following three items on the programme are relevant to Late Antiquity:

14 October (Week 1)
Associate Professor Nicolai Sinai (Faculty of Oriental Studies):
On dating Qur'anic text

21 October (Week 2)
Revd Dr Keith Small (Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics):
Deciphering a Qur'anic palimpsest; Informing early Islamic history

28 October (Week 3)
Dr Luke Treadwell (Khalili Research Centre):
Early Islamic kings – when did they first appear and why?

25 November (Week 7)
Dr Seth Priestman (University of Edinburgh):
Indian Ocean ceramic exchange

Conveners: Dr Treadwell and Professor Watson

Medieval Archaeology Seminar

MONDAYS at 3pm in Michaelmas Term 2014
Institute of Archaeology Lecture Room

The seminar in Week 4 is relevant to Late Antiquity:

3 November (Week 4)
Cate Green:
Britons & Anglo-Saxons in the Lincoln Region, c.400–700

Convener: Helen Hamerow

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

TUESDAYS in Michaelmas Term 2014

Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Clarendon Institute Building, Walton Street, 2.30–4 pm

The following three seminars in the programme relate to Late Antiquity:

21 October (Week 2)

Dr Siam Bhayro (Exeter College):

Babylonian and Iranian features of ancient Jewish cosmologies: Marduk the magician and the Zurvanite Enoch

4 November (Week 4)

Jonathon Wright (St Stephen's House)

Nachleben of Jewish Pseudepigrapha: the case of Joseph and Aseneth

18 November (Week 6)

Dr Hector Patmore (Cardiff):

The Evil Inclination in the Targums to the Pentateuch and the Prophets

Convener: Professor Martin Goodman

Marine Worlds Seminar

The following seminar is relevant to Late Antiquity:

Wednesday 12 November (Week 5)

Dr Rebecca Ingram (Texas A&M University):

Yenikapı Shipwreck YK 11: The Excavation and Analysis of a Seventh-Century Byzantine Merchantman

This seminar will be held in the Lecture Theatre, Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies, 66 St Giles', 3.30–4.30pm

Power Structuralism in Ancient Ontologies

TUESDAYS in Michaelmas Term 2014

Fraenkel Room, All College, 2.30–4.00pm

The following two seminars in the programme are relevant to Late Antiquity:

11 November 2014 (Week 5)

Paul Scade (Istanbul Sehir University):

Thought and Reality in Stoic Ontology

2 December 2014 (Week 8)

Vladimir Mikes (Czech Academy of Sciences):

[Title to be confirmed]

http://www.power-structuralism.ox.ac.uk/weekly_seminars/invited_talks

The Roman Discussion Forum

WEDNESDAYS in Michaelmas Term 2014

Lecture Room, Institute of Archaeology, Beaumont Street at 1.00 pm

The following two items on the programme are relevant to Late Antiquity:

5 November (Week 4)

Victoria Sainsbury (University of Oxford):

Industry or in decline? Preliminary evidence for glass recycling in Britain between the 1st–7th centuries AD

19 November (Week 6)

Dr Daphne Briggs (University of Oxford):

Reflections of Ovid in runic text on a bracteate from fifth-century Norfolk

Organisers: Andrew Wilson, Nichole Sheldrick, and Amanda Sharp with the support of the Faculty of Classics, the School of Archaeology, and All Souls College

Oxford Archaeological Fieldwork Seminar

WEDNESDAYS in Michaelmas Term 2014
Institute of Archaeology Lecture Room, 36 Beaumont Street

The following two items on the programme are relevant to Late Antiquity:

5 November (Week 4) at 5pm

Edward Peveler:

Discovering Dorchester-on-Thames

12 November (Week 5) at 5.30pm

Dr Javier Martínez Jiménez:

Managing heritage and archaeological research: the Consorcio de Merida and the International Archaeology Course

Conveners: Abi Thompkins and Clifford Sofield

Nonnus' Dionysiaca Reading Group

The group will read two books per week during term for the duration of the 2014–15 academic year, on **FRIDAYS** 1–2 pm.

In Michaelmas this will take place in:

Week 1: The Sutor Room, Trinity College;

Weeks 2–8: The first-floor seminar room, Ioannou Centre.

These sessions are a joint event with a parallel Nonnus reading group in Cambridge (through Skype). Each week two books will be covered in English translation, while focusing in on selected passages in Greek.

All are welcome; for more information contact:

Laura Miguélez-Cavero laura.miguelzcavero@classics.ox.ac.uk

Pavlos Avlamis pavlos.avlamis@classics.ox.ac.uk

Call for papers: *Syriac Intellectual Culture in Late Antiquity: Translation, Transmission, and Influence*

30–31 January 2015 at Ertegun House, Oxford

This conference explores the intellectual cultures of Syriac-language literary and scholarly communities of the late antique (c.3rd–9th century) Near and Middle East. It will also provide an opportunity for postgraduate and emerging scholars in the fields of biblical studies, theology and religion, late antique and Byzantine studies, near eastern studies, and rabbinics to present their work on Syriac literature within the University of Oxford's vibrant late antique studies community.

The conference welcomes proposals for papers on the following and related topics:

1. The reception and revision of Syriac biblical translations, especially works such as the Harklean and Syrohexaplaric versions and Jacob of Edessa's Old Testament revision. How did Syriac authors navigate the diversity of translation options available to them? How were later translations and revisions received in both exegetical and liturgical contexts? Which textual variants were employed by exegetes, and in what contexts?
2. What role do translations of Greek patristic literature, such as the works of Gregory Nazianzen and Theodore of Mopsuestia, play in the context of Syriac literature? How is material from Greek historiography, such as the ecclesiastical histories of Eusebius, Socrates, and Theodoret, translated and transmitted by Syriac chroniclers?
3. What factors played a part in the development of literary canons and exegetical traditions in Syriac? How did different communities determine which texts to elevate to canonical status? When and why were authors from rival communities read and utilized? How did Greek-language authors, such as Severus of Antioch, undergo a process of 'Syriacization'? Which authors survived the decline of spoken Syriac and were translated into Christian Arabic, and how?
4. What forms did Syriac intellectual life take over the course of the period, in monastic, scholarly, and church communities? How did Syriac culture react to and interact with influences such as Aristotelian and neo-Platonist thought, rabbinic scholarship, and other vernacular literatures? What role did Syriac scholars play in the early development of Arabic-language intellectual culture, and how did this role affect or change their own traditions?

Keynote papers will be given by Jack Tannous (Princeton University) and Timothy Michael Law (Universität Göttingen/University of St Andrews). Publication of selected conference papers is anticipated.

Those wishing to present a twenty-minute paper may submit a brief abstract (250 words or less) and academic biography to oxfordsyriac2015@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions is Monday, 17 November 2014.

For more information please see the [conference website](#).