

# Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminar, 2009-2010

## Conversion in Late Antiquity: Christianity, Islam, and Beyond

### Second Colloquium:

### ‘Converting Environments’

24 April 2010

Corpus Christi College,

MBI Al Jaber Auditorium

9:30 **Session 1: East Asia**

Max Deeg (University of Cardiff), “‘Conversion’ to Buddhism in early Medieval China”

*Chair and discussant:* Charles Ramble (Oxford University)

10:30 Coffee

11:00 **Session 2: Facilitators**

Elizabeth Key Fowden (Athens), “Landscape and asceticism: The role of the environment in changing religious allegiances”

Thomas Sizgorich (University of California, Irvine), “Mind the gap: Accidental conversion and the hagiographic imaginary in the first centuries A.H.”

*Chair and discussant:* Lesley Abrams (Oxford University)

12:30 Lunch

1:30 **Session 3: Families**

Kate Cooper (University of Manchester), “Burning down the house: Anti-family feeling and the household as a space for Christian conversion in late antiquity”

Michael Lecker (Hebrew University), “The role of family links in Muḥammad’s biography”

*Chair and discussant:* Gillian Clark (University of Bristol)

3:00 Coffee

3:30 **Session 4: The Holy City**

Jan Willem Drijvers (University of Groningen), “From Pagan to Christian? The religious transformation of Jerusalem in the fourth century”

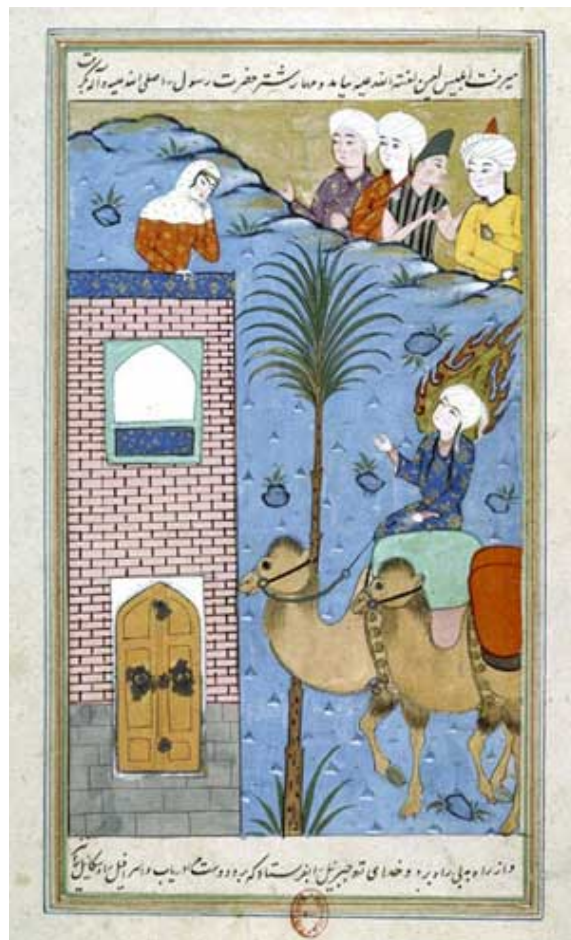
Robert Schick (American Center for Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan), “A Christian city with a major Muslim shrine: Jerusalem in the Umayyad period”

*Chair and discussant:* Bryan Ward-Perkins (Oxford University)

5:00 **Conclusions and discussion**

Nicholas Purcell (Oxford University)

5:45 Reception



All are most welcome to attend but please register for the colloquium with Jess Ehinger ([jessica.ehinger@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jessica.ehinger@spc.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 Friday 16 April.

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/index.html>.