SEMINARS ON

MEDIEVAL TOPICS

MICHAELMAS TERM 2024

This list can also be found at: www.medievalstudies.group.cam.ac.uk/

If you know of a seminar, lecture, event, or workshop which may be of interest to other medievalists and which we might add to this booklet, please contact:

[medievalstudies@english.cam.ac.uk](mailto:medievalstudies@english.cam.ac.uk)

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Updated: 21 November 2024

# **Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic**

Graduate and Research Seminars

<https://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/events/index.htm>

Seminar meets on Mondays and/or Fridays at 5pm. All are very warmly welcome. **Please note that, unless otherwise stated, events will be in-person only in the English Faculty Building.**

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* [21 October 2024, Graduate Seminar: Professor Susan Irvine (University College London), *The Literary Landscape of Anglo-Saxon Bridges*](https://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/news/event/21-october-2024-graduate-seminar-professor-susan-irvine-ucl/)
* [28 October 2024, Graduate Seminar: Professor Massimiliano Bampi (Trento) *Fictional Worlds and Generic Awareness in Late Medieval Saga Writing*](https://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/news/event/28-october-2024-graduate-seminar-professor-massimiliano-bampi-trento/)
* [4 November 2024, Graduate Seminar: Professor Charlene Eska (Virginia Tech), *Desire and Devotion: Sexual Temptation in Two Medieval Irish Tales*](https://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/news/event/4-november-2024-graduate-seminar-professor-charlene-eska-virginia-tech/)
* 15 November 2024, [Professor Michael Wood, *The Battle of Brunanburh-some questions on the sources*](https://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/news/event/15-november-2024-research-seminar-professor-michael-wood-manchester/)
* [25 November 2024, Graduate Seminar: Professor Nancy Edwards (Bangor), *Early Medieval Graffiti in Wales and Beyond*](https://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/news/event/25-november-2024-graduate-seminar-professor-nancy-edwards-bangor/)
* [2 December 2024, Graduate Seminar: Dr Marianne Hem Eriksen and Dr Alexander Wilson (Leicester), *Body-Politics: Bodies on the Margins and the Politics of Personhood in Iron- and Viking-Age Scandinavia*](https://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/news/event/2-december-2024-graduate-seminar-dr-marianne-hem-eriksen-and-dr-alexander-wilson-leicester/)
* 5 December 2024, The 2024 E.C. Quiggin Memorial Lecture: Professor Dr Lena Rohrbach (Basel), *Archival practices, Catalogues and the Making of Old Norse Genres in Eighteenth Century Copenhagen*

Cambridge Colloquium in Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic  
<https://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/ccasnc/index.htm>

H.M. Chadwick Memorial Lecture

[Lent 2025]

Kathleen Hughes Memorial Lecture

[2025]

**Archaeology**

No Medieval Seminars this term.

**Asian and Middle Eastern Studies**

Middle East Seminar

https://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/whats-on

Meetins are at 5.00 in FAMES.

Thursday 21st November 2024  
The disintegration of the Abbasid Empire, or was the early Islamic empire ever integrated?; Marie Legendre, *University of Edinburgh*

For non-medieval seminars, see the link above.

Organisers: Assef Ashraf (and Prof. Andrew Marsham and Sam Martin, co-convenors)

LAMMEC

(Late Antique and Medieval Middle East at Cambridge) Work-in-Progress meetings

We’ll meet to discuss precirculated texts of work in progress. We will meet in weeks 2 and 6. 1pm-2pm, room tbc. Please contact Prof. Andrew Marsham, [adm56@cam.ac.uk](mailto:adm56@cam.ac.uk) in advance of the meeting for a copy of the paper.

Centre of South Asian Studies Seminar

<https://www.s-asian.cam.ac.uk/whats-on-2/>

No medieval papers this term, see link for full programme.

East Asia Seminar Series

<https://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/whats-on/east-asia-seminar-series-michaelmas-2024>

Room 8/9, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

**Monday, 21 October, 2024 - 17:00**

[Tragedy in a Medieval Tale: The Enryakuji-Miidera Conflict and its Doctrinal Explanation](https://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/whats-on/unpublished-east-asia-seminar-series-michaelmas-2024/east-asia-seminar-dr-or-porath)  
Dr Or Porath

Middle Eastern Studies Research Lecture Series

<https://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/whats-on/mes-research-lectures-series-michaelmas-2024>

**Thursday 21st November 2024**  
The disintegration of the Abbasid Empire or was the early Islamic empire ever integrated?  
Marie Legendre, *University of Edinburgh*

China Research Seminar

<https://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/whats-on/china-research-seminar-michaelmas-2024-and-lent-2025>

All seminars will be on **Thursdays** starting at **2pm London time** on in **FAMES Room 8/9**, the Sidgwick Site.

Thursday 28th November 2024 (in person)  
[“The Politics of Idealism in Ming China (1368-1644)”](https://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/whats-on/china-research-seminar-michaelmas-2024-and-lent-2025/politics-idealism-ming-china-1368-1644)  
 Ying Zhang *(Leiden University)*

Centre for Islamic Studies

<http://www.cis.cam.ac.uk/activities/forthcoming/>

No medieval papers this term, see link for full programme.

Needham Research Institute (NRI) Friday Seminars

The seminars are held at 3.30 - 5 p.m.  unless otherwise indicated at the Needham Research Institute.

The Needham Research Institute is situated at the corner of Sylvester and Herschel Roads, behind Robinson College.

Any queries about the seminars should be directed to:

Jenny Zhao at [jz292@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jz292@cam.ac.uk)

**29 November 2024**

*The Acceptance of Yuan China Medicine and Emergence of Local Herbs (鄕藥) in the Late Koryŏ Dynasty*

Chaekun Oh (Daejeon University / NRI)

# **Classics**

Ancient History Research Seminar

<https://www.classics.cam.ac.uk/seminars/c>

We are meeting on **Mondays**, **5.15 to 6.45 pm**\*, in **room G.21** of the Cambridge Classics Faculty (Sidgwick Ave, Cambridge CB3 9DA).

All welcome!

All queries to Robin Osborne ([ro225@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ro225@cam.ac.uk))

(No medieval papers this term, for full schedule see above).

# **CLANS**

Cambridge Late Antiquity Network Seminar (CLANS)

<https://www.classics.cam.ac.uk/seminars/clans-cambridge-late-antique-network-seminar>

All seminars will be held on the following Mondays, 2.00 - 3.30 pm, in the Lightfoot Room, Faculty of Divinity

Organisers: Mathijs Clement (mjgc3), Lea Niccolai (ln294), Harvey Phythian (hcp41)

Monday 21 October: Peter Sarris, 'Justinian, the Empire, and the Church'

Monday 4 November: Lea Niccolai, 'Exegesis and Zoology in Origen and Porphyry'

Monday 18 November: Thomas Graumann, 'Arguments and Argumentation in late antique church councils'

**Divinity**

History of Christianity Research Seminar

[divinity.cam.ac.uk/researchareas/seminars/history-of-christianity](https://www.divinity.cam.ac.uk/researchareas/seminars/history-of-christianity)

Meetings will be held in the **Lightfoot Room, Faculty of Divinity** on **Wednesdays at 2.15pm**

**No meetings this Term.**

New Testament Research Seminar

https://www.divinity.cam.ac.uk/researchareas/seminars/new-testament

4-5.30pm, Lightfoot Room

For information contact George van Kooten, Email [gv258@cam.ac.uk](mailto:gv258@cam.ac.uk)

22 October Simon Gathercole (Cambridge)

Paul’s Uncertainty about the Timing of the Parousia

5 November Willliam Horbury (Cambridge)

In the Absence of Wisdom: Early Christian Testimonia on Law, Name, Word and Motherhood

19 November An Interview with Prof. Morna Hooker

3 December Jamie Davies (Trinity College, Bristol)

What has paraenesis to do with apokalypsis? The Eschatological Basis of Pauline Ethics in the Thessalonian Correspondence

*Please note also the NT Postgraduate Seminar:*

*17 October Matthijs den Dulk (Radboud, Netherlands)*

*Galatians and Cantabrigians: Ethnic Stereotypes and the Interpretation of the Letters of Paul*

*(Latimer Room, Clare College, 4-5.30pm)*

*Prof. Simon Gathercole (*[*sjg1007@cam.ac.uk*](mailto:sjg1007@cam.ac.uk)*)*

The Religions of Late Antiquity Seminar

https://www.divinity.cam.ac.uk/researchareas/seminars/religionsoflateantiquity

# In the Michaelmas Term 2024, the Religions of Late Antiquity Seminar (ROLA) joins forces and holds joint sessions with the Cambridge Late Antiquity Network Seminars (CLANS). We hope to strengthen mutual collaboration and foster exchange and discussion across disciplines over joint interests in this fascinating period.

# **English**

Medieval Research Seminar

<https://www.english.cam.ac.uk/seminars/med.htm>

All seminars at 5.15 in S-R24, Faculty of English

**Wednesday 16 October**: Jo Bellis (University of Cambridge)  
Verisimilitude and the Medieval Eyewitness

**Wednesday 30 October:** Yu Onuma (Doshisha University)  
Travelling Marvels: Seeing Classical Reception through the Lens of Medieval Wonder

**Wednesday 13 November:** Mike Rodman Jones (University of Nottingham),  
Aspects of Middle English Ekphrasis

**Wednesday 27 November:** Nicholas Watson (Harvard University),  
Are Revelations a Distinct Genre? Vision as Witness from Angela of Foligno and Gertrude the Great to Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe

Medieval Latin Facsimile Reading Group

Strengthen your Latin comprehension and palaeographical skills together through reading from reproductions of manuscripts as a group. We will focus on learning to read and translate directly from medieval handwriting, focusing on periods of participants’ interests.

All welcome; to be added to the group list and receive materials in advance, contact Dr Francesco Marzella ([fm333@cam.ac.uk](mailto:fm333@cam.ac.uk)).

Medieval Postgraduate Seminar

Seminar meets at 5:30 in S-R24 in the English Faculty

These advanced research talks, followed by discussion, are aimed at postgraduate students, senior members and visiting scholars.

If you wish to attend any of these seminars please register in advance with one of the convenors.

Dr Alex da Costa [ad666@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ad666@cam.ac.uk)Dr Orietta da Rold, [od245@cam.ac.uk](mailto:od245@cam.ac.uk)Prof Nicky Zeeman [nz202@cam.ac.uk](mailto:nz202@cam.ac.uk)

# **History**

Medieval History Faculty Seminar

<https://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/event-series/medieval-history>

Contact: Prof. John Arnold ([jha33@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jha33@cam.ac.uk))

All seminars start at 4pm and are in the Board Room of the Faculty of History. Formal part finishes by about 5.30pm, followed by drinks and nibbles.

**Events**

Oct 17 ‘A Legal History of the Devil in the Middle Ages’ Prof Karl Shoemaker (Wisconsin)

Oct 31 'Byzantine and Islamic Ethnographies of Exchange’ Dr Nick Evans (Leeds/King’s)

Nov 14 ‘Recognising heresy during the papacy of John XXII’ Dr Genevieve Caulfield (UCL)

Nov 28 ‘Moral economies after the Mongols: late medieval fiscality between Rus and Iran’

Dr Angus Russell (King’s)

Medieval Encounters Faculty Seminar

<https://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/event-series/medieval-encounters>

A series of interdisciplinary medieval seminars meeting in St Catharine’s College, Cambridge.

Contact: Prof. Nora Berend, [nb231@cam.ac.uk](mailto:nb231@cam.ac.uk)

Not running this term.

Core Seminar in Economic and Social History

The Core Seminar in Economic & Social History Cambridge brings together the nine specialist research seminar series in the field, which the run their separate programmes in the Lent and Easter terms: Seminar convenors: [Amy Erickson](mailto:ale25@cam.ac.uk), Leigh Shaw-Taylor, Emily Chung and Guillaume Proffit

**Thursdays at 5.15pm**

**Faculty of History, Room 6**

Oct 10 Royal justice, society and economy in medieval England: evidence from Derbyshire

Chris Briggs - University of Cambridge

Nov 21 *The Durham Ox: Values and Prices in the Medieval Northeast*

Elizabeth Gemmill - University of Oxford

# **History**

Palaeography Workshop (Lent Term)

Prof Teresa Webber hosts a palaeography workshop where graduate students are encouraged to bring facsimiles of material which is giving them trouble in order to receive help from Prof Webber and other graduate students. The workshop also aids graduate students in practicing their palaeographical skills. For more information, email Prof Webber ([mtjw2@cam.ac.uk](mailto:mtjw2@cam.ac.uk)).

Gender & Sexuality History Workshop

<https://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/gender-and-sexuality-workshop>

The Gender & Sexuality History workshop meets on Tuesdays between 5pm and 7pm. This term, the workshop will be taking place in a hybrid format. Instructions on joining will be circulated via the [mailing list](https://lists.cam.ac.uk/mailman/listinfo/history-gender-workshop). Convenors: Fiona Knight ([flk27@cam.ac.uk](mailto:flk27@cam.ac.uk)) and Laura Richardson ([ljr55@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ljr55@cam.ac.uk))

No medieval papers this term.

Legal and Social History Workshop

<https://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/legal-and-social-history-workshop>

The Legal and Social History workshop meets on Tuesdays at 5pm over Zoom this term.

Convenors: Ian King ([ik361@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ik361@cam.ac.uk)) and Emily Rhodes ([elr41@cam.ac.uk](mailto:elr41@cam.ac.uk))

(no medieval papers this term)

# **History of Art**

The Medieval Art Seminar Series

<https://www.hoart.cam.ac.uk/seminars/medievalartseminars>

The University of Cambridge Senior Seminar in Medieval Art meets every other week during full term, attracting an impressive range of speakers from home and abroad.

All seminars take place in the Classroom at Scroope Terrace, starting at 5pm.

Please email: [lss33@cam.ac.uk](mailto:lss33@cam.ac.uk) with any queries.

 Monday 4th November: **Vedran Sulovsky, University of Cambridge**

*In the Giant's Shadow: Aachen After Charlemagne*

Monday 25th November: **Eleanor Jackson, Curator of Illuminated Manuscripts, British Library**

*Curating Medieval Women at the British Library*

# **History and Philosophy of Science**

Departmental Seminars in History and Philosophy of Science

https://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/news-events/seminars-reading-groups/departmental

Seminars take place on **Thursdays from 3.30pm to 5pm in Arts School Lecture Theatre A, New Museums Site**. Organised by Lewis Bremner.

No medieval seminars this term; for other non-medieval papers, see link.

Cabinet of Natural History

<https://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/news-events/seminars-reading-groups/cabinet>

Seminars are held on Mondays at 1pm in the Seminar Room 2, HPS Faculty (Free School Lane) and by Zoom [contact organiser). Organised by Thomas Banbury (tjb98).

**14 October**

**Tom Banbury (HPS, University of Cambridge)**  
A plague from on high? Comets, disease and meteorology in late medieval England

The appearance of comets was often considered to presage momentous events on Earth, such as the deaths of kings, defeat in battle, and oncoming natural disasters. With the arrival of the Black Death in the 14th century, comets and other fiery phenomena were co-opted as one of many ways of predicting the spread of the disease. However, there is more to the association between shooting stars and pestilence than simply ominous signs.

Building on the work of Sara Schechner, I explore the relationship between cometary appearances and medicine in the late medieval period, analysing what learned authorities and popular culture considered comets to be formed from, and how this related to the spread of disease. While the intersections between health and astronomy have mostly been examined from the perspective of astrological medicine and iatromathematics, this episode in the history of the Plague suggests strong links between the material elements of meteorology, and of the human body.

(for other non-medieval papers, see link)

History of Science and Medicine.

<https://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/news-events/seminars-reading-groups/medicine>

Seminars, supported by Wellcome, are on **Tuesdays from 5.00 to 6.30pm** unless otherwise stated. All welcome!

Not posted yet.

Early Science and Medicine

Seminars are on **Tuesdays from 5.00 to 6.30pm in Seminar Room 1** unless otherwise stated. All welcome!

Organised by Philippa Carter and Emma Perkins.

**12 November**

**Fabrizio Bigotti (University of Würzburg)**  
Degree and dosage: rationalising therapy in the Long Renaissance (1300–1550)

Generation to Reproduction

Organised by Salim Al-Gailani, Philippa Carter, Rosanna Dent, Nick Hopwood, Staffan Müller-Wille and Dmitriy Myelnikov

**19 November**

**Maximilian Schuh (Freie Universität Berlin)**  
Scientific perception, interpretation and prediction of the weather in late medieval England

Latin Therapy

<https://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/news-events/seminars-reading-groups/language-groups/latin-therapy>

Latin Therapy is an informal reading group. All levels of Latin are very welcome. We meet to translate and discuss a text from the history of science, technology or medicine. This is an opportunity to brush up your Latin by regular practice, and if a primary source is giving you grief, we’d love to help you make sense of it over tea and biscuits!

To be added to the mailing list, or to suggest a text, please contact Thomas Banbury or Debby Banham. In Michaelmas Term 2024 we will meet **weekly on Fridays, 4–5pm in Seminar Room 1**.

# **Medieval and Modern Languages and Linguistics**

Medieval Literature and Culture Seminar

<https://www.mmll.cam.ac.uk/research/events>

Seminars take place on Thursdays at 5pm

Not posted yet.

# **Philosophy**

Medieval Philosophy Reading Group

<https://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/seminars-phil/medieval-phil>

The Medieval Philosophy Reading Group consists of interested undergraduates, graduates and professional scholars who meet once a week in term to read and discuss a medieval philosophical text (in translation). No previous knowledge of medieval philosophy is assumed, and everyone is welcome.

**Meetings**

The meetings begin on the first Wednesday of term on which lectures are given, and they take place from 1.15 - 2.15 pm. Would anyone interested please contact John Marenbon at [jm258@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jm258@cam.ac.uk), who will send the necessary material and links.

# **CRASSH**

**READING GROUPS:**

Fortnightly Old Church Slavonic reading group. For more information, please contact Angus Russell ([ajmr5@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ajmr5@cam.ac.uk))

**Silk Roads**

Silk Roads

<https://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/research/silk-roads-programme/silk-roads-programme-events>

Events this term will be in person, in the Audit Room, King’s College, and via Zoom. To join the online meetings, see link above. **Fridays 2pm, King’s College**

2 Friday 18 October Keynes Hall

Said Reza Huseini (Cambridge) From shadow to light: the transition of Chinggisid kingship under the Ilkhanid ruler Ghazan. Khan and its revival under the Mughal emperor Akbar

3 Friday 25 October Audit Room

Rachel Mairs (Reading) Regime change and the archaeological record at Old Kandahar

4 Friday 1 November Audit Room

Katie Campbell (Cambridge) Exploring environmental causes for urban abandonments at Otrar, Kazakhstan

Friday 15 November Keynes Hall

Yu-Ping Luk, Sue Brunning and Elizabeth O’Connell (British Museum) Silk Roads at the British Museum: how the exhibition came to life

7 Friday 22 November Keynes Hall

Sussan Babaie (Courtauld) What do the arts tell us about Mongol connections (13th–14th centuries)

9 Friday 6 December Audit Room

Angus Russell (Cambridge) Tamga: taxation, morality and trade in post-Mongol Eurasia

For other, non-medieval offerings, see the link above.

# **Conferences, Workshops, Events**

The Betty Behrens Seminar will occur in Clare Hall, West Court, Richard Eden Suite, h. 4.30-6 pm. For more information about the seminar series, please see:

<https://www.clarehall.cam.ac.uk/events/the-betty-behrens-seminar-on-classics-of-historiography-3/>

Thursday 24 October 2024, h. 4.30 pm

**Peter Sarris**(Professor of Late Antique, Medieval and Byzantine Studies, University of Cambridge) ***History of the Wars***(545-553) by Procopius of Caesarea

To book: [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-betty-behrens-seminar-on-classics-of-historiography-tickets-1023944775387)

Medicoffee

Medicoffee (Medieval Coffee) takes place weekly on Wednesdays at 14:00 – 15:00 at Gonville and Caius College, Lord Colyton Hall. Hosted by Vedran Sulovsky. Free coffee and biscuits provided. Intended for scholars of all parts and disciplines of the medieval world to discuss the field. PhD or equivalent required.