SEMINARS ON

MEDIEVAL TOPICS

MICHAELMAS TERM 2019

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



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Updated: 30-Oct-19

# Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic

### ASNC Research Seminar

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

### Fridays, 5 pm. English Faculty Room GR-04, Faculty of English, West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DP

**MICHAELMAS:**

25 October 2019 Dr Mark Laynesmith,

The sin of marrying a godparent: exploring a puzzle in the career of St Boniface

1 November 2019, Dr Rebecca Merkelbach,

 title to be confirmed

###

### ASNC Graduate Seminar

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

Mondays, 5pm, Room GR06/07, Faculty of English, West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DP

**MICHAELMAS:**

21 October 2019, Professor James Palmer (St Andrew’s)

*Contested Nature: Authority, Science and Belief, from Cummian to Alcuin*

4 November 2019, Professor Søren Sindbæk (Aarhus University)

### Northern Emporium. Ribe and the Making of the Viking Age

11 November 2019, Graduate Seminar: Details to be confirmed

**LENT:**

10 February 2020, Johanna Dale

The Cult of Oswald of Northumbria in Post-Conquest Peterborough

**EASTER:**4 May 2020, Professor Stefan Brink (ASNC)

*Scandinavian and Anglo-Saxon -tuna/-tunas: are all of them royal/aristocratic central places?*

18 May 2020, Lindy Brady
details to be confirmed

Upcoming: The Cambridge Colloquium in Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic, 8 February

# Archaeology

### Medieval Archaeology Group

www.mcdonald.cam.ac.uk/events/mag

Talks start at 1:15pm, McDonald Institute Seminar Room, Courtyard Building, Downing Street.

**Michaelmas 2019**

21 October (South Lecture Room)- Eleanor Blakelock, "Secrets of the Anglo-Saxon goldsmith: Scientific results from the analysis of the Staffordshire Hoard gold"

4 November (South Lecture Room)- Katie Haley-Halinski, "Cult or Cuisine: Ravens and Chickens in the Medieval North Atlantic"

18 November (McDonald Seminar Room)- Mudit Trivedi, "The Azimuth of Truth, the Magnetism of Error: Learning what the Qibla was in Medieval North India"

2 December (McDonald Seminar Room)- Sue Brunning, "Reversible Fashion? The Wearing of Deluxe Brooches in Early Medieval Scotland and Ireland"

The African Archaeology Group (AAG)

**Tuesday 15th October, 5-6pm**

*Reports from the Field and the Lab, Summer 2019 – A smattering of African archaeology research over the last few months*

*Venue*: The McDonald Institute Seminar Room, followed by refreshments

**Tuesday 12th November, 5-6pm**

*Catastrophes and deaths along Tanzania's Western Indian Ocean coast during the Early Swahili period: New evidence from the 2019 field campaign*

Dr Elinaza Mjema, Department of Archaeology & Heritage Studies, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

*Venue*: The McDonald Institute Seminar Room, followed by refreshments

# Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

LAMMEC

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

**16 Oct**

**13 Nov**

**22 Jan**

**19 Feb**

**29 Apr**

**27 May**

We’ll meet in **Room 7, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (ground floor), 1pm-2pm on the above Wednesdays** to discuss precirculated texts of work in progress. We have papers allocated for all of these sessions, but because of the nature of the workshop, you’ll need to have read a copy of the work. If you’d like to join us, please contact Dr Andrew Marsham, adm56@cam.ac.uk in advance of the meeting for a copy of the paper.

Middle East Studies Seminar

<https://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/whats-on/mes-public-talks-seminar-series-michaelmas-2019>

Thursdays at 5.15, in FAMES 8/9 (Sidgwick site)

Medieval sessions:

Re-discovering a Literary Treasure: The *Anvar-e Sohayli* written by Vaʿez Kashefi in Fifteenth-Century Herat
Dr Christine van Ruymbeke (University of Cambridge)
Thursday 21 November, 5.15pm, FAMES 8/9

Centre for Islamic Studies

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

Public Talk:

Zarathustra through Muslim eyes

Jaako Hämeen-Anttila (University of Edinburgh)

Rooms 8 and 9, Centre of Islamic Studies, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge

Whereas Jesus, Moses, and other Biblical prophets (to use the Islamic term) were unproblematic from an Islamic point of view because their status was defined in the Qur'an, the case of Zarathustra (Zoroaster) was different. He is not mentioned in the Qur'an and even Zoroastrians, as al-Majus, are only mentioned once (Q 22: 17) in a way that does not clarify their position.

This paper will discuss the image of Zarathustra in Muslim Arabic and Persian historical, heresiographical, and philosophical works until the 18th century. It will be shown that there were three paradigms through which he was seen: an ancient sage; a prophet; or an impostor.

# Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

East Asia Seminar

**MICHAELMAS:**

(Medieval event)

Monday evening (21 October) **Illicit Sex and Vendettas: Self-Redress, Law, and Power in Medieval Japan** Dr David Spafford (University of Pennsylvania)

The seminar will take place 5 – 7pm in room 8/9 in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. There will be 30 minutes of Q&A after the talk, followed by a chance to stay for a drink (wine or non-alcoholic) and a chat. As always the talks are free to attend and open to everyone. We look forward to seeing lots of you there.

**Abstract:** Vendettas and feuds, often aseptically labelled as “self-redress,” lurk just beneath the surface of medieval Japanese history. Since its beginnings, in the early thirteenth century, warrior law inhabited the uneasy middle ground between the statist judicial mandate inherent in the creation of a shogunate and warrior society’s marked preference for more familistic modes of conflict resolution and score settling. As this talk suggests, successive regimes attempted (with mixed results) to fulfil their peace-keeping roles while finessing definitions of permissible self-redress. It was only when sixteenth-century warlords made curbing disorder—rather than violence—their priority, that warrior law seemed to shift toward a more frankly interventionist posture. Yet even then the shift was selective, as the policing of those most recalcitrantly personalistic of vendettas—honour killings—remained curiously nuanced and tentative.

# Classics

Ancient History Research Seminar

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

Seminars take place at 5:15pm in Room G.21 of the Classics Faculty.

**MICHAELMAS:**

**Monday 14 October**Rebecca Flemming (Cambridge), 'Race, Culture and Inequality in the Classical World'

**Thursday 24 October**Kim Bowes (Cornell), 'Beyond GDP: Measuring Welfare under the Roman Empire'

**Monday 28 October**Becky Gowland (Durham), 'Suffer the Little Children:  Exploring Inequalities in Roman Britain through the Bioarchaeology of Childhood'

**Monday 4 November**Myles Lavan (St Andrews), 'Gender and Citizenship in Roman Asia, 14-212'

**Monday 11 November**
David Lewis (Edinburgh), 'Slave Metaphors and Class Discourse in Athens'

**Monday 18 November**Hannah Willey (Cambridge), 'Tackling Inequality in Greek Law'

**Monday 25 November**Lisa Eberle (Tübingen), 'Accumulation by Dispossession in Rome's Republican Empire'

**Monday 2 December**Discussion session

# English

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. The first reading group will take place on Monday 21 October, 1pm in SR25 in the English Faculty.

All welcome; bring your lunch if desired. To be added to the group list and receive materials in advance, contact Dr Andrew Dunning (anjd2@cam.ac.uk) or Dr Francesco Marzella (fm333@cam.ac.uk).

# History

Medieval History Faculty Seminar

[www.hist.cam.ac.uk/seminars/medieval-history](https://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/seminars/medieval-history)

ALL SEMINARS on THURSDAYS at 4 p.m. in the Boardroom of the History Faculty, Sidgwick Site.

Contact: Prof John H. Arnold jha33@cam.ac.uk

**MICHAELMAS:**

17 Oct
 Thematic session – Prof. Ulf Büntgen (Dept of Geography, Cambridge) - ‘ . Respondents: Prof. Peter Sarris (Cambridge) and Dr Caroline Goodson (Cambridge)

31 Oct
Prof Dame Jinty Nelson (KCL) – ‘Reflections on Writing a Medieval Biography’

14 Nov
Prof Dan Smail (Harvard) – ‘Slavery in Late Medieval Provence’

28 Nov
Dr Julie Barrau (Cambridge) – title tbc

Medieval Encounters

https://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/seminars/medieval-encounters

A series of interdisciplinary medieval seminars meeting in St Catharine’s College, Cambridge.
Drinks and biscuits will be provided; please feel free to bring your own lunch.

Contact: Prof. Nora Berend, nb231@cam.ac.uk

**MICHAELMAS:**

16 October, Wednesday 1-2pm, OCR

Paweł Figurski (Warsaw)

Medieval Liturgy and the Making of Polish Political Identity

13 November, Wednesday, 3-5pm

Meeting with Doctoral Students from the University of Munich

Doctoral students are welcome to attend, but (for this seminar only) you

need to register with Prof. Berend by 5 November.

# History

GEMS (Graduate Early Medieval Seminar)

[www.hist.cam.ac.uk/graduate-students/training/workshops/early-medieval](http://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/graduate-students/training/workshops/early-medieval)

 <https://www.facebook.com/Graduate-Early-Medieval-Seminar-GEMS-100671381333363/>

Workshops meet in Room 5 of the History Faculty and start at 4pm.

24 October

Stephanie Forrest, *Byzantium, Armenia and the Politics of Orthodoxy in the Late Seventh Century*

7 November

Michael Dormandy, *Firing the Canon: Constantine and the Construction of the Christian Bible*

21 November

Robert Flierman, *A Land of Thorns and Ruins. Civic Terminology and Imagery in Gildas'* De Excidio et Conquestu Britanniae

5 December- Joint Event with CALM- TBA

CALM (Central and Late Medieval Seminar)

[www.hist.cam.ac.uk/graduate-students/training/workshops/central-medieval](https://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/graduate-students/training/workshops/central-medieval)

<https://www.facebook.com/Central-and-Late-Middle-Ages-Graduate-Workshop-115895836469408/?modal=admin_todo_tour>

Workshops meet in Room 10 of the History Faculty and start at 10am.

24 October

Charlie Barranu, 'Not Robert Grosseteste: interest in Greek in thirteenth-century England'

7 November

Joseph Strasz, 'Order and function in the Hohenstaufen kingdom of Sicily'

21 November

Matt Coulter, 'The Ottobeuren letter collection: regional connections and the transmission of information during the Mongol invasion of Hungary (1241)'

5 December- Joint event with GEMS (TBA)

# History

Medieval Economic and Social History

[www.hist.cam.ac.uk/seminars/medieval-economic-social](https://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/seminars/medieval-economic-social)

**MICHAELMAS:**

In Michaelmas, this seminar is the Core seminar in economic and social history, a combination of nine seminar programmes. Full programme here: <https://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/seminars/economic-social-seminars> medieval sessions listed below. Core seminars begin at 5pm in the Old Library, Darwin College (entrance on Silver St). Each seminar is followed by drinks and (usually) dinner with the speaker. All welcome!

Core seminar coordinators: Hillary Taylor (hat27@cam.ac.uk), Amy Erickson (ale25@cam.ac.uk), and Leigh Shaw-Taylor (lmws2@cam.ac.uk).

Economic and Social History at Cambridge: [www.econsoc.hist.cam.ac.uk](http://www.econsoc.hist.cam.ac.uk/)

The Medieval Economic and Social History seminar meets in Lent and Easter. Convenor: Chris Briggs (cdb23@cam.ac.uk)

**21 November**

Alexandra Sapoznik (King’s College London)
*'Did peasants plough? Agricultural technology and the growth of the medieval economy'*

What can we say about the peasantry before c. 1000?

A one-day colloquium at King’s College, Cambridge

**Friday 25 October Keynes Hall and Chetwynd Room, King’s College**

11.00 Welcome and coffee

11.30 Prof Kim Bowes (University of Pennsylvania)

12.00 Dr Lucy Grig (Edinburgh)

12.30 Prof Peter Sarris (Cambridge)

13.00 lunch

14.00 Dr Rob Portass (Lincoln)

14.30 Prof Wendy Davies (UCL/Oxford)

15.00 roundtable led by Prof Chris Wickham (Oxford)

Attendance is free to all who would like to come, but please email Prof John Arnold (jha33@cam.ac.uk) to confirm a place and for the purposes of catering coffee and lunch.

# 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.

Papers will be held on alternating Mondays during Michaelmas and Lent terms. The venue for the seminars is 4a Trumpington Street, (above Hot Numbers Cafe) Cambridge CB2 1PX, beginning promptly at 5.30pm. Following questions, attendees are invited to stay and speak more informally with speakers over wine and light nibbles. Lectures are free and open to the public.

**Organisers:** Donal Cooper and Laura Slater

Monday 4th November

**Clare Vernon**, Birkbeck

The Episcopal Throne at Bari: Race, Religion and Slavery

Monday 18th November

Joint seminar on 'Franciscan imagery in Italy at the dawn of the Trecento'

**John Renner**, Courtauld Institute of Art

St Francis and the Angels: Reconsidering the Vele in Assisi

**Giovanni Pescarmona**, University of Florence

Reconstructing a system of painted images on the rood screen at Santa Croce, Florence

# History and Philosophy of Science

Departmental Seminars in History and Philosophy of Science

Seminars are held on **Thursdays from 3.30 to 5pm in Seminar Room 2, Department of History and Philosophy of Science,** on Free School Lane. This is in the centre of Cambridge, between Pembroke Street and Bene't Street. There is tea and coffee before the seminar at 3pm in Seminar Room 1, and there are refreshments afterwards at 5pm in Seminar Room 1.

Organised by Agnes Bolinska.

Seminars in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science are open to all members of the University (including academic staff, postdocs, graduate and undergraduate students, and affiliates). Unless otherwise specified, they are not open to members of the public.

Thursday 07 November 2019, 15:30-17:00

Raffaele Danna (Faculty of History).

The adoption of Hindu-Arabic numerals in England and Italy, a comparative perspective (13th–16th centuries)

Generation to Reproduction Seminar.

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

Organised by Nick Hopwood and Lauren Kassell.

Seminars, funded by Wellcome, are on Tuesdays from 5.00 to 6.30pm in Seminar Room 1 of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, on Free School Lane. This is in the centre of Cambridge, between Pembroke Street and Bene't Street.

Tea and biscuits are available from 4.40pm. All welcome!

For further information & other seminars, see here: <https://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/news-events/seminars-reading-groups>

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| 29 October | Katherine Harvey (Birkbeck, University of London)A question of balance? Thinking about sexual health in medieval Europe |

# Medieval and Modern Languages and Linguistics

Medieval Graduate Seminar

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

**MICHAELMAS:**

Wednesdays, S-R24, Faculty of English (Sidgwick Site, Cambridge)

Wednesday 16 October, 5.30pm
Greg Walker (Edinburgh)
The Songs of John Heywood: Merriness, Malice, and the Death of Thomas More

Wednesday 30 October, 1.00pm
Kylie Murray (Cambridge)
Rethinking James I's Kingis Quair (1424) and Scotland's mystical writing in the fifteenth century

Wednesday 13 November, 1.00pm
Alixe Bovey (Courtauld)
Exchanges of letters, rings, vows, and blows: A Pictorial King Horn in the margins of a law book?

Wednesday 27 November, 5.30pm
Wendy Scase (Birmingham)
Visible English: Medieval Scribal Practice, Graphic Culture, and Identity

# Medieval and Modern Languages and Linguistics

Medieval Literature and Culture Seminar

<https://www.cammedsem.co.uk/>

Seminars take place on Thursdays at 5pm in the Lloyd Room of Christ's College

**MICHAELMAS:**

17th October- Sarah Kay (New York University), ‘Breath of Beasts and the Ecologies of Song’

7th November- Matt Lampitt (University of Cambridge), ‘The French of Wales? Possibilities, Problems, Implications’

28th November- Miranda Griffin (University of Cambridge), ‘The World in an Egg: Reading Medieval French Ecologies’

**LENT:**

23rd January- Charlotte Cooper (University of Oxford), ‘What the Camino de Santiago can tell us about the Chanson de Roland’

13th February- Aysha Strachan (King’s College London; Humboldt Universität zu Berlin), ‘The Female "Other" in Middle High German Literature: A Postcolonial Feminist Perspective’

12th March- Valentina Mele (University of Cambridge), ‘Spatial Deixis and Subjectivity in the Medieval Italian Love-Lyric’

**EASTER:**

23rd April- Giulia Boitani (Université Paris Diderot, Paris 7), ‘The Origins of Sin: The Tristan/Grail Cycle’

7th May- Noah Guynn (University of California, Davis), ‘Form and Protoform: Strange Encounters in Rutebeuf’s Vie de Sainte Marie l’Égyptienne’

21st May- Marilynn Desmond (Binghamton University), ‘The Visual Afterlife of the Roman de Troie in Fourteenth-century Italy’

# 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**

Our regular meeting time is on Wednesdays, 1.15–2.15 p.m., in**the Wolfson Building North Seminar room, Trinity College.** This term we are reading Ockham’s questions on divine prescience. I shall send a copy of the text we are studying to anyone who contacts me.

Although you are welcome just to turn up, if you send an e-mail to John Marenbon (jm258@cam.ac.uk) he can give you further information and send you the text we shall be discussing.

# CRASSH

Byzantine Worlds Seminar

<https://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/seminars/byzantine-seminar>

Seminars take place on Wednesdays at 5pm in Room SG2 in the Alison Richards Building

**MICHAELMAS:**

23 October

Foteini Spingou, 'Weddings, gifts and paideia: culture and diplomatic bridges in 12th-century Constantinople'

6 November

Fourth Annual Public Lecture in Medieval and Early Modern Slavonic Studies (co-organized with Cambridge Ukrainian Studies). Speaker tbc.

20 November

Paul Wordsworth, 'Reconciling stories of decline in the medieval Caucasus: case study from the Kura Plain, Azerbaijan'

4 December

Anna Chrysostomides, 'Apostasy, vacillation, and Muslim women with Christian men: Abbasid sources on family life'

**READING GROUPS:**

The Byzantine Greek reading group will be held 12-2 on Wednesday 16 and 30 October and 13 and 27 November, in room SG2 in the Allison Richard Building. On 16 October and 27 November there is also a meeting of LAMMEC (Late Antique and Medieval Middle East at Cambridge) which some of us will want to attend, so I suggest we end our session at 1pm on those days. For more information please contact Nick Evans (njbe2@cam.ac.uk).

The Medieval Arabic reading group 1.15-2.45pm on alternate Wednesdays in Christ’s College, Room Z6 (9 and 23 October and 6 and 20 November). For more information please contac

. For more information please contact Edward Zychowicz-Coghill (ez258@cam.ac.uk).

The Classical Armenian Reading group: 12-2pm on alternate Tuesdays in the Alison Richard Building, SG2 (8 and 22 October, 5 and 19 November, and 3 December). For more information please contact Stephanie Forrest (sjf85@cam.ac.uk).

# CRASSH

Domestication Practices Across History, Reading Group

<http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/events/28592>

The Domestication Practices across History reading group was set up in order to investigate the deep history and global spread of what might be termed 'domestication practices': the creation or breeding of new varieties of plants and animals. The goal of this group is to consider how different domestication practices have come about and spread – or failed to spread – across the globe. We will begin with the domestication of crop plants in the Neolithic, before moving chronologically all the way to twentieth-century histories of genetic modification. Throughout our long journey through history we will explore several different bio-techniques or technologies, from acclimatisation to hybridisation, Mendelian theory to mutation breeding.

What role have theories of heredity played in the development and uptake of these practices? How did advocates of these practices succeed or fail in convincing others to adopt them? By considering these and other questions, we shall engage with the use of domestication practices as objects of historical study, including their promise and limitations. Readings will consist of book chapters and articles on the history of plant and animal domestication, breeding, agriculture and biotechnology.

This reading group is convened by [Matt Holmes](http://gloknos.ac.uk/people-partners/the-team/matthew-holmes-1), If you have any queries about the events or reading, please don't hesitate to email him: mrh70@cam.ac.uk

Medieval session:

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| 18 November 2019 | [Classical Heredity in the Roman and Medieval Worlds](http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/events/28592)Jared Secord, ‘Overcoming Environmental Determinism: Introduced Species, Hybrid Plants and Animals, and Transformed Lands in the Hellenistic and Roman Worlds’, in The Routledge Handbook of Identity and the Environment in the Classical and Medieval Worlds, ed. Rebecca Futo Kennedy and Molly Jones-Lewis (Abingdon: Routledge, 2016): pp. 210-229.Steven A Epstein, ‘Chapter Two: The Invention of Mules’ in The Medieval Discovery of Nature (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012): pp. 40-77. |

# CRASSH

Cambridge Late Antiquity Network Seminar (CLANS)

<http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/programmes/late-antiquity-network-seminar-clans>

**MICHAELMAS:**

12 November, 2019

Nikki Rollason (University of Leicester): ‘Climate Change and Clothing Changes in Late Antique Male Dress’ (5pm, Faculty of Law, B16)

26 November, 2019

John Weisweiler (University of Cambridge): ‘Registering the Properties of the Super-Rich: Fiscality in the Late Roman Elite (c. 320-400)’ (5pm, Faculty of Law, G24 ~ note location change)

3 December, 2019

Mattias Gassman (University of Oxford): ‘The Limits of ‘the Secular’ in Late Antiquity: A New Look at Augustine, Sermo 62’ (5pm, Faculty of Law, B16)

Do not hesitate to contact Silvio Roggo (sbr30@) and Brigid Ehrmantraut (bke22@) with any questions or comments.

# Medieval Questions

Medieval Questions is a lunchtime research seminar which seeks to bring together researchers of all stages of career and from all disciplines. Invited speakers present problem-based papers, focusing our collective attention on knotty questions of interpretation and analysis.

**MICHAELMAS:**

5 Nov           King's College Audit Room, 1pm

Matthew Champion (Birkbeck), 'Pointing the Finger --> Senses of the Present in Late Medieval Visual Culture'

26 November    King's College, Wine Room 1.pm

Robert Pasnau (University of Colorado), 'Voluntarism and the Self'

Soft drinks are provided, and people can bring lunch with them. The seminars are held in the Audit Room in King’s College

(The Audit Room is on the ground floor of the Old Lodge; coming from the Porter's Lodge, the Wine Room is accessed through the last door opening onto the front court in the Wilkins Building. A map of King’s is available here:

<http://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/files/visit/college-map.pdf>)

# UL

Annual Genizah Lecture 2019: Paradoxes of the Digital Age: The Cairo Genizah and the Material Text

Wed, October 30, 2019

Cambridge University Library (Milstein Rooms)

Our speaker, Marina Rustow, is Khedouri A. Zilkha Professor of Jewish Civilization in the Near East at Princeton University.

The Cairo Genizah is a veritable time capsule of an age when the vast majority of Jews lived in under the rule of caliphs and sultans. The manuscripts hold the promise of illuminating not just an unusually cosmopolitan medieval Jewish world, but the lives of Christians and Muslims as well — from flax-growers, sugar-sellers, poets and Indian Ocean traders to caliphs, viziers and courtiers. The advent of digital technologies and a critical mass of specialists has now brought us to the brink of a paradigm shift, paradoxically by nurturing intensified attention to the materiality of the texts.

# Upcoming

Darwin College Lecture Series

Professor Erik Kwakkel, University of British Columbia

**The Enigmatic Premodern Book**

Friday, February 21, 2020 - 17:30 to 18:30

LMH, Lady Mitchell Hall