SEMINARS ON

MEDIEVAL TOPICS

LENT TERM 2020

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: 11-Feb-20

# 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

* [24 January 2020, Research Seminar: Daniel Watson (DIAS, Dublin), The Six Ages of the World and Nostalgia for the Pagan Past in Early Irish Literature](https://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/news/event/24-january-2020-research-seminar-daniel-watson-dias-dublin/)
* [31 January 2020, Research Seminar: Dr Rebecca Thomas (Bangor University), Language and Nationhood in the Middle Ages: a Study of the use of cyfiaith and anghyfiaith in Welsh texts](https://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/news/event/31-january-2020-research-seminar-dr-rebecca-thomas-bangor/)
* [7 February 2020, Research Seminar: Dr Katherine Olley (UCL), Revisiting Pseudo-Procreation in Old Norse Literature](https://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/news/event/7-february-2020-research-seminar-dr-katherine-olley-ucl/)
* [14 February 2020, Research Seminar: Dr Sæbjørg Walaker Nordeide (Bergen), The Vikings: The Who, Where, When and Why](https://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/news/event/14-february-2020-research-seminar-dr-saebjorg-walaker-nordeide-bergen/)
* 12 March 2020, H.M. Chadwick Memorial Lecture: Professor Sarah Foot (Oxford), Why were there no martyrs in the early English Church?  
  5 pm, location: **Umney Lecture Theatre, Robinson College, Grange Road, Cambridge CB3 9AN**

### 

### ASNC Graduate Seminar

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

### Room GR06/07, Faculty of English, West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DP

Faculty of English, West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DP

* [10 February 2020, Graduate Seminar: Dr Johanna Dale (UCL), The Cult of Oswald of Northumbria in Post-Conquest Peterborough](https://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/news/event/10-february-2020-graduate-seminar-dr-johanna-dale-ucl/)
* [9 March 2020, Graduate Seminar: Prof Aidan O'Sullivan & Dr Brendan O'Neill (University College, Dublin), Houses as Dwelling Spaces in Early Medieval Ireland: Some perspectives from Archaeology, Early Irish History and Experimental Archaeology](https://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/news/event/9-march-2020-graduate-seminar-prof-aidan-osullivan-dr-brendan-oneill-university-college-dublin-2/)

**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

21ST CAMBRIDGE COLLOQUIUM IN ANGLO-SAXON, NORSE AND CELTIC

**DISORDER AND DISHONESTY**

8th February 2020

*Faculty of English, 9 West Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DP*

Registration for the Cambridge Colloquium in Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic has opened. The Colloquium takes place on Saturday 8th February 2020, and features papers from postgraduate students working on a variety of topics connected to the languages, literature, history and material culture of early medieval Northern Europe. The programme for this year's Colloquium is available as an attachment to this email, or online at <https://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/ccasnc/index.htm>

The conference will be followed by a wine reception open to all attendees.

Borders of Early Medieval England

Domesday Book reveals that England in 1066 was bounded by complex borderlands to the north and west and criss-crossed with a plethora of internal boundaries demarcating hundreds, shires and other districts. How did these borders and boundaries operate? How did they evolve over time from earlier borders, such as the early Mercian border demarcated by Offa’s Dyke?

11-12 July 2020

GR 06/07, Faculty of English, 9 West Road, Cambridge

See programme and registration information here: <https://bordersconference.wordpress.com/>

# Archaeology

### Medieval Archaeology Group

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

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

**Lent 2020**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Monday, 20 January, 2020 - 13:15 to 14:00 | Katie Campbell, University of Oxford | [Did the Mongols really obliterate the cities of Central Asia? An Archaeological Perspective](https://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/events/medieval-archaeology-seminar-group/did-mongols-really-obliterate-cities-central-asia) |
| Monday, 27 January, 2020 - 13:15 to 14:00 | Sæbjørg Walaker Nordeide, University of Bergen | [Christianization of Norway from a Landscape perspective](https://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/events/medieval-archaeology-seminar-group/christianization-norway-landscape-perspective) |
| Monday, 3 February, 2020 - 13:15 to 14:00 | Anna Gannon, Department of Art History, University of Cambridge | [Dedicated followers of fashion? Byzantine and Lombard bracteates from a private collection in Monza, Italy](https://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/events/medieval-archaeology-seminar-group/dedicated-followers-fashion-byzantine-and-lombard) |
| Monday, 10 February, 2020 - 13:15 to 14:00 | Marte Spangen, University of Tromsø | [Roads of the North - myths and facts about cross-cultural interaction and land negotiations in medieval northern Norway](https://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/events/medieval-archaeology-seminar-group/roads-north-myths-and-facts-about-cross-cultural) |
| Monday, 17 February, 2020 - 13:15 to 14:00 | Amira Bennison, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge | [Ibn ʿAbd Rabbih's encounters with the pre-Islamic past in twelfth-century North Africa](https://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/events/medieval-archaeology-seminar-group/ibn-abd-rabbihs-encounters-pre-islamic-past-twelfth) |
| RESCHEDULED Monday, 27 April, 2020 – 13:15 to 14:00 | Helena Hamerow, University of Oxford | Feeding Anglo-Saxon England |

The African Archaeology Group (AAG)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Friday, 17 January, 2020 – 17:00 to 18:00 | Dr Nick Blegen (University of Cambridge) | Ashes of Our Ancestors. Tephrochronology & Modern Human Evolution in East Africa |
| Monday, 17 February, 2020 – 17:00 to 18:00 | Dr Ceri Ashley (Endangered Material Knowledge Programme, British Museum) | Material knowledge loss and anxiety: exploring ideas of endangerment through the photographic archive of HJ Braunholtz, British Museum (1913-1953) |
| ~~Monday, 2 March, 2020 – 17:00 to 18:00~~  TO BE RESCHEDULED | Dr Ashley Coutu (Pitt Rivers Museum) | The shipwreck in a diamond mine: analysing the ivory cargo of a 16th century Portuguese merchant ship |

# Archaeology

# Asian Archaeology Seminar Series

Lent term 2020  
**Alternate Mondays 4-5pm, followed by wine and cheese**

10 February 4pm, West Building seminar room

Mudit Trivedi (Chicago)

Cross-craft, cross-currents?

Medieval South Asian glass in the Indian Ocean World

24 February 4pm, McDonald Institute seminar room

Udomluck Hoontrakul (SOAS)

TBC (1st-2nd millennium Thailand)

For more information contact Dylan Gaffney (dacg2@cam.ac.uk) or follow us on Facebook at: facebook.com/CamAsianArch/

# 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](mailto: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 Room 8/9, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

(Sidgwick site)

Medieval sessions:

Thursday, 16 January, 2020

Arabic and Romance influences on late Judaeo-Arabic orthography

Dr Magdalen Connolly

Thursday, 27th February, 2020  
[**Mimesis and the Representation of Reality in the Qurʾan**](https://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/whats-on/mimesis-and-representation-reality-quran)  
Dr Bruce Fudge, *University of Geneva*

Centre for Islamic Studies

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

**Jerusalem in Exile – a Symposium, Book Launch and Exhibition, celebrating the life and works of Kamal Boullata and his artistic inheritance**

Symposium and book launch – 24 January 2020 – Jesus College, Cambridge

Exhibition – 24 January to 13 March 2020 – West Court Gallery, Jesus College, Cambridge

# 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.

**LENT:**

20 January

Susanne Hakenbeck (Cambridge): ‘Inherited privilege in sixth-century Pannonia and Italy: A

bioarchaeological study’

27 January

Richard Payne (Chicago): ‘Epigraphic Monuments and the Making of an Ethno-Empire: Iran

in the Third Century CE’

10 February

Nir Stern (Cambridge): ‘Dio Chrysostom and the performance of philosophy in Early Imperial

Rome’

17 February

Andrew Wallace-Hadrill (Cambridge): ‘The resilience of the ancient city’

24 February CORBETT LECTURE: Josephine Quinn: *Arts of Not Being Governed: Anarchist Approaches to the Ancient Mediterranean*

EASTER:

**19 May**

Corisande Fenwick(University College London)  
*Living and Dying in Christian North Africa: the funerary landscape at Bulla Regia, Tunisia*

# Divinity

History of Christianity Research Seminar

[divinity.cam.ac.uk/researchareas/seminars/history-of-christianity](file:///Users/cjg/Dropbox/CAMBRIDGE/Medieval%20Studies%20at%20Cam/divinity.cam.ac.uk/researchareas/seminars/history-of-christianity)

The seminar meets fortnightly on Wednesdays at 2:15pm in the Lightfoot Room, Faculty of Divinity.

11 March- Johanna Dale (UCL), 'What can the design of Richard fitz Nigel's episcopal vestments tell us about the relationship between liturgy and politics in the high Middle Ages?"

# 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.

All welcome; bring your lunch if desired. To be added to the group list and receive materials in advance, contact 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

**LENT:**

16 Jan              Prof Robert Berkhofer (Western Michigan) – ‘Understanding Medieval Forgeries:

The Example of Saint Peter's, Ghent’

30 Jan              Prof Roberta Gilchrist (Reading) – ‘The Materiality of Magic in Medieval Scotland:

the Ritual Lives of People and Things’

13 Feb             Prof Laurent Feller (CNRS, Paris) – ‘Growth and Peasant Labour in the

10th–13th Centuries. Between Constraint, Consent and Economic Mechanisms’

27 Feb             Prof Naomi Standen (Birmingham) – ‘Taking China out of Premodern Global

History: Bodies, Threads and Fabrics’

12 Mar            Prof Monica Green (Arizona State) – ‘What Every Medievalist Should Know

About Plague: Lessons from Biology and History’

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

**LENT:**

**7 February,** Friday 10-4pm, Ramsden room

Cambridge – Queen Mary London graduate student conference

**11 March,** Wednesday 1-2pm, Rushmore room – NOTE CORRECTED TIME

**Elsa Marmursztejn** (Reims/QMUL)

Olivi on the Hebrew Bible and the Jews : Scholastic Texts from Languedoc in the 1290s

# 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.

23 January- Ed Zychowicz-Coghill (Classics), 'Conquest history and its consequences in the early Islamic Caliphate.'

6 February- Valentina Grasso (Divinity), 'The rise of Christianity on the Gulf of Aden: an inquiry into the early history of Arabia and Ethiopia,' and Matt Hassall (History), 'Bureaucratic culture and the reproduction of imperial propaganda in sixth-century Byzantium.'

20 February- Joe McCarthy (ASNC), 'The Insular Genesis: Text and Transmission" (Full title t.b.c.) and Giulia Bellato (History), '"A House for a House": Civic Punishment and Legitimacy of Destruction in Medieval Italy, 750-1100.'

5 March- Sam Ottewill-Soulsby (Classics), 'Obeying the Ishmaelites? Rethinking Borrell II's Cordoban Diplomacy.'

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.

23 January- Katherine Dixon (English, University of Cambridge), 'Mirk and memory.'

6 February- Joel Lipson (English, University of Cambridge), 'A hunt that did not happen: the Peterborough Procession of 1127.'

20 February- Chelsea Silva (History and Philosophy of Science, University of California, Riverside), "'Betwix my God and me': visual impairment in the *Shewings* of Julian of Norwich."

5 March- Angus Russell (Medieval and Modern Languages, University of Cambridge), "Exemption charters and the institutionalization of fiscal norms in late medieval Moscow."

# 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)

*The seminar will meet in the Walters Room, Selwyn College, at 5 p.m. on the following Wednesdays. All welcome.*

**29 January 2020**

Spike Gibbs (LSE) and Jordan Claridge (LSE)  
*Waifs and strays: property rights and the redistribution of (un)wanted livestock in late medieval England*This paper contributes to debates concerning lord-tenant relations in late medieval England. Using qualitative and quantitative evidence gathered from court rolls and manorial accounts, we explore the rights of lords to arrest, impound, and sometimes claim stray livestock. As wandering animals could cause significant damage to a village’s farmland, we argue that by bearing the costs of managing strays,lords provided a social benefit for tenants. Moreover, the ‘strays system’ provided a channel by which animals could be redistributed among the peasantry, and thus facilitated the exchange of livestock within the pastoral economy. Our findings support a narrative of a more positive relationship between lords and tenants characterized by cooperation over conflict, with seigniorial institutions helping to improve tenants’ livelihoods.

**12 February 2020**

Daniel Curtis (Rotterdam)  
*From one mortality regime to another? mortality crises in late-medieval Haarlem, Holland, in perspective*  
This paper employs a large database of 10,360 deaths taken from registrations of graves dug and church bells tolled at Haarlem between the years 1412 to 1547 (the ‘klok en graf’) – one of the largest samples and longest series ever produced for mortality evidence in medieval Holland. The data reveals not one overarching ‘medieval mortality regime’ but distinct changes between fewer but severe spikes in the first half of the fifteenth century, and higher frequency of smaller spikes later on – especially in the period 1480-1530 – with a dampening down of mortality activity after 1530.  A highly comparable early modern source has also allowed the mortality findings to be placed in a broader temporal perspective leading to the conclusion that mortality crises in the late Middle Ages in Haarlem were more severe than those seen in the seventeenth century.

**26 February 2020**

Rhiannon Sandy (Swansea)  
*If you've got the money, I've got the time: reconsidering the cost of apprenticeship in medieval England*  
Apprenticeship indentures record the agreement made between a master and an apprentice, including the obligations of both parties. The apprentice is prohibited from certain behaviours, whereas the master usually undertakes to provide the apprentice with clothing, food, bedding and other items for all or part of the term of the apprenticeship. The level of provision the master is to provide changes over time, but what remains certain is that apprentices did not constitute a cheap source of labour. This paper will explore what apprenticeship indentures can reveal about labour conditions in fourteenth and fifteenth-century England, and the costs involved in taking on an apprentice.

Convener:  
Chris Briggs ([cdb23@cam.ac.uk](mailto:cdb23@cam.ac.uk))

# History

Recent Perspectives on the Crusades

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

**Tuesday 17 March Keynes Hall, King’s College**

13.45 Arrival and welcome

14.00 Prof Jessalynn Bird (St Mary's, ND), "The Dead Do Such Great Things: Commemoration and Crusading Sermons on the Dead and Purgatory."

14.25 Prof Nicholas Paul (Fordham) and Dr William Purkis (Birmingham): "The 'Colonial' Question Reconsidered: Holy Places , Elite Spaces, and Sacred Things.'"

15.15 Brief questions arising

15.30 *comfort break*

15.45 Dr Stephen Spencer (KCL), "What did it feel like to be a crusader (and can we ever know)? The history of emotions as a framework for studying the crusades"

16.10 Dr Natasha Hodgson (Nottingham Trent), "Performing Gender in the context of the Crusades"

16.35 Brief questions arising, flowing into roundtable

This informal colloquium (kindly funded by King’s College) brings together a select group of trans-Atlantic scholarship on the crusades, foregrounding recent work which takes a thematic and cultural approach to the area.

Attendance is free to all who would like to come, but please email Prof John Arnold ([jha33@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jha33@cam.ac.uk)) to confirm a place.

# History

Early Modern World History Workshop

<https://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/seminars/early-modern-world-history-workshop>

The Early Modern History Workshop is part of the overall Early Modern History Seminar series. The workshop meets on alternate Thursdays during term in the Bateman Room, Gonville and Caius College, from 1-2pm.

27 February- Raffaele Danna (Cambridge), 'Figuring Out: The Spread of Hindu-Arabic Numerals in the European Tradition of Practical Mathematics (13th-16th), and Guido Beduschi (Cambridge), 'The News and its Public in Late Seventeenth-Century Italy: Guiseppe Maria Mittelli's Satirical Prints."

Palaeography Workshop

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. The workshop meets on Tuesdays (starting 21 January 2020) from 10-11am in Prof Webber's room (D2 Great Court, Trinity College). For more information, email Prof Webber ([mtjw2@cam.ac.uk](mailto:mtjw2@cam.ac.uk)).

# 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

3 February- Michele Bacci (Fribourg University)

10 February- Kristin Kausland- CANCELLED- This seminar will be rescheduled at a later date

24 February- Emma Dillon (KCL)

BINSKI SYMPOSIUM

In 2019, Professor Paul Binski announced his retirement after twenty-four years at the Department of the History of Art. The Department is organising a symposium in his honour to mark his many and varied contributions to the University of Cambridge, the History of Art and to Medieval Studies more broadly.

Attendance is free of charge. To register your attendance, please email:

[Reception@aha.cam.ac.uk](mailto:Reception@aha.cam.ac.uk) by 9th March.

Bateman Auditorium, Gonville & Caius College

Mar 17, 2020  
from 10:00 AM to 05:15 PM

**Programme:**

Beth Williamson: ‘Listening to Paul’

John Munns: ‘The Book of Binski: Between Patronage and Poetics’

Alixe Bovey: ‘Undisciplined’

Amy Jeffs: ‘Paul and Paidea- A Story of Adventure’

William Kynan-Wilson: ‘Comic Mnemonics’

Lucy Wrapson: ‘What can be done to save England’s neglected rood screens?’

Christina Faraday: ‘Gothic Plunder: Eloquence and Fictionality in Very Late Medieval England’

Robert Hawkins: ‘Ineffable Craft: Paul and What Can’t Be Said’

Anya Burgon: ‘Making and Making Sense: Poetics of Craft in the Twelfth Century’

# 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.

History of Science and Medicine.

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

Seminars, funded by Wellcome, are on **Tuesdays from 5.00 to 6.30pm in Seminar Room 1**. Tea and biscuits are available from 4.40pm. All welcome!

[Other History of Medicine events](https://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/medicine/events)

## Early Science and Medicine

Organised by Dániel Margócsy.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 18 February | **Eric Jorink (Huygens Institute and Leiden University)** TBC |
| 3 March | **Anne Goldgar (King's College London)** Affect and empiricism in the early modern Arctic |
| 10 March | **Anna Marie Roos (University of Lincoln)** The first Egyptian society |

# Medieval and Modern Languages and Linguistics

Medieval Graduate Seminar

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

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

**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](mailto:jm258@cam.ac.uk)) he can give you further information and send you the text we shall be discussing.

Arabic Philosophy Reading Group

The Arabic Philosophy Reading Group plans to meet on Fridays3–4:30pm in Room 6, Faculty of Divinity, starting from this Friday (24 Jan).

We’ll be reading the famous and fundamental \_Theology of Aristotle\_(an Arabic version of the \_Enneads\_ of Plotinus). Badawi’s edition of \_Theology of Aristotle\_, and Geoffrey Lewis’s English translation, can be downloaded via the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1NCQhCQCOsfVm7rEaq_bow5RtO-88QNX1>.

In the first session we plan to read from p.18 to probably p.21 of Badawi’s edition, i.e. the first few pages of Chapter 1 or \_Mīmar\_ 1 on the Soul; Lewis’s translation is from p.219 to p.223. (We need to follow a list towards the end of Lewis’s book (pp.489–494) to locate the English translation, since Lewis is following the order of the Greek text.)

We plan to focus on the Arabic text and read carefully and slowly; we’ll also discuss Lewis’s translation, which is very good and helpful. Everybody is warmly welcome. Any questions, please contact Dr Tianyi Zhang ([tz279@cam.ac.uk](mailto:tz279@cam.ac.uk)).

# 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, **7 West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DT**

**LENT:**

Wed. 15 January: **Pachymeres on the Acropolis at Sardis**, Benjamin Anderson (Cornell)

Wed. 12 February: **The Anonymous Cosmographer Maps the Mediterranean: from Ravenna to the Black Sea in the Early Middle Ages** Judith Herrin, King’s College London

Wed. **26 February: A Christian Insurgency in Islamic Syria: New Thoughts about the Jarājima/ Mardaites** Christian Sahner, Oxford

**11 March: Visions of Heaven and Hell: Byzantine Apocalyptic in the Seventh Century** Bronwen Neil, Macquarie University (Australia)

**READING GROUPS:**

The **Medieval Arabic** reading group will be held at Christ’s College, Room B7, from 1.15-2.45pm on Wednesdays on 15 January, 12, 26 February and 11 March. For more information please contact Edward Zychowicz-Coghill ([ez258@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ez258@cam.ac.uk)).

The **Byzantine Greek** reading group will be held from 12-1pm in Rooms SG2 in the Alison Richard Building on Wednesdays on 22 January, 5, 19 February and 4 March. For more information please contact Nick Evans ([njbe2@cam.ac.uk](mailto:njbe2@cam.ac.uk)).

The **Classical Armenian** reading group will be held at Pembroke College from 12-2pm on Tuesdays on 28 January, 11, 25 February and 10 March. 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](mailto:mrh70@cam.ac.uk)

# CLANS

Cambridge Late Antiquity Network Seminar (CLANS)

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

We meet in Room B16 of the Faculty of Law at 5pm.

**LENT:**  
4 February, 2020

Sarah Greer (University of Oxford): 'Becoming Royal: the Politics of Female Monasticism in the Vita Hathumodae'

11 February, 2020

James Corke-Webster (King’s College London): ‘The Apologetic Memory of Persecution’

18 February, 2020

John Weisweiler (University of Cambridge): ‘Symmachus’ Correspondence and the Formation of a Trans-Regional Elite in the Fourth Century’

3 March, 2020

Jamie Wood (University of Lincoln): ‘What was 'Byzantine' about Byzantine Hispania (6th-7th century)?’

10 March, 2020

George Woudhuysen (University of Nottingham): TBA

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.

**LENT:**

1pm to 2pm in the Audit Room in King’s College – all welcome – soft drinks provided, you are most welcome to bring a sandwich lunch.

4 Feb Peter Jones (King’s) - "Healers and confessors: English friars in the 13th century"

25 Feb Hannah Bower (Churchill) – “Impossible Transformations and Intertextual Puzzles:

Rethinking Fifteenth-Century Trick Recipes”

10 March Eyal Poleg (QMUL) – “Deus ex machina? Innovative Technologies in the Study of Medieval and Early Modern Books”

Medieval Questions is an interdisciplinary seminar convened by Professor John Arnold (History), Professor Nicky Zeeman (English) and Professor Bill Burgwinkle (MML).

# Lecturers/Visiting Speakers

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

Visiting Speaker, Clare Hall

**Visiting Speaker:**

The Siete Partidas: Europe's Earliest Law Codification

Jakob Stagl, Visiting Fellow, Clare Hall

Thursday 16 January 2020, 13:00-14:00

[The Meeting Room, Clare Hall College, Herschel Road](http://talks.cam.ac.uk/show/index/110317).

Our lunchtime talks at Clare Hall are open to all and take place in the Clare Hall Meeting Room, behind the Porter’s Lodge. Talks last around 35 to 40 minutes, followed by a Q&A session with the presenter. The atmosphere is informal. Please feel free to bring your lunch with you, a selection of soft drinks will be available in the room. We look forward to welcoming you to our college.

Abstract: The Siete Partidas are a legal code from the middle of the 13th century composed under the auspices of King Alfonso X the Wise of Castile who was also king elect of Germany. This codification, written in medieval Spanish, comprehends regulations of the Church (I), the Crown (II), legal procedure (III), marriage and family (IV), legal transactions like contracts (V), law of successions (VI) and criminal law (VII). The Partidas are paramount amongst all other medieval legal codes for their degree of abstraction and their comprehensiveness. Tough the Partidas were always relevant in Spain, especially as a subsidiary source of law, they gained true importance in the New World where they became the common law of Latin America together with the extensive commentary by Gregorio López (1555) written in Latin. Insofar as the Partidas anticipate the age of codification in the 18th century for their degree of abstraction and insofar as they were translated into various European languages and served as a basis for legal teaching in various Mediterranean countries they can be called Europe’s first codification.

This talk is part of the [Clare Hall Thursday Lunchtime Talks](http://talks.cam.ac.uk/show/index/110314) series.