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THE OXFORD RESEARCH CENTRE IN THE HUMANITIES



DRAFT

University of Oxford

Conferences, Seminars and Events
in Medieval Studies

Information included from:

English Language and Literature, History,
Medieval and Modern Languages, Music,
Theology and Religion, Reading Groups,
Societies

Hilary Term 2026



Up-to-date calendar of all events on
torch.ox.ac.uk/medievalstudies

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Please send updates and queries to medieval@torch.ox.ac.uk





The Norman porch at Iffley Church

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Welcome to the Oxford Medieval Studies Programme for Hilary Term 2026!



Master ES (c. 1450–1467): Christ with New Years greetings.
Ashmolean Museum, [WA1863.2013](#), 13.8 x 10cm
bequeathed by Francis Douce to the Bodleian Library, 1834

Ein guot selig ior! Happy New Year and welcome to a new term with an engraving from the Douce collection, one of the treasures of the Ashmolean Museum and Bodleian Libraries. We picked this image because it fits in with one of the newest posts on the Oxford Medieval Studies blog (<https://medieval.ox.ac.uk/the-nuns-new-years-greetings/>) in which a former Oxford doctoral student explores the sending of devotional images between nuns as New Year gifts. We are always happy to feature new research, announcements or workshop reports on there – just contact Tristan Alpey, our OMS coordinator, and us two under the shared email address medieval@torch.ox.ac.uk

As usual, there is a treasure trove of events, seminars, workshops, reading groups, and exciting announcements in store for you. If you find that anything is missing or an event has changed, contact us under the same address and we will update the blog and the calendar. Please send announcements preferably as plain text plus separate images which makes it easier to upload in a searchable format. Enjoy!

Henrike Lähnemann (German) & Lesley Smith (History), Co-Directors for 2025/26



Events

Compline in the Crypt



Bodleian Library, MS. Top. Oxon. b91, fol. 168-271

Every Thursday this term at 9.30pm, there will be the opportunity to experience the Norman Crypt underneath St-Peter-in-the-East, which is now the library of St Edmund Hall, during Compline, the last sung service of the day.

Week 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 will be sung by the College Choir in English

Week 5 and 7 by the St Edmund Consort, in a variety of medieval languages.

Complines are open to the public and you are welcome to join but please be aware that the access to the crypt is via an uneven staircase and that there is limited seating – early arrival is recommended since there is a cap on visitors. Please contact Henrike Lähnemann henrike.laehnemann@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk if you are interested in joining the St Edmund Consort for singing at one of the Thursdays; there will be a short rehearsal on the Monday preceding Compline at 7pm and on the day at 6pm.

20 February: Wikipedia Editathon for Medievalists

5–10pm at St Edmund Hall (tbc) with Louise Keitsch



16–20 March Exploring the Medieval Sky: An Introduction to the “Science of the Stars” Through Manuscripts and Instruments

Oxford Centre for History of Science,

Medicine and Technology

Spring School

16–20 March 2026

Registration is now open for Exploring the Medieval Sky, a spring school designed for undergraduate and graduate students who wish to explore how medieval people understood the sky—encompassing the visible heavens (stars, planets, eclipses, comets), the theoretical structures used to explain them (cosmology, celestial spheres, planetary models), and the cultural meanings attached to celestial phenomena in art, science, and daily life. Over five days, participants will discover the foundations of medieval astronomy and astrology through a combination of lectures, hands-on sessions with manuscripts and instruments, visits to the History of Science Museum and Merton College Old Library and presentations of current research.



By the end of the course, participants will have acquired a clear chronological framework for the medieval history of the “science of the stars,” will gain practical experience using an armillary sphere and an astrolabe, and will learn to identify the codicological structure and cultural significance of scientific manuscripts through extensive engagement with materials from the Weston Library’s collections.

Venues: the school will take place at the Weston Library with sessions at the History of Science Museum and Merton College.

The spring school is open to all Oxford undergraduate, graduate students and staff members. It is designed as an introductory course; no prior knowledge is required, only an interest in the history of astronomy, astrology, or manuscript studies. To ensure effective work with rare and fragile historical materials, places are limited. By registering, participants agree to attend the full programme. Registration is free. Registration deadline: 2 February 2026. To register please email: laure.miolio@history.ox.ac.uk.

Organisation: Laure Miolo (Faculty of History, Wadham College) and Alexandre Tur (Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris)

With the kind participation of: the Centre for the Study of the Book (Bodleian Library), Sumner Brand (History of Science Museum), Matthew Holford (Bodleian Library), Stephen Johnston (History of Science Museum), Michelle Pfeffer (Magdalen College), Julia Walworth (Merton College), Sian Witherden (Exeter College).



24 March THE MARITIME AND POLITICAL WORLD OF 1066

Tuesday 24 March 2026 | New College, Oxford



The Warden of New College, and Professor David Bates, are hosting a seminar on “The Maritime and Political World of 1066” at New College, on Tuesday 24th March 2026. This day of lectures and panel discussions features a range of experts in the field. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Warden’s Office at rsvp.wardenoffice@new.ox.ac.uk

TIMETABLE

8:45 Assemble, coffee

9:00 Welcome: Christopher Tyerman

9:05 Introduction: David Bates

SESSION ONE

9:15 Trevor Davies: *The Physical Context*

9:35 Pierre Bauduin: *What was the Normans’ experience of mobility before 1066?*

10:00 Laurence Jean-Marie: *The Conditions of Navigation and Access to Ports in the Channel area*

10:25 *DISCUSSION*

10:45 *Coffee break*

SESSION TWO

11:15 Rebecca Tyson: *Wind of Change: Telling the tide and waiting for the wind in the Anglo-Norman world*

11:35 Bastien Michel: *Conquerors and the Sea: Maritime and Fluvial Interests of the Ship List Magnates 1066*

12:00 Brigitte Meijns: *The Strategic Position of the Flemish Comital Family in 1066*

12:25 *DISCUSSION*

12:45 *Lunch*

SESSION THREE

14:00 Liesbeth Van Houts: *Women and Ships*

14:25 Tom Licence: *Harold's Naval Operations*

14:50 Stephen Baxter: *Earl William fitzOsbern and the formation of a cross-Channel lordship*

15:15 David Bates: *Normandy and the French Kingdom*

15:40 *DISCUSSION*

15:55 *Tea break*

16:30 Closing Remarks / Group Discussion

17:30 Finish

19:00 RECEPTION & DINNER



18 April Texts in Translation

A workshop on editing texts from medieval Britain with practical advice from The Early English Text Society for graduate students and early career scholars.

To be taught by the Council of the Society and others, including Richard Dance, Ralph Hanna, Kathryn Lowe, William Marx, Catherine Nall and Ad Putter.

To be held at St Hilda's College, Oxford, UK, from 11.00 a.m. till 5.00p.m. on Saturday 18 April 2026.

£20 for members of the EETS or £34 for non-members. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

For registration or membership of the EETS, contact Dr Daniel Orton on eets@ell.ox.ac.uk. (It is possible to obtain the members' discount by joining at the time of registration.)



Seminars

Medieval History Seminar

HT 2026, Mondays at 5pm. Wharton Room, All Souls College and on Teams

The Teams session can be accessed by logging in to Teams with your .ox.ac.uk account and joining the group "Medieval History Research Seminar" (team code rmppucs). If you have any difficulties, please email: medhistsem@history.ox.ac.uk

19 January 2026: John Sabapathy (UCL)

"Humanism and bestiality in the land of Cockagne"

26 January: Rob Portass (Robinson College, Cambridge)

"Estate Management and the Beginnings of Specialised Production in Early Medieval Iberia"

2 February: Anna Molnár (Reading)

"Nuns' Financial Literacy and the Private Banking Activities of Female Religious Organisations in the Later Middle Ages"

9 February: Cordelia Heß (Aarhus)

"Medieval Racism? Social Practices in Colonial Contact Zones in Greenland and Sápmi (900-1500)"

16 February: Jay Rubenstein (University of Southern California)

"Queen Melisende of Jerusalem and the Wages of Sin"

23 February: Chris Wickham (Birmingham/Oxford)

"International commerce and regional development: pepper in the Indian Ocean"

2 March: Jo Story (Leicester)

"Insular manuscripts: why membrane matters"

[Please note: this session will be in-person only, not hybrid – this is due to restrictions governing the sharing of unpublished data by grant partners]

9 March: Nick Evans (Birkbeck)

"Cowries, Cloth and Coins: Currency in Medieval Economic Anthropology"



Medieval Church and Culture

Tuesdays, Wellbeloved Room, Harris Manchester College

Tea & coffee from 5pm; papers begin at 5.15pm

Everyone is welcome at this informal and friendly graduate seminar



Week 1 John Mulhall (Purdue University) - 20 January

'Blessings on All the Prophets': Islamic prayers in the Latin scientific translations of the twelfth century

Week 2 Natasha Bradley (Lincoln) - 27 January

Trans Saints in Old Norse Translation: Marina*us the Monk and Pelagia*us the penitent in the medieval North

Week 3 Eugenia Vorobeveva (St Anne's) - 3 February

Devil's Laughter, Language, and Sin in the Old Norse-Icelandic 'Passio Domini' Homily

Week 4 Clément Salah (Queen's) - 10 February

Materialising Translation: manuscripts and the movement of knowledge in tenth-century North Africa

Week 5 Luisa Ostacchini (Jesus) - 17 February

(Re)working Miracles: translating Gregory the Great's Dialogues in Old English literature

Week 6 Celeste Pan (Balliol) - 24 February

Some issues of translation in an illuminated Hebrew bible manuscript from medieval Brussels (Hamburg, Staats- und Universitätsbibl., Cod. Levy 19)

Week 7 Simon Heller (Lincoln) - 3 March

Translation, Transformation, and Transmission: the case of the Old English Beowulf

Week 8 Seamus Dwyer (Cambridge) - 10 March

The Point of Medieval Manuscripts

Convenors: Sumner Braund (History of Science Museum), Elizabeth Crabtree (Bodleian Library), Bee Jones (HMC), Lesley Smith (HMC)



Europe in the Later Middle Ages

Theme: The Sea



The Mortar Wreck

Tuesdays 2-3.30 p.m, Hilary Term 2026, in the New Seminar Room, St John's College.
Undergraduates welcome.

Week 1 20 January Peregrine Horden and Nicholas Purcell, Oxford

Beyond the Mediterranean by land and sea: Two medieval cases in a (very) broad context

Week 2 27 January Annabel Hancock, Trinity College Dublin

Negotiating Uncertain Waters: Trust in trade and diplomacy in the Mediterranean

Week 3 3 February Tom Johnson, Oxford

'He hath paid his part': The Political Economy of Fishing Doles in Late-Medieval England

Week 4 10 February Simon Egan, Queen's University Belfast

'God forebode that a wylde Yrishe wyrlynge shulde be chosene for to be there kynge': Gaelic Recovery in a North Atlantic Context, c.1350-c.1550

Week 5 17 February Maria Fusaro, Exeter

Maritime Risk Management and Aequitas: the long life of the principle of General Average

Week 6 24 February Tom Cousins, Bournemouth

The Mortar Wreck: A Thirteenth Century shipwreck outside of Poole Harbour, Dorset

Week 7 3 March NO SEMINAR

Week 8 10 March Mike Carr, Edinburgh

Popes, Ambassadors and Falcons: Trade and Diplomacy between Latin Europe and the Mamluk Sultanate in the Fourteenth Century

Natalia Nowakowska, Hannah Skoda, John Watt





Medieval Visual Culture Seminar

Medieval Visual Culture Seminar, Hilary Term 2026
Thursdays from 5-6:30 pm at St Catherine's College, Arumugam 2.1



Crucifixion. Relief carving in Cratcliffe Rocks hermitage, Derbyshire. Photo: Robert Mills.

Week 2: Thursday, January 29

Robert Mills (University College London), "Wild Forms: Hermits, Saints and Rock Art in Medieval England"

Week 3: Thursday, February 5th

Millie Horton-Insch (British Museum & Trinity College Dublin), "Technologies of Reproduction and Sonderauftrag Bayeux: Re-Creating the Bayeux Tapestry for the Third Reich"

Week 8: Thursday, March 12

Emily Guerry (University of Oxford), "Silver trees and pearl crosses: Franco-Mongolian diplomacy and cultural exchange in thirteenth-century Karakorum"

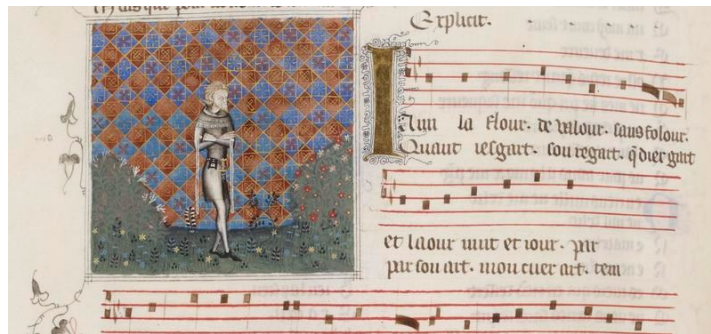
Questions? Contact Nancy Thebaut nancy.thebaut@history.ox.ac.uk



Seminars in Medieval and Renaissance Music

We are pleased to announce the seminars for Hilary Term 2026. The seminars are all held via Zoom on Thursdays at 5 p.m. GMT. If you are planning to attend a seminar this term, please register using [this form](#). For each seminar, those who have registered will receive an email with the Zoom invitation and any further materials a couple of days before the seminar. If you have any questions, please send an email to Joe Mason at all.souls.music.seminars@gmail.com; this address is the main point of contact for the seminars. We look forward to an exciting series and hope to see many of you there. The full programme with abstracts and a policy of recording lectures is available under <https://medieval.ox.ac.uk/seminars-in-medieval-and-renaissance-music-2/>

Margaret Bent (Convener, All Souls College)



29 January 2026, 5pm–7pm GMT: Presenter: Kévin Roger (University of Lorraine)

Title: Latin Motets and Literary Networks in the Late Middle Ages: Intertextuality, Rhetoric, and Digital Reading

Discussants: Yolanda Plumley (University of Exeter) and Karl Kügle (Universities of Oxford and Utrecht)

26 February, 5pm–7pm GMT Andrew Kirkman (University of Birmingham)

Title: Made to measure or *prêt à chanter*? The Court of Wilhelm IV and the Later Alamire Manuscripts

Discussants: Thomas Schmidt (University of Manchester) and Zoe Saunders (Independent scholar)

12 March, 5pm–7pm GMT Presenters: Elisabeth Giselsbrecht, Louisa Hunter-Bradley and Katie McKeogh (King's College London)

Title: No two books are the same. Interactions with early printed music and the people behind them

You can register for the seminar's YouTube channel [here](#), where any recordings will be uploaded.



Medieval English Research Seminar

Tuesdays, 12.15 The Schwarzman, room 00.079 (N.B. week 5, Tuesday, 5.15, the Maison Française)

Convenors: Daniel Wakelin and Laura Varnam

Tuesday 20 January (week 1)

Stacie Vos (U of California, San Diego)

Norfolk Broads, or Discovering medieval women with twentieth-century collectives

Tuesday 27 January (week 2)

Rachel Moss (U of Northampton)

'Chivalry is a code for men willing to fight': medievalism, masculinity and the modern far-right

Tuesday 3 February (week 3)

Joe Stadolnik (U of Chicago)

Bad books in medieval Bristol: alchemy, liturgy and Thomas Norton's ordinals

Tuesday 10 February (week 4)

Kirsty Bolton (U of Oxford)

Power and conversion in middle English romance

Tuesday 17 February (week 5)

AT THE DIFFERENT TIME OF 5.15 AND AT THE MAISON FRANÇAISE

(<https://www.mfo.ac.uk/>)

Hosted jointly with the Medieval French Seminar

François.e Charmaille (U of Cambridge) and Gareth Evans (U of Oxford)

Trans studies and medieval literatures

Tuesday 24 February (week 6)

Elaine Treharne (Stanford U)

'Motes of gold': early English poetry and its modern recollection

Medieval French Research Seminar

Maison française d'Oxford (www.mfo.ac.uk). Drinks will be served from 5pm; the presentations will start at 5:15pm. For more information and to be added on the seminar's mailing list, contact

sophie.marnette@balliol.ox.ac.uk.

3 Feb Cat Watts, St Anne's College, Oxford

"Nothing Of Thine Own": Fandom, Devilry, and Rewriting Holy Tales'

17 Feb (joint seminar with Medieval English): Trans Studies and Medieval Literatures

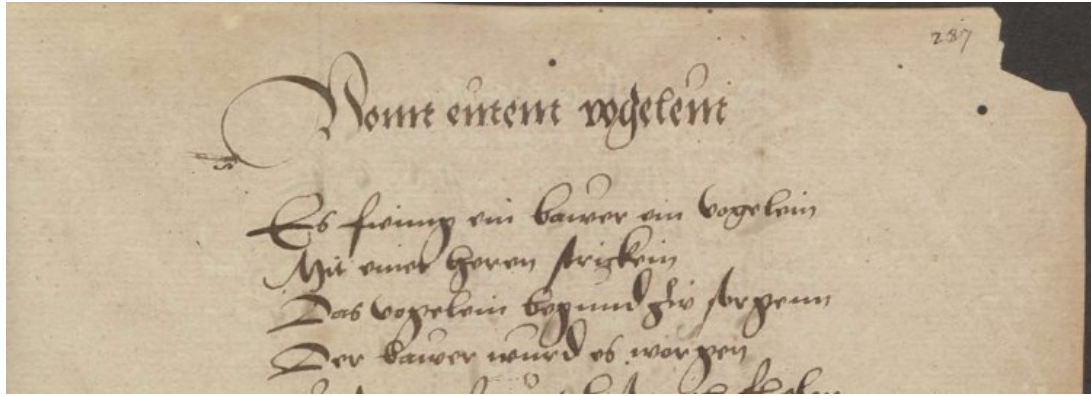
Fran Charmaille (Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge) and Gareth Evans (St John's College, Oxford)

3 Mar Nathalie Koble, ENS Paris

'Sens et sensibilité. Pour une lecture multimédiale de la Dame à la Licorne (Musée de Cluny, Paris)'



Medieval German Graduate Seminar



Liederbuch der Clara Hätzlerin, fol. 287r: 'Von einem vogelein'

The Medieval German Graduate Seminar meets Wednesdays 11.15am–12.45pm in the Old Library of St Edmund Hall. The first week will be a shortish planning meeting. The topic for this term is the 'Liederbuch der Clara Hätzlerin'. If you are interested to be added to the teams group for updates and access to the unpublished new edition of the songs in the volume, please [contact Henrike Lähnemann](#).

Seminar in Palaeography and Manuscript studies



St John's College MS 167 from Syon Abbey

Seminars will take place in the Horton Room, 2:15-3:45pm on Monday afternoons in 2nd, 4th, 6th, and 8th week. All are welcome; a University or Bodleian reader card is usually required to access the seminar room.

Manuscripts will be shown.

26th January: 'Manuscripts in the hands of Franciscus Junius (1591-1677)', Kees Dekker (Groningen)

9th February: 'The Bodleian's Gaignières Collection: A paper museum for Gothic tombs', Emily Guerry (Oxford)

23rd February: 'The Bruce Codex (MS. Bruce 96): Answering the Riddles of Coptic Gnostic Manuscript', Eric Crégheur (Université Laval)

9th March: 'Pen-Flourishing and the Boundaries of Meaning', Seamus Dwyer (Cambridge)



History and Materiality of the Book Seminar series

Organisers: Matthew Holford, Andrew Honey, Laure Miolo

Wednesdays 2-3.30pm (see sessions details below). Venue: Weston Library, Horton room. Anyone interested in manuscript studies is welcome.

No registration required. For questions, please e-mail

laure.miolo@history.ox.ac.uk

The series of seminars has been designed to introduce participants to the various material aspects of the book, thereby laying the foundations for the reconstruction of manuscripts' production and history. The objective is to provide the indispensable elements for the analysis of the manuscript.

The seminars also provide a forum for specialists from different fields of manuscript studies to share their expertise. The sessions bring together curators, librarians, researchers and conservators to provide a comprehensive understanding of the various components of the codex from diverse perspectives. These components include the writing surface, ink, binding, decoration, manuscript production in its broadest sense, and its provenance. The seminars thus represent a valuable opportunity to demonstrate the necessity of close collaboration between researchers, curators/librarians, and conservators for a comprehensive consideration of the manuscript in its entirety. Such collaboration facilitates a more profound comprehension of the diverse contexts in which the manuscript was created, copied, and utilised.

Wednesday 28 January

Writing supports (parchment and paper) and manuscript structure

- Andrew Honey & Matthew Holford

Wednesday 4 February

Decoration

- Martin Kauffmann

Wednesday 11 February

Inks and Pigments

- Céline Delattre and Robert Minte

Wednesday 18 February

Bindings

- Andrew Honey

Wednesday 25 February

Calendars and time-reckoning

- Laure Miolo

Wednesday 4 March

Medieval Libraries and Provenance

- Matthew Holford and Laure Miolo

Wednesday 11 March

Text identification

- Matthew Holford and Laure Miolo

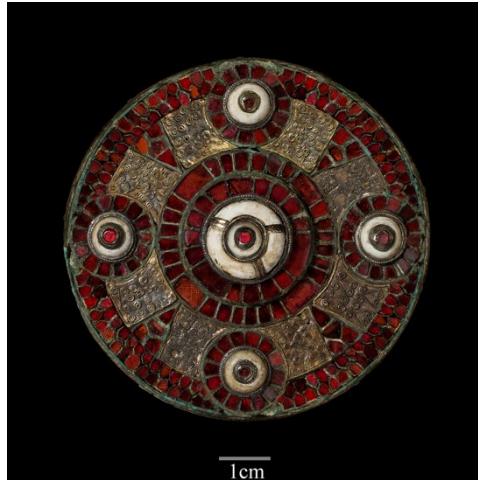


Bodleian Library MS. Laud Misc. 165, fol. 17v



Medieval Archaeology Seminar

Mondays 3.00, Institute of Archaeology, Lecture Room
Convenors: H. Hamerow/J. Kershaw



Week 2, 26 Jan. Jennifer Coulton. Structural Depositions, Haunted Houses, and Domestic Protection in England c.800-1250

Week 4, 9 Feb. Matthew Johnson. New World Settlement and the English Middle Ages

Week 6, 23 Feb. Charlotte Wood. Early medieval 'liturgical combs'

Week 8, 9 March. Eugene Costello. Exploring the expansion of pastoral farming in northern Europe's uplands, c.1200-1600



Medieval Women's Writing Research Seminar



Thursdays, 4-5pm, weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, Somerville College (meet at lodge)

We are an informal, friendly reading group, meeting to discuss everything to do with women's writing in the Global Middle Ages. We will meet on Thursdays of weeks 2, 4, 6 and 8 at 4-5pm at Somerville College, meeting at the lodge and walking together to the seminar room. Please email costas.gavriel@some.ox.ac.uk if you would like to join our mailing list and receive reading materials in advance. All are welcome!

Convenor: Costas Gavriel, costas.gavriel@some.ox.ac.uk

Week 2, Thursday 29th January – The Debate on Women

Extracts from the works of Christine de Pizan, Teresa de Cartagena and Lady Murasaki

Week 4, Thursday 12th February – Pilgrims and Travellers

Extracts from the works of Egeria, Margery Kempe and Lady Nijo

Week 6, Thursday 26th February – Experiences of Captivity and Enslavement

Extracts from the works of Layla bint Lukayz, 'Arib al-Ma'muniyya, Qamar, Uns al-Qulub and Leonor López de Córdoba

Week 8, Thursday 12th March – Making and Breaking Connections

Letters sent by Hildegard von Bingen and Catherine of Lancaster, queen of Castile



Celtic Seminar

The Celtic Seminar is held jointly by Oxford and the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies (CAWCS), Aberystwyth. All Oxford seminars will be at 5.15 pm on Thursdays either hybrid (online and in person) or online-only via Microsoft Teams. When in person, they are in Room 20.306 of the Schwarzman Centre, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road. Please contact david.willis@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk if you need a link to join online. All CAWCS seminars will be held online at 5.00 pm on Thursdays via Zoom, and, for hybrid seminars, in person at CAWCS. Please contact a.elias@wales.ac.uk for the link.

22 January - Oxford (hybrid)

Brigid Ehrmantraut (Cambridge) - Death of the author? Authorship and authority in the Middle Irish classical adaptations

29 January - CAWCS (hybrid)

Elizabeth Edwards (CAWCS) - Home Circuits: the Ladies of Llangollen, queer temporalities and Welsh landscapes

5 February - Oxford (hybrid)

Rhiannon Marks (Cardiff) - Envisaging the end: the representation of language decline in contemporary Welsh writing

12 February - CAWCS (hybrid)

Llion Wigley (University of Wales Press) - Ynysoedd Gobaith: Adeiladu Iwtopia yng Nghymru'r Ugeinfed Ganrif

19 February - Oxford (online)

Sarah Zeiser (Harvard) - Finding allegory, history, and a complicated timeline in the harvest quatrain of Rhygyfarch ap Sulien

26 February - CAWCS (online)

Malo Adeux (CRBC) - Ystoria Daret: sources, circulation, reception

5 March - Oxford (hybrid)

Emmet Taylor (Cork) - Heads, hierarchy and the heroic

12 March - CAWCS (hybrid)

Eleanor Stephenson (Cambridge) - Landscapes of Extraction: Philippe de Loutherbourg and the Morris Family's Copper Works, Swansea

Convenors: Prof. David Willis, Prof. Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones and Dr Becky Shercliff



##Late Antique and Byzantine Seminar

Convenors: Marc Lauxtermann and Ida Toth

Time: Wednesdays, 5pm

Venue: Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies, 66 St. Giles

Online: Join online via Microsoft Teams by clicking [here](#)

##Centre for Manuscript and Text Cultures

5.30pm WMTC Termly Lecture Memorial Room, Queen's College

CMTC "Work in Progress" colloquium

For the events of the [Centre for Manuscript and Text Cultures](#) (CMTC) of The Queen's College, please see their blog: <https://cmtc.queens.ox.ac.uk/lectures-and-colloquia/>



##Oxford University Numismatics Society

##The Khalili Research Centre For the Art and Material Culture of the Middle East: Research Seminar

Thursdays at 5:15 PM, KRC Lecture Room, 3 St John Street *All welcome*

##Lectures of Medieval Poetry

The TORCH Network [Poetry in the Medieval World](#) invites you to attend our lecture series featuring international researchers working on medieval poetry.

For more information about the events and registration links for online attendance, please visit our website or contact Ugo Mondini at ugo.mondini@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk.

##Ancient and Medieval Seminar

##Oxford Centre for Early Medieval Britain and Ireland



Reading Groups and Societies

French Palaeography Manuscript Reading Group

Mondays, 10:30 am–12:00 pm – Weston Library (Horton Room)

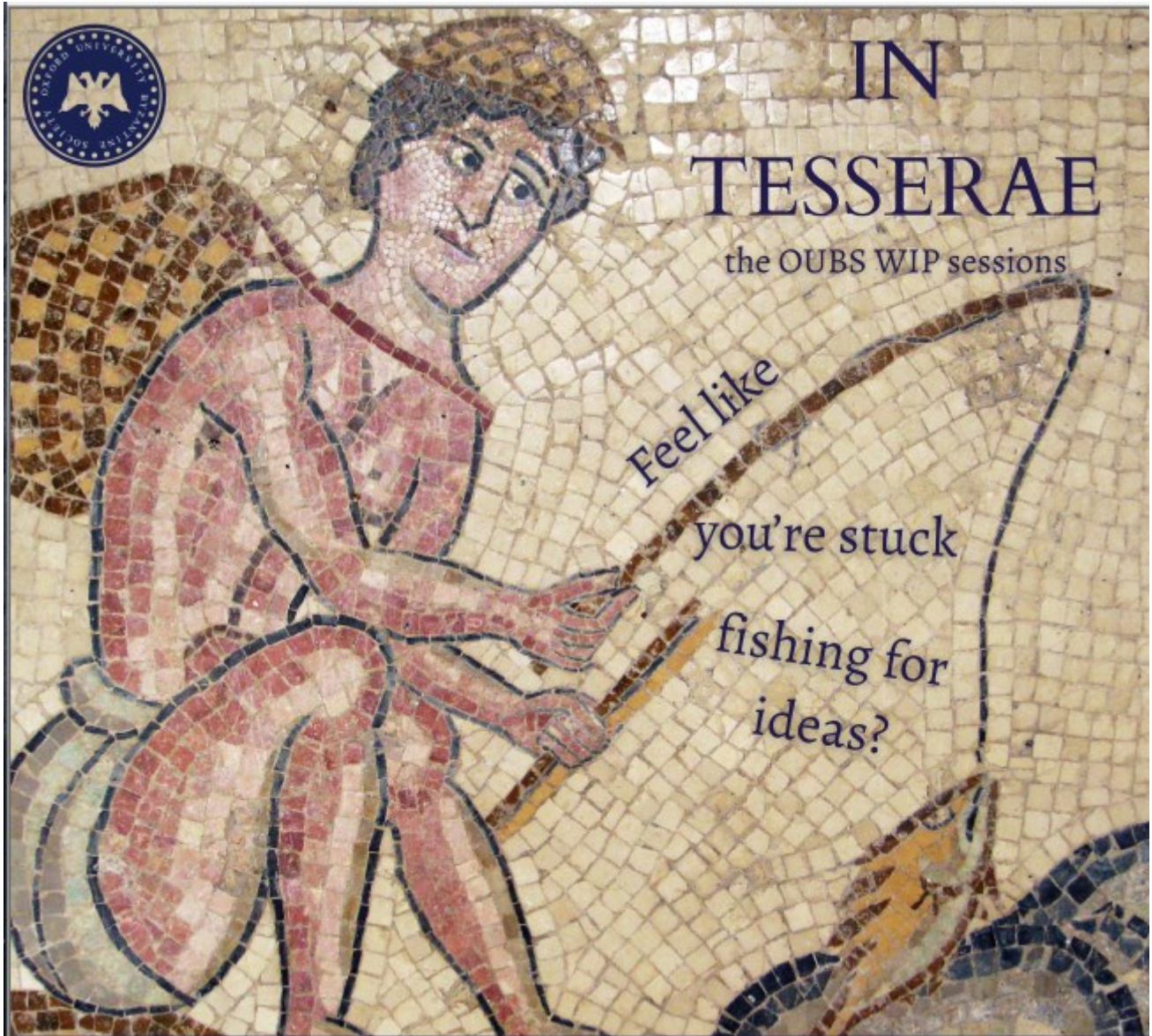
This group is open to anyone with an interest in Old French, Middle French and Anglo-Norman manuscripts. We study and read manuscripts from the 12th century to the 16th century with a special focus on palaeography. We meet every Monday between 10.30am-12pm in the Weston Library. If you are interested in joining the group or would like more information, please write to Laure Miolo: laure.miolo@history.ox.ac.uk

The seminar comprises brief lectures on the morphology and function of scripts, as well as the evolution of script shapes and graphic systems in context, followed by transcription practice using original manuscripts and documents. Sessions are structured around the historical development of scripts, progressing from simpler shapes and strokes with minimal ligatures and abbreviations to more cursive and complex forms. A study of the diverse scripts found between the twelfth and early sixteenth centuries in manuscripts and documents written in Old French, Middle French, and Anglo-Norman – and produced in various geographical areas – will allow participants to gain familiarity with a wide range of scripts and abbreviations. The reading of literary texts in parallel with the analysis of manuscripts and their scripts serves to complement both the lectures and transcription practice.



Oxford, St John's College MS 164, fol. 1r





This term, we are seeking to run a new, interdisciplinary workshop seminar series, called 'In Tesserae.'

'In Tesserae' is an opportunity for students in LABS, Medieval, Classical Archaeology, and AMES Masters and DPhil programmes to give 5-10 minute presentations on their work, a particular section of their thesis, a source, a draft of a conference paper, or anything else that they feel like might benefit from discussion-oriented peer feedback. These presentations will be followed by a minimum of 15-20 minutes of focussed discussion time, assisting students with their work, issue, argument, or whatever else.

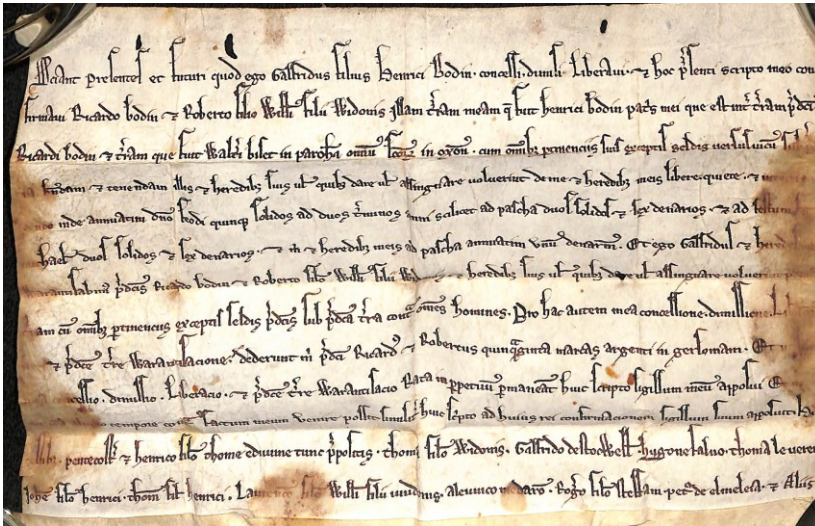
This is an unique opportunity to get students from these disciplines together and begin thinking through their similar and different issues!

The OUBS is seeking 'mini-abstracts' of under 100 words for presentations, to be sent to byzantine.society@gmail.com by this Sunday, January 18th. We are aiming to hold the first 'In Tesserae' session on January 30th. Depending on demand, we will definitely hold more sessions throughout the term, if there is sufficient interest!

We will provide location and precise timing details in due course to presenters and participants.



##Exploring Medieval Oxford through Lincoln & Magdalen Archives



Lincoln

Every Fridays 2-3pm, Seminar Room 1, EPA Centre, Museum Road, OX1 3PX

Following the focus on medieval documents from Lincoln College last year, the seminar will now also include documents from Magdalen College in collaboration with Richard Allen (Magdalen College's archivist). Both Colleges holds an outstanding collection of archives predating the Colleges' respective foundations. A part of those documents relates to several parishes of Oxford, such as All Saint's, St Michael's at the Northgate and others.

This weekly one-hour seminar aims to investigate these unpublished documents, mostly deeds, dating back to the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, that bear witness to everyday life in Oxford at the time. Anyone interested in analysing primary sources and conducting a comprehensive examination of the documents are welcome to attend. Working in pairs on a self-selected source, the research will entail the examination of the record's external characteristics (such as writing surface, layout, marks of use) as well as transcription, translation, and identification of locations and individuals mentioned in the records to establish a context. Special importance will be given to the seals attached to these documents.

As well as collaborating on unpublished sources, attendees will gain experience in digitisation of sources and publish their analysis online. Students will prepare their item for exhibition, and a one-day workshop on these sources will be held in Trinity Term.

Those who are interested can contact the convenor, Laure Miolo via email:

laure.miolo@history.ox.ac.uk



##Latin Palaeography Manuscript Reading Group (advanced beginner, intermediate and advanced levels)

For those wishing to develop, deepen or maintain their skills in Latin palaeography, we meet every Tuesday between 2pm and 3.30pm in the Weston Library (Horton Room or Visiting Scholars Centre). We explore a wide range of medieval manuscripts and documents from the 9th to the 15th centuries. The session includes analysis of different scripts, abbreviations and codicological features. Practice is the key to developing palaeographical skills and becoming more comfortable with different scripts, including the more cursive and abbreviated ones. The aim of this group is to teach the basic elements of each script and abbreviation in order to help in the direct reading and analysis of the manuscripts.

Those who are interested can contact the convenor, Laure Miolo via email: laure.miolo@history.ox.ac.uk

Theory and Play: Comparative Medievalisms

Monday 5.15, Lady Margaret Hall, Weeks 4, 6, 8

Theory and Play: Comparative Medievalisms is an experimental and playful reading group for those interested in engaging with medieval primary and secondary texts at a global and comparative scale. We will take a couple of complex conceptual texts (in translation!) and read them closely in conversation with, and across, one another. Our chosen texts purposefully range across genre and discipline; including poetry, literary criticism, mysticism, epic narrative, precursory works of autotheory, and other critical theories. Emphasis is placed on engaging with novel and challenging texts for the purposes of comparison, exploration, collaboration and expansion. To this end we welcome suggestions for our week 8 reading.

Week 4 – Selections from: Anandavardana's *Dhvanyaloka* (9th century CE, tr. *The Light of Suggestion*); Mechthild of Magdeburg's *Das fließende Licht der Gottheit* (13th century CE, tr. *The Flowing Light of the Godhead*); Cywydd Ymryson Cyntaf Dafydd ap Gwilym (14th Century CE, tr. *Dafydd ap Gwilym's First Debate Poem*)

Week 6 – Selections from: Dhuoda's *Liber Manualis* (9th Century CE, tr. *Handbook for William*); Boethius' *Consolatio* (6th Century CE, tr. *Consolation of Philosophy*); *Ode in Praise of al-Mansur Al-Amiri, Emir of Córdoba* by Ibn Darradj al-Qastalli (10-11th Century CE)

Week 8 – TBC.

To join the mailing list please email capps.juliano@lmh.ox.ac.uk or harriet.carter@lmh.ox.ac.uk



##Course: Introduction to Arabic Palaeography

Convened by [Umberto Bongianino](#), Samir Shamma Associate Professor of Islamic Numismatics, Epigraphy and Material Culture



Venue: St Cross College, Sybil Dodd Room

Time: Mondays, 10:30–12:30

Eight weekly reading and discussion sessions (2 hours each) on Islamic manuscripts, calligraphy, and the scribal traditions of the Arabic-speaking Mediterranean (7th–14th centuries).

These sessions are aimed at students and researchers affiliated with the Faculties of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Medieval and Modern Languages, Theology and Religion, Classics, and History. A basic grounding in classical Arabic is required.

Objectives:

- Acquire the ability to read, understand, and contextualise selected excerpts of medieval Arabic manuscripts (Quranic codices, papyri, different types of religious and secular works, chancery documents, etc.);
- Understand Islamic manuscripts in their material aspects (supports, quires, pigments, binding, etc.) as well as the processes and techniques behind their production (parchment- and papermaking, mise-en-page, quire numbering and sowing, illumination, collation, etc.);
- Familiarise oneself with standard Islamic formulae, frequent Quranic quotations, royal titulature, dating systems, book colophons and marginalia, reading notes, transmission certificates, ownership marks, stamps, etc.;
- Learn to describe effectively the main Arabic scripts and calligraphic styles, gain an overall understanding of palaeographic terminology and methodology, explore the principal calligraphic techniques;
- Date and identify a selection of manuscript material based not only on its textual content, but also on its stylistic, palaeographic, and codicological features.





Bodleian Library, MS. Bodl. 264, f. 96r

We are pleased to trial a format, once or twice a term, in which readers of medieval manuscripts can pose questions to a mixed group of fellow readers and Bodleian curators in a friendly environment. Come with your own questions, or to see what questions other readers have! <https://medieval.ox.ac.uk/medieval-mss-support-group/>

The sort of questions you might bring are:

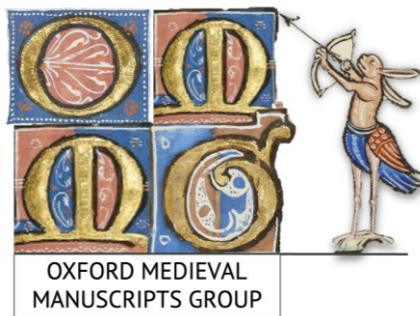
- What is the place and date of origin of this MS?
- What is the place and date of origin of this binding?
- What does the decoration of this MS suggest?
- What does this semi-legible inscription say?
- Whose bookplate is this, or how could I find out?

Meetings will typically be held in the Horton Room (just across the corridor from the manuscripts reading room on the 1st floor). If you wish to pose a question, please order the relevant manuscript to the issue desk, and email the details to [Matthew Holford](#), Tolkien Curator of Medieval Manuscripts, the day before, so that he can arrange for it to be transferred across to the Horton Room for the session. Alternatively, provide a good quality digital image that we can display on a large monitor.

In the expectation that many readers will be at the Weston Library on Fridays for the [weekly Coffee Morning](#) in the Visiting Scholars' Centre, the next such sessions are scheduled for the following dates:



Oxford Medieval Manuscript Group



Fridays 5 pm (unless otherwise stated). Exact dates tbc

For all enquiries, please write to: oxfordmedievalmss@gmail.com

Organisers: Irina Boeru, Fergus Bovill, Ana Dias, Charly Driscoll, Antonia Delle Fratte, Elena Lichmanova, Mathilde Mioche, Celeste Pan, Klara Zhao

Full programme <https://medieval.ox.ac.uk/introducing-the-oxford-medieval-manuscripts-group/>



Old English Graduate Reading Group

A reading group for grad students by grad students! We will be meeting 17.15–18.45 on Thursdays of odd weeks (1, 3, 5, 7) for a friendly read-through. This term's text is *Apollonius of Tyre* [[an e-copy is available here](#)]. All are welcome whatever level of Old English you have. We'll read, translate and talk through the text together in a social and relaxed environment.

Our Location is variable so please email Hattie (harriet.carter@lmh.ox.ac.uk) or James (james.titterington@stcatz.ox.ac.uk) if you're interested. Newcomers welcome! Oldcomers please note the change from Tuesday to Thursday.

Older Scots Reading Group

Wednesdays, 2:30-3:30pm, place TBC

William Brassey Hole's Processional Frieze in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. The Older Scots Reading Group is for people interested in literature produced in Scotland between 1375-1550. This is an incredibly rich period, featuring authors experimenting with form and language. The texts themselves are written in Older Scots – a language closely related to Middle English, but with some unique attributes. This reading group will provide a relaxed introduction to this period and language.

This term we will focus on reading the *Palyce of Honour*, a dream vision poetry by Gavin Douglas that often draws parallels with the House of Fame. But is it purely derivative or is there something more subtle at work? Join us to find out!

No intensive preparation required. Both undergraduates and postgraduates are welcome.



Middle English Reading Group (MERG)

Hilary Term 2026: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.

Thursdays, 11:00-12:00, Weeks 1-8. Lincoln College, Beckington Room.

All are welcome as we read *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. Bring any edition of the original text! There will be tea and biscuits. For more information or to be added to the mailing list, please email <rebecca.menmuir@lincoln.ox.ac.uk>.

John Lydgate Book Club

All Souls College / Wednesdays of Weeks 2, 4, 6, 8 / 5:15pm

Text: Guillaume de Deguileville trans. John Lydgate, *The Pilgrimage of the Life of Man* (1355/1426)



The Pilgrim meets
Tiberius A VII (s.

Hagiography. BL, Cotton MS
xv2/4), f. 91v, detail.

This term we are
several guest
present on
Lydgate's

delighted to welcome
speakers, who will
various topics related to
Pilgrimage, followed by

discussions of the text. We will focus on the second half of the poem (excerpts will be circulated in advance).

Please do email Rebecca or Shaw for more details: rebecca.menmuir@lincoln.ox.ac.uk / shaw.worth@all-souls.ox.ac.uk.

EDITION: *The Pilgrimage of the Life of Man*, trans. John Lydgate, ed. F. J. Furnivall and Katharine B. Locock, EETS E.S. 77, 83, 92 (London, 1899, 1901, 1904). Freely digitised here: <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/c/cme/AJT8111.0001.001/1:1>. ('Item view' mode recommended.) From Prof Daniel Wakelin at the Early English Text Society: If you join EETS online easily with PayPal, you can 'substitute' this year's publications for anything from the backlist up to double the value of the subscription fee. EETS have the *Pilgrimage* ready in Print-on-Demand to be shipped out.

Guild of Medievalist Makers

Join The Guild of Medievalist Makers, a newly formed organisation for academic and academic-adjacent creatives and makers. The Guild is dedicated to furthering creative-critical practice in the humanities and making space for creative play!



Our online Making Space Sessions offer you the chance to set aside time for your creative-critical project. We are regularly joined by a lively and generous company of zine makers, textile artists, cartoonists, novelists, poets, translators, illustrators, flax spinners, print makers and more! Please note that you must become a member of the Guild to join our Making Space Sessions (this is so we can avoid being overrun by bots). Read more about us and join today for free at www.guildmedmak.com





find us on Substack
Medievalist Makers.

Thurs 5th February
(Week 3)
17:30-19:00 (GMT)

Making Space Session
Online
Optional theme: birds

Thurs 5th March
(Week 7)
17:30-19:00 (GMT)

Making Space Session
Online
Optional theme: regrowth

Thurs 2nd April
(Spring Vacation)
17:30-19:00 (BST)

The Guild's 1st Birthday
Show and Tell
Online

Follow us on
Bluesky and
Instagram
@GuildMedMak and
as Guild of

Images: top (Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Douce 219, f. 8v); middle (Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Ashmole 1431, f. 18v); bottom (Oxford, Bodleian Library, Bodleian Library MS. Douce 5, f. 18r)



##Germanic Reading Group

Please contact Howard Jones Howard.Jones@sbs.ox.ac.uk to request the handouts and to be added to the list.

##Old Norse Seminar

##Old Norse Reading Group

##Anglo-Norman Reading Group

The Oxford Anglo-Norman Reading Group will meet on Fridays of odd weeks: 24th Jan, 7th & 21st Feb, 7th March, at 5.00. We finish at 6.30. All are welcome, at whatever level (or none!) of French. We read a text together, helping one another as necessary, translating and discussing.

Meetings are hybrid: on Zoom, or in person at The Farmington Institute in Harris Manchester College (top floor), thanks to our host Professor Lesley Smith.

Wine and soft drinks are available, thanks to TORCH, to help our studies along.

Texts will be provided in advance of each meeting (please bring your own copy, on paper or on screen, as we cannot provide photocopies).

Please contact me for further details, Jane Bliss (jane.bliss@lmh.oxon.org).



##Greek and Latin reading group (GLARE)

All are warmly welcome to GLARE (Greek and Latin Reading Group).

For more information or to be added to the mailing list, please email ugo.mondini@exeter.ox.ac.uk and rebecca.menmuir@lincoln.ox.ac.uk.

The Medieval Latin Documentary Palaeography Reading Group

The Medieval Latin Documentary Palaeography Reading Group continues to meet every Wednesday at 4pm for an hour or so on Teams when we read through and translate a variety of documents from the medieval archive at New College, giving an opportunity to engage with documents ranging from papal bulls to manorial and college accounts, from royal letters patent to manorial court rolls, from college statutes to deeds of title, and from letters to receipts. The document(s) to be studied will be circulated the day before. To join and/or to find out more, please contact michael.stansfield@new.ox.ac.uk.

Celtic Teaching

Old Irish grammar	T. 10–11	Becky Shercliff	Schwarzman 20.306	Graduate Advanced
Old Irish Texts (<i>Scéla Muicce Meic Dathó</i>)	T. 11–12	Becky Shercliff	Schwarzman 20.306	Graduate Advanced
Early Welsh literature (MPhil. core paper)	T. 2–3	Becky Shercliff	Schwarzman 30.024	
Irish language Beginners from scratch	M. 4.30–5.30	Nora Baker	Teams (Schwarzman in Week 8)	FHS F, Graduate Advanced
Beginners' Irish language (continued from Mich. Term)	W. 11.30–12.30	Nora Baker	Teams (Schwarzman in Week 8)	FHS F, Graduate Advanced
Intermediate Irish language	W. 9.30–10.30 and 12.30–1.30	Nora Baker	Teams (Schwarzman in Week 8)	FHS F, Graduate Advanced
Advanced Irish language	W. 2.30–3.30	Nora Baker	Teams (Schwarzman in Week 8)	FHS F, Graduate Advanced
Introduction to Middle Welsh (<i>Cyfranc Lludd a Llefelys</i>)	Th. 10–11 (wks 1–4, 6–7)	David Willis	Schwarzman 30.444	Graduate Advanced



Introduction to Middle Cornish (<i>Origo Mundi</i>)	Th. 11–1 (wks 1–4, 6–7)	David Willis	Schwarzman 30.444	Graduate Advanced
History of the English Language	Th. 12–1 (wks 1–4, 6–7)	David Willis	Schwarzman 30.444	Graduate Advanced
Beginners' Welsh language	F. 2–3	Hanna Hopwood Griffiths	Teams	FHS F, Graduate Advanced
Intermediate Welsh language	F. 1–2	Hanna Hopwood Griffiths	Teams	FHS F, Graduate Advanced
Advanced Welsh language	F. 11–12	Hanna Hopwood Griffiths	Teams	FHS F, Graduate Advanced

Please contact the relevant lecturer (david.willis@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk, becky.shercliff@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk, nora.baker@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk, hanna.hopwoodgriffiths@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk) with any questions.



##The Medieval Poetry Reading Group

We explore medieval poetry across regions and languages, with the guidance of an expert. Texts in the original language and their translation are shared in handouts, read aloud, explained, and discussed. The aim is to gain a global vision of medieval literature through poetry. Since we are driven by curiosity, the reading group evolves according to participants' interests and interaction. We warmly welcome academics and students of any level and with any background. Coffee, tea, and biscuits are offered to participants.

The Reading Group is part of the activities of the TORCH Network Poetry in the Medieval World. For more information, see <https://torch.ox.ac.uk/poetry-in-the-medieval-world> or write an email to Ugo Mondini (ugo.mondini@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk)

##Oxford University Heraldry Society

##Medieval Hebrew Reading Group

Weeks 1-4, 6-8 Thursdays

10:00-11:00 am

This reading group is an opportunity to practise reading directly from images of medieval Hebrew manuscripts in an informal setting. No advance preparation is required and all skill levels are welcome! This year we will look at documents and manuscript excerpts from a broad range of the many genres found in medieval Hebrew texts, including scientific, literary, and legal. We will consider their palaeography, language, and historical context, and learn practical skills for reading unfamiliar handwriting, dealing with damaged texts, and interpreting dates and unusual vocabulary. There will be coffee, tea and cake from 11am in the Common Room of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies for those attending in person.

For further information about this reading group or for any other queries, please email Dr Joseph O'Hara at joseph.ohara@ccc.ox.ac.uk. In order to attend this reading group via Zoom, please register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/xxbFantGTrifTi1mS-4P7g>



Opportunities

OMS Small Grants Now Open!

The TORCH [Oxford Medieval Studies Programme](#) invites applications for small grants to support conferences, workshops, and other forms of collaborative research activity organised by researchers at postgraduate (whether MSt or DPhil) or early-career level from across the Humanities Division at the University of Oxford.

The scheme has a rolling deadline. Closing date for applications: Friday of Week 4 each term for activities taking place during that or the following term. An additional deadline for summer activities and Michaelmas Term is last Friday of July.

Grants are *normally* in the region of £100–250 and can either be for expenses or for administrative and organisational support such as publicity, filming or zoom hosting. They can also be used to support staging a play for the [Medieval Mystery Cycle](#), e.g. for buying props or material for costumes. Recipients will be required to supply a report after the event for the [Oxford Medieval Studies blog](#) and will be invited to present on their award at an OMS event.

Applicants will be responsible for all administrative aspects of the activity, including formulating the theme and intellectual rationale, devising the format, and, depending on the type of event, inviting speakers and/or issuing a Call for Papers, organising the schedule, and managing the budget, promotion and advertising.

Applications should be submitted to Prof. [Lesley Smith](#) using the [word grant application form](#). Informal enquiries may also be directed to Lesley. The Oxford Medieval Studies Programme money is administered by [The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities \(TORCH\)](#) and the money will be paid out via their expenses system.

Publishing with the Journal Manuscript and Text Cultures

Are you interested in submitting to the journal [Manuscript and Text Cultures](#)? Please review the [About the Journal](#) page for the journal's section policies, as well as the [Author Guidelines](#). Authors need to [register](#) with the journal prior to submitting or, if already registered, can simply [log in](#) and begin the five-step process.



CfP: Fissures: Gender and Political Crisis



Gendered work on medieval popular politics has tended to revolve around the exceptional. This workshop explores how studies of gender can reconfigure discourses of medieval political community. We ask how attending to gendered bodies and identities might help us better understand the fissures in political culture in medieval Europe. Marking, for example, women's participation as either absent or rare confines their involvement to the historical margins. How did literary as well as non-literary texts from various genres, ranging from the thirteenth to the sixteenth centuries, engage with gendered political action? How did ideas of gender stabilise or destabilise political performances? We invite abstracts for 25-minute papers, as well as expressions of interest for participation. We welcome papers with a historical, literary, or interdisciplinary focus.

Potential topics could include but are not limited to:

- Frameworks for understanding non-normative gender expressions in political spaces.
- Studies of politics at the intersection of gendered, queer, or trans methodologies.
- Histories of masculinities in political community.
- Emotion and/or Affect
- Weaponized/defensive gender
- Manoeuvring bodies through political crisis
- Inclusion and exclusion
- Different sites of political discourse, such as domestic and non-violent conflict.

Collectively, the papers will interrogate the role of gender in political discourse. Selected papers may be considered for inclusion in an edited volume. Means-based bursaries for speakers may be available by further application.

Please submit a title and abstract of no more than 200 words to:

Alice Raw ar889@cam.ac.uk and Abbie Fray abigail.fray@unibe.ch

SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE: 16 JANUARY 2026



CfP: Ruptures in European History: Individuals, Institutions, and Historical Practices in Times of Uncertainty

The 20th Graduate Annual Conference in European History (GRACEH)

15-17 April 2026

University of Oxford

'The absurd, with its rupture of rationality
- of conventional ways of seeing the world -
is in fact an accurate and a productive way of understanding the world.'
- William Kentridge

What do an earthquake, a war, and the abolition of serfdom have in common? Ruptures can be experienced individually, locally, nationally, or globally, calling into question what is normal, natural, or everyday. As a metaphor, rupture carries more emotive weight than other descriptors like 'transformation' or 'turning point': it suggests a break in the perceived historical order, a crumbling of what once felt solid, a shock to the system - or a long-awaited breakthrough to a desired future. Moments of rupture can be experienced as catastrophe, but they can also represent opportunities for creativity, innovation, and adaptation, inspiring new ideas, communities, and ways of connecting with people and the environment.

In a moment felt by many as one of historical rupture, the 20th Annual Graduate Conference in European History invites graduate students working on any topic or period in European history and/or Europe in the world to submit papers on this theme. How do we define instances of sudden or extreme change in history? What events culminate in the tearing apart of previous systems? And what comes after? How have narratives of rupture changed over time? How productive is rupture as a concept for thinking historically?

Possible topics include but are not limited to:

Crisis as Rupture

Two most common man-made forms of crisis are revolutions and wars, but do they always constitute rupture? Are the changes wrought by war or revolution always long-term? How do postwar orders imagine, build on, or attempt to negate a pre-war, pre-rupture past?

Environmental Rupture

How have sudden or far-reaching environmental changes impacted societies, cultures, as well as the movements of people? How, or to what extent, have humans adapted to challenging environments? What if rupture is constant – e.g., during prolonged periods of climate instability or recurring natural disasters?

Economic Rupture

How are moments of economic rupture (bankruptcy, financial crisis, system collapse, far-reaching state interventions) experienced at the individual, local, national, and global level? What is the relationship between severe economic disruption and social, cultural, or political change?

Art as Rupture and Renewal

What constitutes 'rupture' in the arts and culture? What role have the arts played in precipitating, recording, or reflecting broader social, cultural, or political upheavals? How do moments of rupture allow for artistic and intellectual creativity and innovation?

Rupture and Fragment

Does a rupture have to be a singular drastic change? Must it be all-encompassing or can it be partial or fragmentary? When does a fragmentary change become a rupture? What is the difference between a 'rupture' and a 'turning point'?



Narrating Rupture

How do we know when a rupture has taken place? Is this decided in the moment or after the fact? How do geopolitical disruptions impact methodological approaches? What new or alternative means of gathering information arise in times of historical rupture and how do they change history writing? What assumptions about historical continuity or change are embedded in the terms we use to describe it?

DATES AND INFORMATION

Please send abstracts up to 300 words and a brief biography (max 100 words) to:
graceh2026@history.ox.ac.uk by 18 January 2026.

Participants will receive a notification of acceptance by 15 February 2026.

We particularly encourage submissions from those who have yet to present their work at conferences or are from underrepresented regions and/or institutions.

If you have questions, you can get in touch with the organizational team here:
graceh2026@history.ox.ac.uk or visit our website (<https://2026graceh.wixsite.com/home>) for more information.



CfP: 20th Annual MEMSA Conference: Connection, Conversation, Contention: Encounters in the Medieval and Early Modern World

13th and 14th July 2026, St John's College, Durham University

With Keynotes by Dr Natalie Goodison (Durham), Dr Lisa Kattenberg (Amsterdam) and Professor Stuart Carroll (York)

The Medieval and Early Modern Student Association (MEMSA) is delighted to present their 20th anniversary conference entitled: 'Connection, conversation, contention: encounters in the Medieval and Early Modern World'. Just as MEMSA is an association that connects different people, all kinds of connections took shape in the Medieval and Early Modern period through different means, such as the founding and spreading of major religions like Christianity, Islam and Buddhism. However, with connection also comes contention, such as the Arabic conquests, the crusades and the colonial conquests.

To investigate these interactions, the MEMSA conference committee invites postgraduates to send paper abstracts of 300 words. Some possible topics include, but are certainly not limited to:

- Intertextuality/inter-pictorial comparisons
- Adaptations across media
- Adaptation between the Medieval and Early Modern periods (eg. In text, music, visual culture)
- Reception of the Medieval and Early Modern periods (eg. in the modern era)
- Discovery of new places (eg the New World, an unknown physical landscape)
- Encountering the human or non-human Other
- Revolt
- Gender relations
- Relationship with the natural world
- Linguistic development in the Medieval and Early Modern period
- Spirituality, religion and/or associated tensions
- Political relations (eg. Between aristocracy and non-aristocracy, military and civilian populations, the role of monarchy)
- Community building endeavours
- Epistolary relationships

Submit your abstract via the following link or the QR code attached to the accompanying graphic by 9/3/2026: 20th annual MEMSA conference abstract submission – Fill in form

For questions and more information please contact memsa.conference@durham.ac.uk

We look forward to receiving your submissions!



CfP: 15th C Conference

Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, University of Kent, Thursday 3rd – Saturday 5th September 2026

CALL FOR PAPERS

Proposals are now invited for The Fifteenth Century Conference 2026. This annual meeting brings together established scholars and new researchers working on the history of the long fifteenth century in the British Isles, Ireland, or in the French territories of the English monarchy. Canterbury provides a highly appropriate venue for this conference, with its long history of international connections and cultural exchanges that moulded British identities. The local organisers this year are Drs David Rundle and Sheila Sweetinburgh.

We invite proposals for research papers on any subject relating to the above fields, and proposals on all kinds of history are welcome. Papers should be 40 minutes in length. They should be based on original research and be suitable for working up for submission to *The Fifteenth Century* ([The Fifteenth Century – Boydell and Brewer](#)), an edited series closely associated with the Conference. Please note, however, that there is no obligation to publish and submissions to this series undergo a separate peer-review process.

Proposals from postgraduates at the later stages of doctoral work and from early-career researchers are particularly encouraged. We also want to include doctoral students at an early stage of their research, so a poster session is under consideration. All speakers will be expected to deliver their papers in person and to pay the standard registration and other fees. This cost-sharing helps to make the conference as affordable as possible for everyone. The Richard III Society is kindly offering two £250 bursaries for postgraduate speakers at the conference: details [here](#).

Please send proposals for papers to BOTH David Rundle (d.g.rundle@kent.ac.uk) AND Sheila Sweetinburgh (S.M.Sweetinburgh@kent.ac.uk) by 31 January 2026. Proposals should include a title and an abstract of the paper totalling no more than 300 words. Along with the abstract, please also provide a short biography (max. of 250 words), which should include any institutional affiliations and, in the case of postgraduate students, the name of your PhD supervisor. All proposals will be reviewed by the Fifteenth Century Conference advisory board.

Bodleian Purchasing Opportunity

Do you know of books that would aid your work but are not in the Bodleian? Help us strengthen the university's collections. You can submit details of suggested books via

<https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/collections-and-resources/recommend-a-purchase>

or by email to medieval@bodleian.ox.ac.uk.

We also welcome donations of books that we do not hold, or of which we lack a circulating copy. Donations may be sent to:

Acquisitions Services – Donations

Bodleian Libraries, Osney One Building, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0EW

Your knowledge helps shape the future of the Bodleian's collections.



Manuscript and Text Cultures Graduate Seminar

Call for Papers – Trinity Term 2026

The Manuscript and Text Cultures Graduate Seminar is a new initiative supported by the Centre for Manuscript and Text Cultures (CMTC). Its purpose is to create a regular, collaborative space in which graduate students (Master's and DPhil) and early-career researchers (Post-docs, Junior Research Fellows, Career Development Fellows) are invited to present their work-in-progress, share methodological challenges, and engage in conversations that bridge disciplinary and cultural boundaries in the field. This seminar forms part of the CMTC's broader mission to encourage meaningful dialogue across manuscript and text traditions, to foster a strong interdisciplinary community, and to support the training and intellectual development of students working on any aspect of manuscript culture.

Scope

The Manuscript and Text Cultures Graduate Seminar welcomes presentations that, while based in a particular manuscript tradition, raise analytical, methodological and/or conceptual questions that speak across manuscript and text cultures. Examples might include: reflections on libraries and manuscript repositories; scribal practices; textual transmission; materiality and manuscript art; colophons; collecting practices; methodological or cross-cultural approaches to working with manuscripts and texts; or related issues. These themes are meant to guide contributors toward presentations that, although rooted in their specialist area, invite broader discussion and resonate with colleagues working on any manuscript tradition. Contributors are encouraged to present on-going research and the conceptual question arising from it.

Format

Three sessions will be held in Trinity Term 2026 (provisionally on Thursdays in Weeks 2, 5, and 8). Each session will feature a 30-minute presentation, followed by a response from a more advanced researcher, and then ample time for open discussion. Sessions are open to the broader CMTC community, and we particularly encourage attendance and engagement from graduate students across disciplines. Depending on interest and availability, additional sessions may be organised in Hilary Term 2026. Submissions should include: a provisional title, a brief expression of interest (2–3 sentences outlining the proposed topic and its broader relevance), and the prospective speaker's institutional affiliation (college and/or faculty).

Deadline

To allow us to finalise the programme and advertise before the start of term, we would be grateful to receive proposals by 12th of January.

Contact

For questions, suggestions, or expression of interest, please feel free to get in touch with:

Ana de Oliveira Dias: ana.dias@history.ox.ac.uk

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CfP: Medieval History Graduate Workshop

The Cambridge Medieval History Graduate Workshop is inviting paper submissions for Lent Term 2026.

We host presentations on the cultures, economies, literature, material cultures, politics, thought, religions, and reception of the medieval world, which we broadly define as the global period between c. 500 and c. 1500. We welcome interdisciplinary scholarship and encourage submissions which stretch our conception of 'medieval' in time or space, from late antiquity to modern reception and from Scandinavia to the Middle East and beyond, or which deal with the practice of medieval history.

These short 15–20-minute workshop papers are excellent ways to share your work, gain presentation experience, and receive constructive feedback in a supportive environment run for and by graduate students. In terms of scope, we are looking for focused studies that offer snapshots into ongoing graduate research, and particularly encourage primary source work and case studies, rather than sweeping overviews of large topics or summaries of entire dissertations/theses.

We welcome submissions from Master's and PhD students from any discipline or university, but especially encourage graduate students based in or around Cambridge to submit. Accepted speakers will have the opportunity to be featured on our blog, Camedieval. The Workshop meets alternate Thursdays, 4:00pm–5:30pm, with the option of virtual attendance on Microsoft Teams for audience members. In each session we usually have two 15–20-minute papers, followed by in-person socialising and refreshments.

Please send abstracts of not more than 250 words and a short bio by 13th January 2026 to cambridgemedieval@gmail.com. The Camedieval blog regularly puts out content and is always open for submissions.



Accessibility and Updates

Inside is the full programme of medieval events taking place in Oxford in Hilary Term 2025. The booklet does not claim to be comprehensive. It only includes such entries as were submitted. If you wish to have further information for the seminars listed in this booklet, please consult the name of the convener of the seminar (where given) or the appropriate Faculty.

Please send any entries for next term's booklet to Tristan Alphey at medieval@torch.ox.ac.uk. Any further suggestions: get in contact with Henrike Lähnemann, Lesley Smith or Tristan Alphey, either via email or teams.

What is happening:

- A shared calendar on the website on <https://medieval.ox.ac.uk/> and torch.ox.ac.uk/medievalstudies
 - Regular email updates via the mailing list medieval-news@maillist.ox.ac.uk; if you are not on the list, you can also sign up on the website torch.ox.ac.uk/medievalstudies. Should you know of any medievalist new to Oxford – whether student, staff, or academic visitor – please also alert them to the list.
 - Podcasts and videos about medievalists and medieval projects on the podcast and itunes server of the University podcasts.ox.ac.uk
 - And finally: weekly coffee mornings in the Visiting Scholars Centre of the Weston Library!
- If you have an exciting Special Collections related theme you would like to talk about, get in contact with Dr Chris Fletcher, Keeper of Special Collections.



**Medievalists
Coffee Morning!**
Friday 10:30-11:30

**Visiting
Scholars Centre
in the Weston Library.**

Access via the Readers Entrance on Museum Road
All medievalists working in Oxford welcome!

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