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THE OXFORD RESEARCH CENTRE IN THE HUMANITIES



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

Michaelmas Term 2024



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 West porch of the Norman church St Mary, Iffley

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Welcome to the Oxford Medieval Studies Programme for Michaelmas Term 2024!

Welcome to the new academic year! As ever, we would love to hear from you about new projects, books, collaborations, events, and ideas for future collaboration. You will find us normally at the Medieval Coffee Mornings (see back of the booklet for details) each Friday which are a brilliant way of connecting with curators, visiting scholars, conservators, and all those curious about Special Collections. Or come for the sessions of MCC (Medieval Church and Culture) which kicks off in week 1, Tuesday 5pm, in Harris Manchester College, with a Medieval Social, including handover and thank-you to Luisa Ostacchini.

AND: the Medieval Mystery Cycle is back! 26 April 2025 - see below the call for actors, directors, costume-makers, and musicians and do get in contact with us!

Henrike Lähnemann (German) and *Lesley Smith* (History), Co-Directors of the Programme for 2024/25

Welcome to Tristan Alphey, new Comms officer

I am the new OMS comms officer for the coming year. My research explores the social implications of nicknaming in pre-Conquest and early Norman England. I look at the themes, number, and distribution of nicknames in an attempt to understand what motivated people to give and repeat names, and whether we can begin to unpick some of the social systems that lay behind these names. My approach draws on a body of scholarship known as socio-onomastics, increasingly popular among linguists and anthropologists, that sees names as playing an active role in shaping the ways people interact with each other.

Elsewhere in Oxford I run the Medieval Misuse reading group, which explores the ways in which the medieval past has been misused by modern political parties and extremist groups. We hope to bring this back in the coming term, so keep your eyes peeled.

I look forward to getting to know you all better, and meeting many of you in person - feel free to [email me](#) with any specific questions. I'm always keen to convert other medievalists to the thrills of onomastics, particularly socio-onomastics, so do please reach out if you'd ever like to discuss names. Read [Tristan's full blog post](#) introducing himself.

Welcome to Dr Miles Pattenden

I'm Miles Pattenden and I'd like to introduce myself as a new member of the OMS Steering Group who is taking responsibility as a commissioning editor for this website over the coming year. Those of you who have been around in Oxford for a while may know me from a previous life as an historian of the early modern papacy and Catholic Church. However, my work has also always taken a particular interest in the uses of the medieval Christian past during and since the Counter-Reformation.

Increasingly I now study 'Medievalisms' amongst contemporary groups and individuals:

[popes who fantasise about following the footsteps of medieval missionaries](#), the Far

Right, and LGBTQ+ activists. A piece of the 'cult of gay relics' in AIDS-era Sydney and San Francisco is forthcoming in *Past & Present* (2025). It explains how gay men repurposed ideas encountered in Catholic schools and seminaries to sacralise public sex and build community in the face of police oppression ([click here](#) for a taster).

Beyond these publications, I'm also Programme Director at [The Europaeum](#) (a network of leading universities run from Oxford), the editor of [The Journal of Religious History](#), and a member of [Transactions of the Royal Historical Society](#)'s Editorial Board.

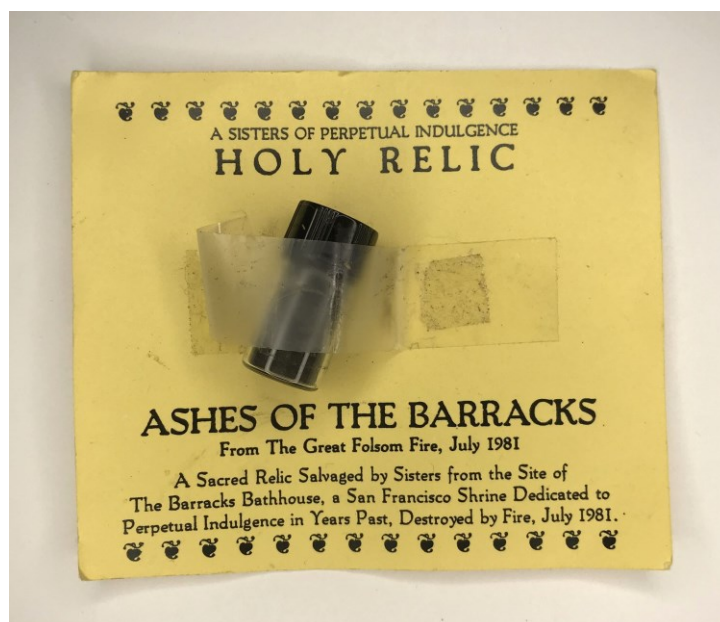
I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the various events we promote here, and which Tristan advertises via the termly booklet and weekly newsletter.

We're always looking for new content for Oxford Medieval Studies: opportunities, publications, exhibitions, performances, conferences, workshops, etc. Blogposts about these can be informational or critically reflective, in advance or in retrospect.

Best wishes for the 2024-25 Academic Year - and do [get in touch with me](#) when you have ideas that merit wider publicity or visibility within our vibrant community of medieval scholars!



Mother 'Cum Dancing' (Colin Peat) decorates a shrine on wheels for the Sydney Mardi Gras, © Australian Queer Archives, Papers of Fabian Lo Schiavo.



Holy Relic of the Ashes of the Barracks Bathhouse, © Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, SPI Archives, San Francisco, CA.

Welcome to Prof. Nancy Thebaut

Hello! I'm delighted to be joining the Oxford Medieval Studies community. I grew up in Florida and earned my postgrad degrees at the Courtauld, Ecole du Louvre, and University of Chicago (PhD). I have been living for the past few years in upstate New York, where I was Assistant Professor at Skidmore College, and I just completed a year-long sabbatical at the center for medieval studies (CESCM) at the University of Poitiers. My research and teaching cover a wide range of time and object-types, but I am especially interested in manuscript illuminations and ivory relief carvings.

I'm currently at work on two projects. The first is an exhibition that I am co-curating with Melanie Holcomb at The Cloisters (Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY) on love, sex, and gender in



Nancy Thebaut, Associate Professor of the History of Art & Tutorial Fellow, St Catherine's College



the late Middle Ages and that will open in October 2025. The second is a book, entitled *Lessons in Looking: Difficult Images of Christ, ca. 850-1050*. It considers a selection of narrative images in liturgical manuscripts from northern Europe that depict moments at which seeing Christ is at stake, often at moments when his body is partially obscured or visually absent. In both projects, I'm invested in the agency of images, or how they actively shape how we look, think, and understand ourselves in relation to others.

I'll be teaching a variety of medieval art history courses, in which I look forward to centering Oxford's incredible medieval collections and sites. I'll also be convening the Medieval Visual Culture Seminar. We have an exciting line-up for the 2024-2025 academic year, and I hope you'll attend!

I look forward to getting to know you all in the coming weeks. Feel free to reach out and say hello: nancy.thebaut@history.ox.ac.uk

Detail of the cover of Paris BnF Latin 9390, 9th c., Metz

Welcome to Dr Emily Davenport Guerry

It's such a joy to return to Oxford and take part once again your thriving medieval community. Having completed my PhD at Cambridge and a fellowship in Paris, I came to Merton as a JRF in 2012. I moved to Canterbury in 2015 to join the School of History at the University of Kent, where I was a Senior Lecturer and co-Director of MEMS (Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies). After a decade at Kent, where I loved working with my colleagues and students, I made the difficult decision to leave after the closure of our History of Art Department. I am incredibly lucky to have found a new intellectual home at St Peter's, covering for Prof Stephen Baxter's sabbatical, and I am keen to get involved with teaching opportunities as I navigate this new chapter of my career. I will continue to supervise my six Kent PhD students, who I hope will attend some of the wonderful research seminars on offer here in Oxford.

My research examines the cult of relics and its role in the reinvention of Christian iconography across the Middle Ages. If the sacred object is like a battery, its miracle-working presence is the electricity, and the surrounding visual culture is the machine that generates meaning. I am especially interested in the context surrounding changes in the representation of

Crucifixion, as well as the patrons, theologians, and artists involved in these historical processes. Some of my current projects focus on Gothic wall painting schemes in Paris and Angers, royal patronage at Westminster, miraculous narratives in the stained glass of Canterbury and Tours, the role of diplomats in the collection of relics from Constantinople, and the development of religious cults across the British Isles, Europe, and the wider Mediterranean. Alongside my publications, I am proud to have co-organised 'Thomas Becket: Life, Death, and Legacy' events with the British Academy and Canterbury Cathedral alongside the recent Becket exhibition at British Museum. I am also very invested in cultural engagement with the Sainte-Chapelle, the cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris, and other Gothic monuments now in the care of the Centre des monuments nationaux. This includes consulting on conservation issues, the creation of new educational material for heritage sites as well as fun appearances in the media, including writing and presenting parts of the Netflix documentary, *Mysteries of the Faith*, with an entire episode dedicated to the cult of the Crown of Thorns, and *Danny Dyer's Right Royal Family* for the BBC, where I had the opportunity to introduce the actor to Saint Louis.

I am passionate about sharing my interests in the medieval imagination with students as well as the wider public, and I am so excited to get work with Oxford medievalists (and with all of the medieval treasures in Oxford). If you have any shared interests or if you have any ideas about possible collaborations (or if you just want to have a chat about Gothic architecture or medieval relics!), please don't hesitate to get in touch: emily.guerry@spc.ox.ac.uk



Dr Emily Davenport Guerry, Tutor in Medieval History, St. Peter's College, at the tomb of Abelard and Heloise in Père-Lachaise

Welcome to Prof. Tamara Atkin



My current book project, *Reusing Books in Early Modern England*, grows from a Leverhulme-funded Major Research Fellowship and explores the reuse and recycling of old books in early modern England. Assessing the relationship between bibliographic and literary ideas about waste and reuse, it considers the role of old books (both as wasted remnants and second-hand commodities) in early modern culture. Out of this work, I am also developing a new project about the second-hand movement of books

in England between the Dissolution of the monasteries, when thousands of medieval manuscripts and early printed books entered the commercial book market, and the rise of book auctions in the 1670s, when published sale catalogues changed the ways that old books were bought and sold. By shifting focus away from the activities of the London Stationers' Company, I hope to shine a light on the trade practices of and relationships between men and women overlooked in standard accounts of the premodern book trade.

Prof. Tamar Atkin, Professor of Medieval and Early Modern Literature and Book History | Faculty of English Language and Literature | Fellow in English | The Queen's College

Welcome to Prof. Gareth Evans



*Prof. Gareth Lloyd Evans (he/him)
Official Fellow and Tutor in English
St John's College, University of Oxford*

Hello! I'm delighted to be taking up the roles of Associate Professor of Old Norse in the English Faculty and Tutorial Fellow in English at St John's College. I'm not new to Oxford - I was previously based at St Hilda's for 8 years, first as a Stipendiary Lecturer and then as a Career Development Fellow - and I'm very much looking forward to continuing being part of Oxford's vibrant community of medievalists.

My primary field of research is Old Norse-Icelandic literature, and I have secondary research interests in Old and Middle English literatures. I am particularly interested in questions of gender, sexuality, and emotion, and of identity more broadly; I am also interested in questions of poetics and style.

I'm currently working on two book projects. The first is a monograph entitled *The Poetics of Emotion in Saga Narrative*, which reconsiders how we read, engage with, and understand Old Norse saga narrative through a comprehensive study of emotional representation in the *Íslendingasögur* (sagas of Icelanders). The second is a trade monograph - *Karlkona: Trans Lives of the Viking World* - which uncovers narratives of trans, non-binary and gender fluid individuals from Viking Age Scandinavian archaeology, and Old Norse myth, legend and saga. I'm also co-editing a number of volumes - two on Old Norse emotion, and one on cross-temporal comparative literatures - and am PI of the AHRC-funded Old Norse Emotion Network.

I'm always happy to speak to colleagues and students about Old Norse: do feel free to get in touch with me at gareth.evans@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Call for Actors, Directors & All: Medieval Mystery Cycle

Call for Actors, Directors, Costume Makers, and Musicians for 26 April 2025!



The Oxford Medieval Mystery Plays 2025



Would you like to take part in a medieval dramatic experiment? Directors, actors, costume makers and musicians wanted!
More information and apply at
<https://www.seh.ox.ac.uk/mystery-cycle>

26 April 2025, St Edmund Hall

Would you like to take part in a medieval dramatic experiment? Directors, actors, costume makers and musicians wanted!

The next cycle is going to take place on 26 April 2025 at St Edmund Hall

These plays were a very popular form of drama in the Middle Ages - with different groups performing short plays telling stories from the Bible. To take part in the next performance, email [Professor Henrike Lähnemann](mailto:henrike.laehnemann@seh.ox.ac.uk), Fellow at St Edmund Hall Fellow and Professor of Medieval German Literature and Linguistics, and [Professor Lesley Smith](mailto:lesley.smith@seh.ox.ac.uk), Fellow and Tutor in Politics and Senior Tutor at Harris Manchester College, Co-Directors of the Oxford Medieval Studies Programme at TORCH, under the address medieval@torch.ox.ac.uk.

More information and an overview of what was performed in 2019, 2022, and 2023 at <https://www.seh.ox.ac.uk/mystery-cycle>

Events

Old English Events

18 October 2024: Beowulf Study Day: In Honour of Heather O'Donoghue's book *Beowulf: Poem, Poet and Hero* Spaces limited: contact francis.leneghan@ell.ox.ac.uk

4 December 2024: Inaugural Dorothy Whitelock Lecture: Prof. Gale Owen-Crocker, 'Social History and False Friends: From Anglo-Saxon Wills to the Bayeux Tapestry via Material Culture'

Sign-up via Eventbrite:

<https://english.web.ox.ac.uk/dorothy-whitelock-lectures>

16-17 April 2025: 'Unlocking the Exeter Book' conference in Faculty of English:

<https://www.english.ox.ac.uk/sitefiles/cfp-exeter-book.pdf>, contact rachel.burns@ell.ox.ac.uk and francis.leneghan@ell.ox.ac.uk

15 May 2025: Graduate/ECR Training Day in Old English Prose: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/old-english-prose-training-day-tickets-955554759007>

In celebration of the publication of Heather O'Donoghue's *Beowulf: Poem, Poet and Hero* (Bloomsbury, 2024)



Beowulf Study Day

Speakers include:
Helen Appleton, Rachel Burns, Edward Gill, Simon Heller, Francis Leneghan, Bernard O'Donoghue, Laura Varnam

Friday 18 October 10.00-16.00
Week 1 Michaelmas Term

All welcome!

History of the Book Room
Faculty of English

Spaces are limited, so if you would like to attend, please contact:
francis.leneghan@ell.ox.ac.uk

Book at Lunchtime



Book at Lunchtime: From Tudor to Stuart

Wednesday 16 October, 11.15 am, brunch, 11.45am - 12.45pm discussion

Seminar Room, Radcliffe Humanities Building, Woodstock Road, Oxford



Book at Lunchtime: Wartime Shakespeare, Shakespeare's Tercentenary

Wednesday 30 October, 12.30pm lunch, 1pm-2pm discussion

Seminar Room, Radcliffe Humanities Building, Woodstock Road, Oxford



Book at Lunchtime: The Life of Nuns

Wednesday 13 November, 12.30pm Lunch, 1pm - 2pm discussion

Seminar Room, Radcliffe Humanities Building, Woodstock Road, Oxford

'The Life of Nuns: Love, Politics, and Religion in Medieval German Convents.' by Henrike Lähnemann and Eva Schlottheuber, Wednesday 13 November, 12.30pm lunch. 1pm-2pm. [Book your place here](#)

Book at Lunchtime is a series of bite-sized book discussions held fortnightly during term-time, with expert commentators from a range of disciplines. All events are filmed and added to the [University Podcasts website](#) and the TORCH [Book At Lunchtime YouTube Channel](#). For questions relating to our Book at Lunchtime series, contact the TORCH Communications Officer John Kennedy john.kennedy@humanities.ox.ac.uk

22 October 2024: Centre for Early Medieval Britain & Ireland Lecture

Prof. Alex Woolf (University of St Andrews)
“Ships, men, and land in Dál Riata, England, and beyond”

Gillis Lecture Theatre, Balliol College, Tuesday 22nd October (Tuesday 2nd Week), 5.15pm

All are welcome. If you wish to sign up to the Centre's mailing list, please drop an email to earlymedievalistsoxford-request@maillist.ox.ac.uk. If you would like to join the speaker for dinner, contact Dr Conor O'Brien FRHistS, Associate Professor in the Early Medieval History of the British Isles and North Atlantic World, Tutorial Fellow in History, The Queen's College, The Queen's College, Oxford, OX1 4AW, '[Secularizing Strategies in the Early Middle Ages and the History of Pre-Modern Religion](#)' - just published Open Access in *Past & Present* (2024)



1 November 2024: Hans Sachs in Oxford

A Call for Readers!

On the 500th anniversary of their first publication, the four hilarious, successful and witty Reformation Dialogues by Hans Sachs will be reissued in a new edition. This will include new English translations, a historical introduction, linguistic footnotes, and also the 15th century English translation of the first dialogue. We are looking for readers willing to do a live recording of the first dialogue in early modern German, early modern Dutch (only parts of it), and in early modern English for the launch event! Contact [Henrike Lähnemann](#) to volunteer.

Launch: Friday, 1 November, 5-6:30pm
Taylor Institution Library (St Giles, Oxford), Room 2

The new edition will be volume 7 of the '[Reformation Pamphlets](#)' series of the '[Taylor Editions](#)', edited by Philip Flacke, Henrike Lähnemann, and Thomas Wood, and with contributions by a number of undergraduate and graduate students..

<https://historyofthebook.mml.ox.ac.uk/hans-sachs-in-oxford/>

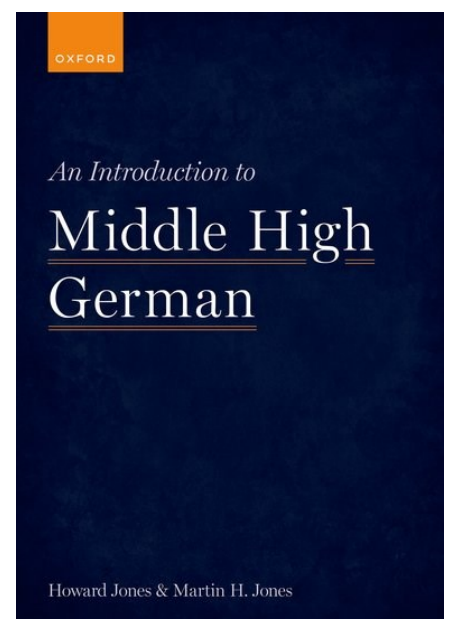
2 November 2024: Middle High German Study Day

Workshop and Launch

The new [Introduction to Middle High German](#) by Howard Jones and Martin H. Jones (OUP 2024), is a dedicated student edition of [The Oxford Guide to Middle High German](#), designed for taught courses and self-study. It provides an accessible overview of the grammar and lexis of the language suitable for introductory-level students and includes thirty extensively-annotated texts with explanatory notes suitable for use in teaching. It is accompanied by a [companion website](#) which gives open access to further online resources for the study of Middle High German.

The workshop is designed as a test case to show ways of using the 'Introduction' within a university setting or for self-study. Participants will get access to the online version and work with it in groups ranging from beginners to experts on aspects of Middle High German. There will be a "Translathon", a group competition to translate and comment on passages of the Middle High German text 'Helmbrecht'.

<https://medieval.ox.ac.uk/2024/08/02/an-introduction-to-middle-high-german/>



When: Saturday 2 November 2024, 2-6pm

Where: Taylor Institution Library, Room 2, University of Oxford

For Whom: Students from first-year undergraduate to doctoral level - level - anyone, in fact, who would like to acquire, practise, and improve their knowledge of Middle High German. No previous knowledge of Middle High German required

By Whom: Led by the authors and a group of medievalists from Oxford and London

How: In-person, with an option to participate online via Zoom.

Costs: Free of charge but registration required with the organisers [Sarah Bowden](#), [Howard Jones](#), and [Henrike Lähnemann](#) via the [Registration form for both in-person or online here](#), before 31 October. Early registration for Registration for in-person attendance recommended since room capacity is reached with 30 participants.

22 November 2024: Crafting the Book

‘Crafting the Book’ is a one-day workshop aimed at current Oxford University students and researchers with an academic interest in the history of the book and material culture of medieval manuscripts and early printed texts, including their production, decoration, and provenance through signs of ownership. They will engage with historic materials and develop a deeper understanding of contemporary artistic and reader practices through taking part in hands-on activities with craft methods.

Lunchtime Lecture: Sir Victor Blank Lecture Theatre at the Weston Library, 1-2pm (Free attendance)

Talks by expert speakers Sara Charles and Eleanor Baker with focus on their wide-ranging research on medieval illumination, calligraphy, and early printing techniques. Sara is currently a PhD student at the Institute of English Studies studying manuscript production in the Latin Christian world, and has a forthcoming trade history book, *The Medieval Scriptorium: Making Books in the Middle Ages* (Reaktion Books, August 2024). Eleanor is currently the English Subject Lead for the University of Oxford's Astrophoria Foundation Year, with a forthcoming trade history book, *Book Curses* (Bodleian Publishing, November 2024).

Practical Workshops: Bodleian Bibliographical Press, times TBA (Booking required, link will be shared closer to the date)

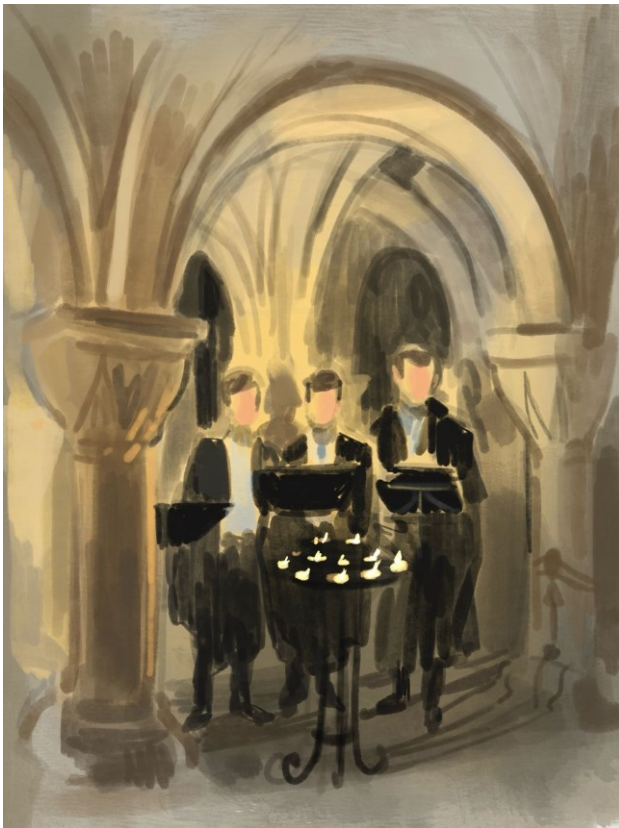
Sara Charles is leading a practical session on making and writing with iron gall ink as well as painting on parchment.

Eleanor Baker is leading a separate session on creating book curses with early printing techniques.

‘Crafting the Book’ is organised by Alison Ray, St Peter’s College Archivist, and she may be contacted by email with any questions: alison.ray@spc.ox.ac.uk



31 October and 28 November 2024: Compline in the Crypt



Twice this term, 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.

It will take place after Formal Hall on Thursdays of week 3 and week 7.

Thursday of Week 3 sung in German (Reformation Music)

Thursday of Week 7 sung in English (Tudor music)

Please contact Henrike Lähnemann henrike.laehnemann@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk if you are interested in joining the St Edmund Consort for singing at either occasion; there will be a short rehearsal on Monday preceding Compline at 7pm and on the day at 6pm.

Drawing by Italian artist Isabella Mazzanti of the Latin Compline sung on 29 February 2024

Oxford Medieval Society

President: [Dr Teresa Witcombe](#)


Secretary (& Incoming President: [Elizabeth Champion](#))

Treasurer: Kat Smith

Chair of the Advisory Board: Conrad Leyser


Calling all ECR and postgraduate medievalists! Oxford Medieval Society is delighted to announce our programme for MT 2024. All our events are free for members, and society membership for the year costs just £5. It is possible to become a member at any of our events, either with cash or bank transfer. For any questions, please email oxfordmedievalociety@outlook.com

- **Thurs week 2 (24th Oct): 6-8pm Oxford Medieval Society welcome drinks and pub quiz!** Come to the King's Arms from 6pm to join the OMS, meet other medievalists and put your medieval trivia to the test. There will be prizes for the winners and for best team name!



Oxford Medieval Society
Welcome drinks and pub quiz

Thursday 24th October (2nd Week)
6–8pm King's Arms pub




Join the OMS, meet other medievalists, and put your medieval trivia to the test! Come and find the OMS tables in the King's Arms, Holywell St, from 6pm (quiz at 6.30pm).

OMS membership: £5, payable at any OMS event.


For questions, email: oxfordmedievalociety@outlook.com

- **Fri week 4 (8th Nov): 9.30am-midday OMS Shut Up and Write.** Join us in Blackwells café (Broad Street) from 9.30am to spend the morning writing/doing focused work together.
- **Mon week 8 (2nd Dec): 4.30-6pm OMS Tea Talks.** A new series of informal termly 5-minute talks and tea! Join us at the New Seminar room, St John's College, for tea and biscuits and a relaxed chat about research and life as a medieval ECR.



OXFORD MEDIEVAL SOCIETY
SHUT UP & WRITE

9.30am - midday
 Friday 8th November
 Blackwells Coffee Shop, First Floor



Please drop by and join our members as we grab a coffee and try to shut up and write!

If you would like further details, please email oxfordmedievalociety@outlook.com





Oxford Medieval Society
Tea Talks

Monday 2nd December (week 8)

4.30-6pm New Seminar Room, St Johns College

Join us for this new termly series of 5-minute talks on any aspect of medieval research, followed by tea and biscuits!

- Is there a chapter of your thesis you'd like to talk about?
- A publication you'd like to celebrate?
- A knotty medieval problem you'd like to talk through?

If you'd like to be one of our speakers, email OMS at oxfordmedievalociety@outlook.com



*we're looking for speakers! The series is intended to provide a friendly environment for medieval ECRs to talk briefly about an element of their research - this could be a chapter of your thesis, an upcoming publication, a manuscript you're working on, or even just a knotty medieval problem you've encountered. Speakers will speak for about 5 minutes, in an informal setting, followed by tea, biscuits, and friendly chat. We're hoping to host 2 speakers each term. If you'd like to contribute to our first Tea Talk on Monday of 8th week, please email us at oxfordmedievalociety@outlook.com

Seminars

Medieval English Research Seminar

Convenors: Prof. Marion Turner and Prof. Mark Williams

Tuesdays 12.15pm, Weeks 1-6
Lecture Theatre 2, St. Cross Building

15th Oct – Amy Appleford (Boston University)

"Ascetic Theory and the Impaired Christ: Peter Damian, Richard Rolle, Julian of Norwich"

22nd Oct – Sian Hughes (Novelist) "Pearl: a reading and conversation"

29th Oct – Denis Renevey (Lausanne) 'Discovering

and Re-Fashioning the Self: The Apophatic and Encyclopaedic Journeys of Andrew Boorde (c. 1490–1549)'

5 Nov - Francis Leneghan (Oxford) A Perilous Task? The Making of the Old English Heptateuch (Bodleian Library MS. Laud Misc. 509)

12 Nov - Jenyth Evans (Oxford) "'Eucleator venio, non pugnator": the uneven authority of pseudohistories in Gerald of Wales'.

19 Nov– Nicholas Watson (Harvard) "Vernacular Theology in Thirteenth-Century Oxford: Robert Grosseteste and his Circle"

Seminars followed by a sandwich lunch. All welcome!

English Medieval Graduate seminar

The English Medieval Graduate seminar will take place in Weeks 4 and 6 of MT 2024. This research seminar is an opportunity for graduates studying the medieval period at the Faculty of English to present their research and receive feedback in a welcoming and supportive environment. The aim of this forum is to foster greater community and encourage dialogue amongst medieval graduates at the Faculty of English. Students from any areas of medieval studies across the university are welcome to attend these forum sessions.

If you are interested in presenting, please submit an abstract of no more than 250 words to the forum organisers Maeve Coughlan (maeve.coughlan@sant.ox.ac.uk), Hanna Baker Darch (hanna.baker@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk), and Mary Catherine O'Connor (mary.oconnor@balliol.ox.ac.uk).



Digital Bodleian - University of Oxford
Bodleian Library MS. Laud Misc. 509

Reading Jews in Late Antiquity

Michaelmas Term, Wednesdays 10:00-11:00am

Room 207, The Clarendon Institute, Walton St.

Co-leads: Prof. Meron Piotrkowski and Ya'el Nu'emah-Kremer

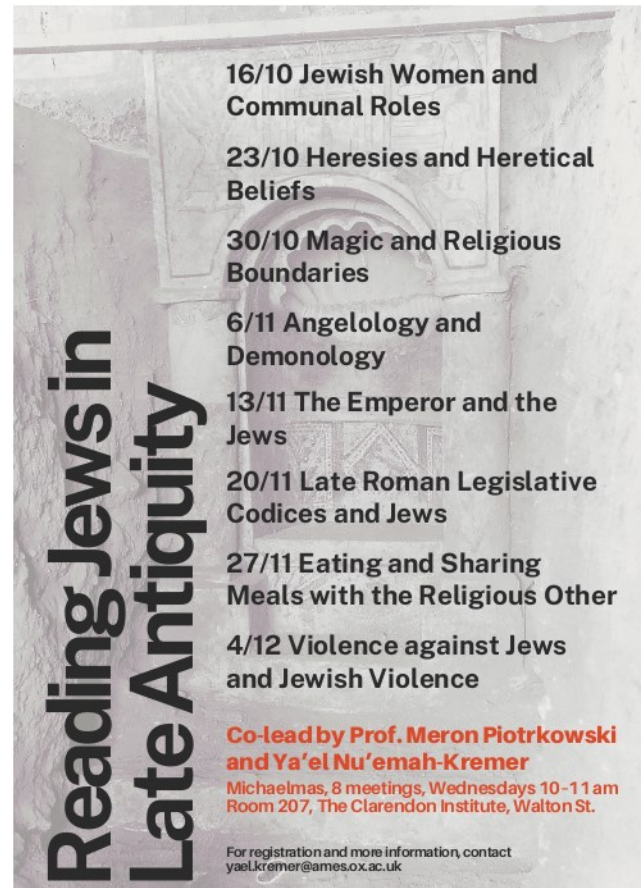
This course offers a comprehensive exploration of Jewish life in Late Antiquity, highlighting the multifaceted roles of Jews within the broader Mediterranean and Near Eastern worlds.

Through a close examination of literary and non-literary sources—such as papyri, inscriptions, and archaeological findings—we will investigate key themes including the evolving communal roles of Jewish women, the impact of heresies on Jewish identity, and the pervasive influence of magic and religious boundaries. Special attention will be given to Jewish conceptions of angelology and demonology, especially the role of figures like Lilith. Additionally, we will explore the relationship between Jewish communities and imperial authorities, looking at both factual and fictional encounters, and how Jewish life was shaped by Late Roman legislative measures.

The course also addresses the significance of commensality in interreligious interactions, the dynamics of religious violence involving Jews, and broader social boundaries. By critically analysing these diverse elements, the course provides a nuanced understanding of the complexity of Jewish life and thought during this transformative era.

- 16/10 – Jewish Women and Communal Roles
- 23/10 – Heresies and Heretical Beliefs
- 30/10 – Magic and Religious Boundaries
- 06/11 – Angelology and Demonology
- 13/11 – The Emperor and the Jews
- 20/11 – Late Roman Legislative Codices and Jews
- 27/11 – Eating and Sharing Meals with the Religious Other
- 4/12 – Violence against Hews and Jewish Violence

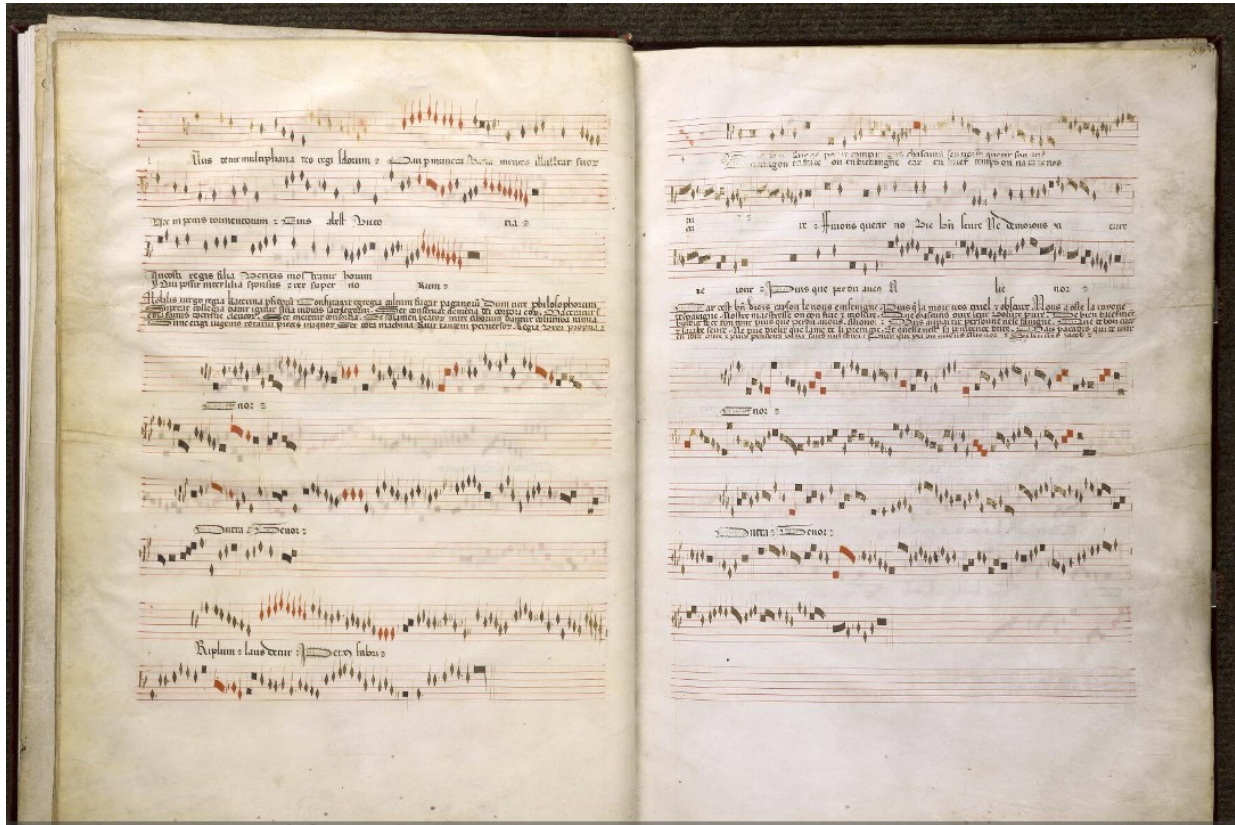
For registration and more information, contact yael.kremer@ames.ox.ac.uk



Medieval and Renaissance Music

We are pleased to announce the seminars for Michaelmas Term 2024. 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.

Margaret Bent (Convener, All Souls College) and Joseph W. Mason (New College)



Chantilly, Bibliothèque du Musée Condé, 564, fol. 16v-17r

Thursday 31 October, 5pm-7pm GMT

Presenters: A. Zayaruznaya (Yale University) and Andrew Wathey (The National Archives and Northumbria University)

Title: Philippe de Vitry (31 October 1291 - 9 June 1361)

Discussion moderated by Lawrence Earp (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

Philippe de Vitry, composer, poet, bishop, and correspondent of Petrarch, remains a pivotal but imperfectly understood figure in the cultural and musical history of the fourteenth century. No contemporary was praised so often nor from so many quarters: yet the terms in which we view him, his work, impact and reputation are shifting. Coinciding with his 733rd birthday, this seminar juxtaposes the perspectives and approaches adopted by two forthcoming books on Vitry, a figure whom it is hard to capture in a single study. Following brief presentations on each of these studies by A. Zayaruznaya and Andrew Wathey, themes of common interest will be explored in discussion with Lawrence Earp, as will a number of conundra that continue to complicate and animate Vitry studies, including: historiography, biography, and his treatment in different disciplines; personal approaches to the subject; the span of Vitry's intellectual universe; his role in fourteenth-century musical innovations; patronage and place; broad chronologies, and Vitry's origins and early years.

Thursday 21 November, 5pm-7pm GMT

Presenter: Lucia Marchi (University of Trento)

Title: The long life of the Trecento repertory

Discussants: Blake Wilson (Dickinson College, PA) and Lachlan Hughes (Trinity College, Cambridge)

In 1461, the manuscript Chantilly, Bibliothèque du Musée Condé, 564 was donated by Francesco d'Altobianco degli Alberti to the three daughters - aged 9 to 14 - of the Florentine banker Tommaso Spinelli. The gift of a seemingly outdated manuscript of complex polyphonic music to young girls (and not to a professional musician, as had happened with the Squarcialupi codex) seems surprising, and raises the question of how long the Trecento repertory could have survived into the next century. A new source contains a long *capitolo ternario* about the seven joys of the Virgin Mary, written by the Dominican theology master Simone d'Angelo dei Bocci da Siena (1438-1509). The poem is dated 1486 and is dedicated to a lady of the Sieneese aristocracy, Madonna Perna degli Ugurgieri, for her spiritual instruction. Towards the end of the poem, the description of the Assumption into heaven is particularly musical, mirroring the classic late-medieval iconography of angels playing instruments and singing around the Virgin. In the tradition of the *quodlibet* or *incatenatura*, the verses are built around a series of quotations of musical incipits. In this paper, I propose an identification of many of them (hoping also to gather suggestions from my audience!). The results provide a view on the repertory known to the Sieneese upper classes at the end of the 15th century. The presence of many Trecento pieces testifies that - similarly to the Spinelli a few years before - an aristocratic lady such as Madonna Perna was ready to catch the musical references to a dated, but still familiar repertory among the theological subtleties of the poem

Thursday 5 December, 5pm-7pm GMT

Presenter: Michael Scott Asato Cuthbert (Independent scholar).

Title: A.I., Similarity, and Search in Medieval Music: New Methodologies and Source Identifications

Discussants: Theodor Dumitrescu (Independent scholar), Margaret Bent and others, including David Fallows, Paweł Gancarczyk, Richard Dudas

In a series of pre-pandemic talks I introduced a new database and computational tools for identifying concordances in late medieval music: EMMSAP, the Electronic Medieval Music Score Archive Project. When I last spoke at Oxford in 2015 I had discovered 13 concordances through EMMSAP; by the last presentations before Covid there were 34.

After a brief recap of previous findings (especially those not yet published), I will present 22 new connections made using digital tools, including the first identifications of pieces on slate and of new quotations within the Turin/Cyprus codex. The talk will also expand on the various computational methods and encodings that have been successful in making new identifications (quick encodings, brute force, human directed, and “old-style” A.I.) and those that have not (detailed “musicological” encodings, indexed and automated search, and newer A.I. such as deep learning and GPTs). To get the most from digital tools, the talk will also advocate for a new role in musicological publication: the encoding-discoverer far outside her or his realm of expertise.

Advance Notice for Hilary Term 2025

6 February 2025, 5pm-7pm GMT

Presenter: James Tomlinson (University of Oslo)

Title: A reassessment of Cambridge, Gonville and Caius College, MS 512/543 and its Implications for the Production and Transmission of Polyphony in Late Medieval England

Discussants: Peter Lefferts (University of Nebraska) and Karen Desmond (Maynooth University)

27 February 2025, 5pm-7pm GMT

Presenter: Helen Coffey (The Open University)

Title: Music for Dancing in the Empire of Maximilian I

Discussants: Christiane Wiesenfeldt (University of Heidelberg) and Martin Kirnbauer (Schola Cantorum, Basel)

13 March 2025, 5pm-7pm GMT

Presenter: Paul Kolb (Alamire Foundation / University of Leuven)

Title: Contextuality and Irregularity in Late-Medieval Mensural Notation

Discussants: Emily Zazulia (University of California, Berkeley) and Ronald Woodley (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire)



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

The theme for the term is **Mediterranean Connections**

- Week 1
15 October Medieval Social: come and meet other medievalists, raise a glass to Luisa Ostacchini for her outstanding work as OMS Comms Officer, and meet her successor, Tristan Alphey
- Week 2
22 October Krisztina Ilko (Queen's College, Cambridge)
A Chess King from Norman Southern Italy
- Week 3
29 October Peter Tóth (Bodleian Library)
Virgin Mary visits Hell: identifying a medieval Latin apocryphal text
PLEASE NOTE: This week's talk begins at 5.30pm
- Week 4
5 November Helen Flatley (Somerville)
Ties that bind: partnership, surety and social bonds between Christians, Muslims and Jews in Toledo, 1085-c.1300
- Week 5
12 November Eunice Yu (Wolfson)
Harmonising Paradox in Early Modern Venice: collecting and constructing national identity in print
- Week 6
19 November Conrad Leyser (Worcester)
The Rule of Augustine Revisited
- Week 7
26 November Edward Shawe-Taylor (St Cross)
The Qur'an of Mūsā b. Bughā: reassembling a lost Egyptian manuscript
- Week 8
3 December Phil Booth (St Peter's)
Egypt from the Ancient Mediterranean to the Middle Medieval East: a seventh-century chronicle between worlds

Convenors:

Sumner Braund (History of Science Museum), Elizabeth Crabtree (Blackfriars), Bee Jones (Jesus), Lesley Smith (HMC)

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

Week 1 14 October	Edward Zychowicz-Coghill (KCL) ‘Writing the <i>Conquest of Egypt</i> : A case study in the Formation of Islamic Historical Writing’
Week 2 21 October	Genevieve Caulfield (UCL) ‘Making moral judgements: theory and practice in the thought of Johannes Nider’
Week 3 28 October	Sarah Hamilton (University of Exeter) ‘Writing history in the tenth century’
Week 4 4 November	Teresa Barucci (Magdalen) ‘Identity and geographical origin at the late medieval University of Paris: an analysis of manuscript decoration’
Week 5 11 November	Gregory Lippiatt (University of Exeter) ‘Bogomils or Bogeymen?: Heresy between East and West in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries
Week 6 18 November	Moreed Arbabzedah (Jesus Oxford) ‘New perspectives on Gerald of Wales’
Week 7 25 November	Jack Ford (British Academy) Title tbc
Week 8 2 December	Alicia Smith (Oxford) ‘Harlot/saint: tracking the figure of <i>Thais meretrix</i> in medieval manuscript compilations.’

Medieval German Seminar



The Medieval German Graduate Seminar meets Wednesdays 11.15am-12.45pm in Somerville College. The first week will be a shortish planning meeting in Almut Suerbaum's office. The topic for this term is Konrad von Meigenberg: 'Buch der Natur'. The 1861 edition by Pfeiffer is open access [online](#), 2003 edition by Luff/Steer is accessible via [SOLO](#).

If you are interested to be added to the teams group for updates, please [contact Henrike Lähnemann](#).

Image: Rainbow in Universitätsbibliothek Heidelberg, Cod. Pal. germ. 300, [fol. 63r](#), Konrad von Meigenberg, Das Buch der Natur – Hagenau - Werkstatt Diebold Lauber, um 1442-1448?

Late Antique and Byzantine Seminar

Wednesdays, 5pm

Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies, 66 St Giles
Convenors: Marc Lauxtermann and Ida Toth

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

- (W1) 16 October** Alexander Sherborne a.o. (Oxford), 'The Extraordinary Medieval Monuments of Georgia: A Report by the Oxford University Byzantine Society Research Trip, July 2024'
- (W2) 23 October** Anne McCabe (Athens), 'From Temple to Church: New Evidence for the Christianization of the *Hephaisteion* in Athens'
- (W3) 30 October** Geoffrey Greatrex (Ottawa), 'What sort of Late Antiquity? Reflections on P. Brown, *Journeys of the Mind*'
- (W4) 6 November** Arkadiy Avdokhin (Oxford), 'Gone with the Wind: Ambition, Scatology, and Violence in Acclamations for Albinos at Aphrodisias'
- (W5) 13 November** Max Lau (Oxford), 'The Rebirth of Byzantine Anatolia in the Twelfth Century'
- (W6) 20 November** Lucia Orlandi (Paris/Rome), 'Recent Research on Baptism and Baptisteries in Late Antiquity'
- (W7) 27 November** Alberto Rigolio (Durham), 'The Rise of the *Memrā* in Syriac Literature'
- (W8) 4 December** Zdenka Stahuljak (UCLA), 'Methodologies of Commensuration: Poetry, History, and Knowledge'



Jaharis Byzantine Lectionary (ca 1100)

St Catherine's College, Oxford, Arumugam Building 1.2
Thursdays 5 pm
All welcome



Smithfield Decretals, Toulouse (?), c. 1300; London, c. 1340.
London, British Library, Royal 10 E IV, fol. 4v. *Image courtesy of Alixe Bovey*

Thursday, November 7, 5-6:30 pm

Elena Lichmanova, DPhil student, University of Oxford

"Religious Storytelling and the Rise of Marginalia"

Thursday, November 21, 5-6:30 pm

Alix Bovey, Professor and Dean, Deputy Director, & Head of Research, The Courtauld Institute of Art

"Visual Storytelling in 14th-century London: Subtexts, Pretexts, Contexts"

Thursday, December 5, 5-6:30 pm

Ben Tilghman, Associate Professor of Art History, Washington College (Maryland, USA) & Visiting Research Fellow, University of Edinburgh

"What Art Does When It's Doing Nothing: Stillness, Perdurance, and Agency in Medieval Art"

Questions?

Contact Nancy Thebaut, Associate Professor, History of Art & Fellow, St Catherine's College
nancy.thebaut@history.ox.ac.uk



Medieval Women's Writing Research Seminar

The Medieval Women's Writing Research Group meets to discuss everything to do with women's writing in the medieval period. All welcome!

Stay up to date with events by [joining our mailing list](#) or following us on X [@MedievalWomenOx](#).

Convenors: Katherine Smith, Marlene Schilling, and Santhia Velasco Kittlaus

Week 1,
Thursday
17 October **Arnisha Ashraf (Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi): Woman's Body as 'Commodity': Matrimonial Alliances and Political Dynamics in Medieval Assam (c.1600-1800)**
Time: tbc Online session - Registration details forthcoming

Week 3,
Friday,
1 November **Joanna Augustyn: Embroidery as alternative writing: Philomela's tongue**
Time: 5-7pm. Place: Lincoln College (In-Person session)

Week 5,
Thursday, 14
November **Aafreen Rashid (South Asian University, New Delhi): Framing Feminist Strategic Discourse: Begum Jahanara and the Exchange of Letters During the War of Succession in Mughal India (1657-59) Time: tbc Online session - Registration details forthcoming**

The Centre for Manuscript and Text Cultures. "Work in Progress" colloquium



The CMTC is delighted to host the following talks on Tuesday 12th November at 5.15pm in the Memorial Room (Queen's).

This term's "Work in Progress" colloquium will be chaired by Professor Henrike Lähnemann.

1. Julia Lorenz (Merton College, Oxford), 'Konrad of Würzburg's "Herzmaere": An Instruction on How (Not) to Love'
2. Dr Alan Darmawan (SOAS, London), 'Mapping Sumatra's Manuscript Cultures'

For queries about the CMTC's WiP colloquia, please contact this year's convenor, Ramani Chandramohan (ramani.chandramohan@queens.ox.ac.uk)

For more information about the CMTC's activities and our open-access journal *Manuscript and Text Cultures*, please see <https://cmtc.queens.ox.ac.uk/lectures-and-colloquia/>

Celtic Seminar and Teaching

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 in a hybrid (online and in person) format. You will be able to join virtually via Microsoft Teams. Please contact david.willis@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk if you need a link to join online. In person, we will be in the Memorial Room, Second Quad, Jesus College. All CAWCS seminars will be held online at 5.00 pm on Thursdays via Zoom, and, for hybrid seminars, in person at the National Library of Wales. Please contact a.elias@wales.ac.uk for the link.

10 October (! 0th week in Oxford)
CAWCS (Y Drwm, National Library of Wales and online)
Abigail Burnyeat (Sabhal Mòr Ostaig)
Who's to blame for Connla's death? Changing *causae occidendi* from *Aided Óenfir Aífe* to *Bàs Chonnlaoi*ch

17 October
No meeting

24 October
CAWCS (Y Drwm, National Library of Wales and online)
Mikel Gartziaarena (University of the Basque Country)
Pre- and in-service teachers' language attitudes towards Basque

31 October
Oxford (Jesus College and online)
Nina Cnockaert-Guillou (Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies)
From *Acallam na Senórach* to *Agallamh na Seanórach*: Structuring narratives and recycling texts in (early) modern Ireland

7 November
CAWCS (online)
Elizabeth Boyle (Maynooth)
Psychology and the individual in medieval Ireland

14 November
Oxford (Jesus College and online)
Elisa Cozzi (Oxford)
From *Dánta Grá* to Dante: Irish-Italian genealogies, 1350-1850

21 November
CAWCS (online)
Marion Löffler (Cardiff)
"Desert wilds of India-Africa":
Abergavenny Cymreigyddion Eisteddfod competitions and Empire, 1834-1853

28 November
Oxford (Jesus College and online)
Tanguy Sollicec (LACITO, CNRS, Paris)
Breton dialect variation: An opportunity to reflect on the emergence and formation of a language

Celtic Research Seminar



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Celtic Teaching Michaelmas 2024

Introduction to early Irish (<i>Lebor Gabála Éirenn</i>)	T. 10-11	Jenyth Evans	St Edmund Hall
Introduction to Middle Welsh (<i>Math</i>)	T. 9-10	Mark Williams	St Edmund Hall (meet in lodge at 8.55)
Celtic historiography	T. 2-3	Jenyth Evans	St Edmund Hall
Beginners' Irish language	W. 10-11	Nora Baker	Teams
Post-beginners' Irish language	W. 12-1	Nora Baker	Teams
History of the Welsh Language	Th. 10-11 (wks 1-2, 4-6, 7-8)	David Willis	Tower Meeting Room, Jesus
Introduction to Middle Breton (<i>An Buhez Sant Gwennôlé</i>)	Th. 11-12 (wks 1-2, 4-6, 7-8)	David Willis	Tower Meeting Room, Jesus
Advanced Irish language	Th. 1-2	Nora Baker	Teams
Beginners' Welsh language	F. various times	Hanna Hopwood Griffiths	contact lecturer for details
Intermediate Welsh language	F. various times	Hanna Hopwood Griffiths	contact lecturer for details
Advanced Welsh language	F. various times	Hanna Hopwood Griffiths	contact lecturer for details

Please contact the relevant lecturer (david.willis@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk, mark.williams@ell.ox.ac.uk, jenyth.evans@seh.ox.ac.uk, nora.baker@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk, hanna.hopwood@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk) with any questions.

Medieval Archaeology Seminar

Mondays 3.00, Institute of Archaeology, Lecture Room

Wk 2 (Oct. 21). Ragnheiður Traustadóttir/Knut Paasche

Viking Age burials and Medieval Settlement from Fjörður, Iceland / Viking Ships. Gateways to the Past.

Wk 4 (Nov. 4). Lyn Blackmore (Museum of London Archaeology)

The seventh-century bed burial at Harpole: Aspects of recent work

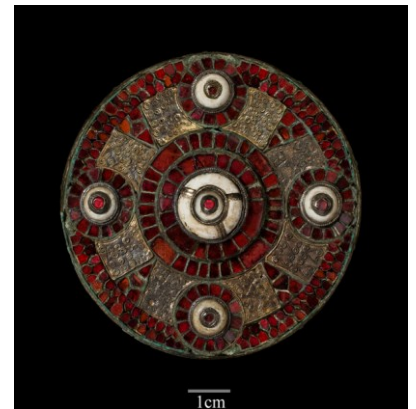
Wk 6 (Nov 18) Rebecca Tyson, U. of Bristol

Navigating the Norman invasion of England in 1066: A maritime environmental perspective

Wk 8 (2 Dec) Stephen Rippon, U. of Exeter

Excavations at Ipplepen

Convenors: H Hamerow & J. Kershaw





Tuesdays of Week 1, 3, 5, and 7

Drinks will be served from 5pm; the presentations will start at 5:15pm. All are welcome!

- Tuesday Week 1, 15 October 2024
OMS Welcome event (Harris Manchester College, 17:00)
- Tuesday Week 3, 29 October 2024
Researchers at Work: *Collaboration and Encounter*
(Prof. Helen Swift and Prof. Sophie Marnette, University of Oxford, *La Chastelaine de Vergi* project)
- Tuesday Week 5, 12 November 2024
Researchers at Work: *Serendipity and Surprise* (PGR students)
- Tuesday Week 7, 26 November 2024
'Otherworld Objects between [REF] and [FIC]'
Dr Matt Lampitt, University of Bristol

Convenors:

Prof. Daron Burrows (St Peter's), Prof. Sophie Marnette (Balliol), and Prof. Helen Swift (St Hilda's).

The seminars will take place in person at the *Maison française d'Oxford* (www.mfo.ac.uk), except on week 1. 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

Image: Ivory Casket, British Museum, *La Chastelaine de Vergi*

GREEK AND LATIN READING GROUP



Image: *The Story of Alexander*, Robert Steele and Fred Mason (1894), British Library

Greek and Latin Reading Group

All are warmly welcome to a Greek and Latin Reading Group. In Michaelmas Term we will meet on Thursdays at 3pm, at Exeter College, Stapeldon Room (enter through Exeter Lodge). The theme this term is 'Greek and Roman Lives'.

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.

Texts:

Week 1: Augustus (Suetonius, *Lives of the Caesars* 2.78-80)

Week 2: [No meeting]

Week 3: Nero (Suetonius, *Lives of the Caesars* 6.5)

Week 4: Caesar (Plutarch, *Life of Caesar* 63-66)

Week 5: Claudius (Tacitus, *Annals* 13.3)

Week 6: Theseus and Romulus (Plutarch, *Lives*)

Week 7: on writing Lives (Tacitus, *Annals* 4.34)

Week 8: Alexander (Plutarch, *Life of Alexander* 7-8, 62-65)

All texts are available online via Loeb.

Latin Palaeography Manuscript Reading Group

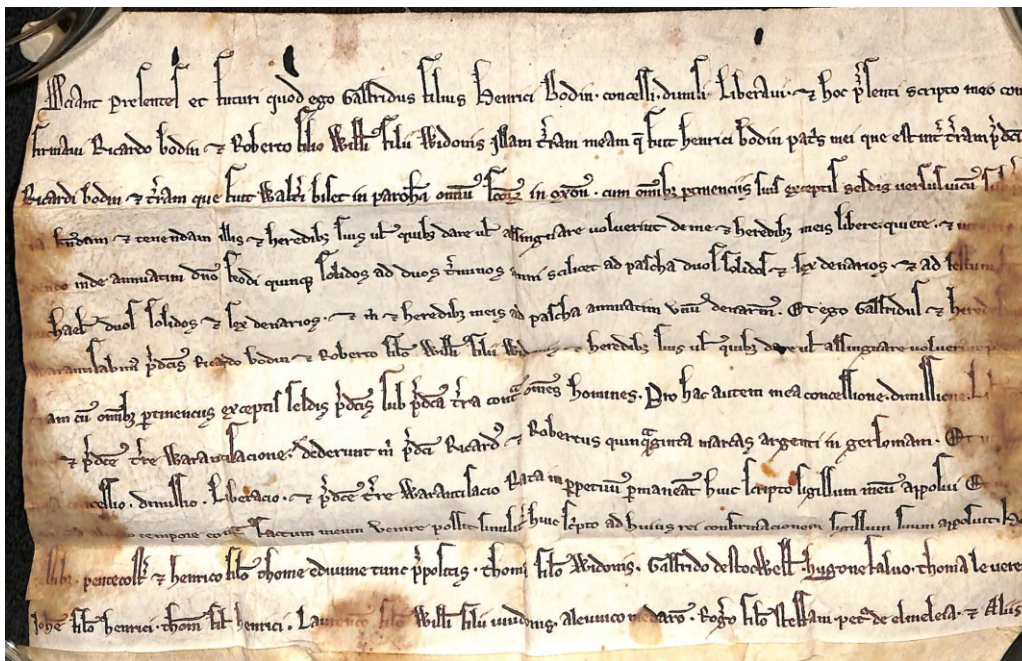
(advanced beginner, intermediate and advanced levels)

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](mailto:Laure.Miolo)

Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Laud Misc. 562, fol. 1r





Lincoln College/EL/OAS/D1

Every Friday 2-3pm from week 2, 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 Saints, 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](#)

Medieval Latin Document Reading Group

This 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. To join and/or to find out more, please contact michael.stansfield@new.ox.ac.uk.

Michael Stansfield, FSA, Archivist and Records Manager, Hon. Fellow Durham University, New College, Oxford, OX1 3BN, +44 (0)1865 279581, www.new.ox.ac.uk



NEW COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



French Palaeography Manuscript Reading Group

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](#), Lyell Career Development Fellow in Latin Palaeography and Dilts Fellow at Lincoln College, historian of late medieval Europe, specialising in manuscript studies and history of early libraries with a special focus on scientific books and practices.

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

Anglo-Norman Reading Group

The Anglo-Norman Reading Group will meet on alternate Fridays, in odd weeks of this Michaelmas term: 1st week October 18th, 3rd week 1st November, 5th week 15th November, 7th week 29th November.

Thanks to Professor Lesley Smith, this hybrid

meeting has been invited to gather at the Farmington Institute in Harris Manchester College; 5.00 to 6.30 pm.

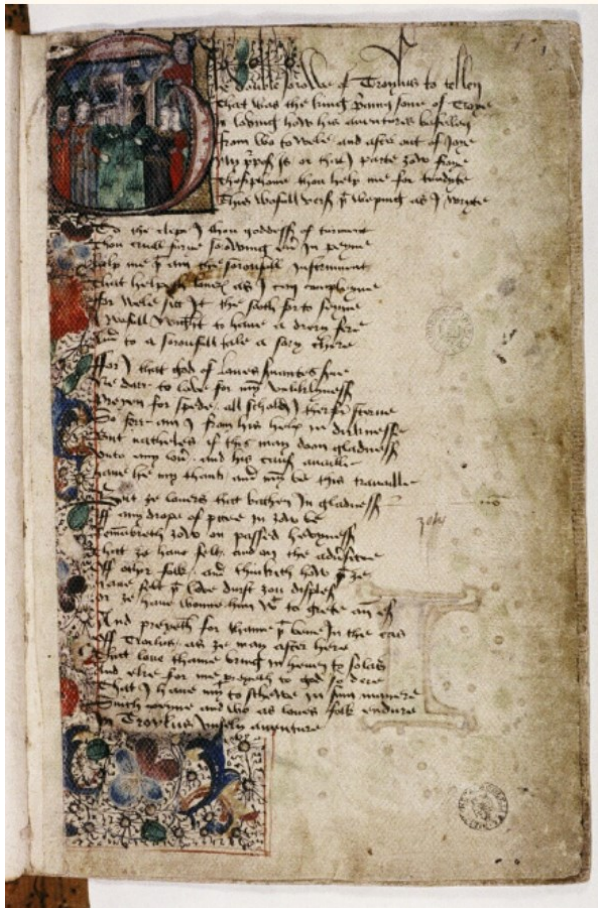
If signs are not in evidence, the porters will direct those who arrive in person to the building, where we meet in the top floor 'boardroom'. Please let us know if you are interested, directly or remotely; we will give you further directions and a zoom (or other) link in advance.

This helpful and collaborative workshop group studies Anglo-Norman texts, which are selected each term according to popular demand. All are welcome, whatever your level (or none) of any French whatsoever; each of us helps others to read, discuss, and translate the chosen text.

Next term we plan to study extracts from the Life of Saint Audrey; we will send the texts, in advance, on demand. Please print them, or have them with you on your device, as we cannot provide paper copies.

Wine and soft drinks will be available, thanks to Oxford Medieval Studies (TORCH), to oil the wheels of our brain!

Further excitement will be provided in the form of a surprise task; Jane has been challenged to do something amazing, with your help. Please contact me Jane Bliss <jane.bliss@lmh.oxon.org> or <j.bliss@gmx.co.uk> or, failing that, lesley.smith@history.ox.ac.uk if you are interested in joining the group. Further details will arrive in or around 0th week.



Middle English Reading Group (MERG)

Fridays / 3-4pm / Weeks 1-8

Lincoln College, Beckington Room.

Join us to read the 'double sorwe' of *Troilus and Criseyde* in a weekly reading group. We will be starting from Book I and reading from the Riverside Chaucer - please bring a copy if you are able.

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

Image: Bodleian, MS. Arch. Seld. B. 24, fol. 1r: the opening of Chaucer's *Troilus & Criseyde*.

Germanic Reading Group

We'll be holding four online meetings of the Germanic Reading Group, day and time tbc. Please contact Howard Jones Howard.Jones@sbs.ox.ac.uk to request the handouts and to be added to the list.

Old Norse Reading Group

The Old Norse Reading Group takes place every even week (2nd, 4th, 6th, and 8th Week) from 5.30-7pm in the English Faculty Graduate Common Room. If you are

interested in attending and would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact Mary Catherine O'Connor (mary.oconnor@balliol.ox.ac.uk).

Medieval Manuscript Support Group

We are pleased to trial a new 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!

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?

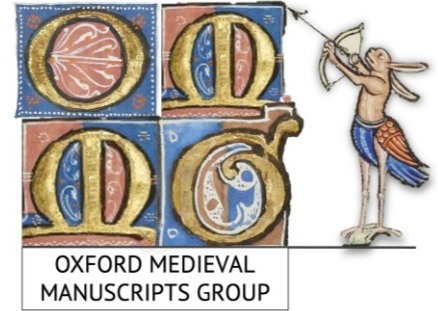
Meetings will typically be held in the Horton Room (just across the corridor from the manuscripts reading room on the 1st floor). If you wish to pose a question, please order the relevant manuscript to the issue desk, and email the details to [Matthew Holford](mailto:Matthew.Holford@bodley.ox.ac.uk), 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:

- Friday, 11 October (Horton Room) 11.30-12.30
- Friday, 6 December (Horton Room) 11.30-12.30

Fridays 5 pm, Merton College and Weston Library

Week 1 Andrew Honey | Bodleian Library
18 October *Cataloguing Medieval Bookbindings at the Bodleian: Manuscripts from Reading Abbey as a case study*
15:00
Weston Library *Limited places, write to the email below by 16/10/2024*



Week 3 **Work in Progress Meeting**
1 November *We are still accepting applications.*
Hawkins Room *If you would like to present your work in progress and receive our feedback, write to the email below by 28/10/2024*

Week 4 **Reading Group: Audience and the Senses**
8 November K. Rudy, 'Introduction', *Touching Parchment: How Medieval Users Rubbed, Handled, and Kissed Their Manuscripts* (vol. 2, 2024)
ONLINE E. Duffy, 'Ch. 1. A Book for Lay People', *Marking the Hours: English People and Their Prayers, 1240-1570* (2008)
Write to the email below to join

Week 5 **The New College Library Visit**
15 November *Introduction to the collection with Michael Stansfield*
Limited places, write to the email below by 8/11/2024

Week 7 Eleanor Jackson | British Library
29 November *Medieval Women in Their Own Words: Curating the British Library Exhibition*
Mure Room

Week 9 **Bonus: Casual trip to see the 'Medieval Women in Their Own Words' exhibition at the British Library together**
14 December
Saturday noon *Write to the email below to join*

Organisers: Irina Boeru, Fergus Bovill, Ana Dias, Charly Driscoll, Antonia Delle Fratte, Elena Lichmanova, Mathilde Mioche, Celeste Pan, Klara Zhao To subscribe to our mailing list, participate in library and museum visits, propose a presentation of your research for work in progress meetings, or submit any queries, please write to: elena.lichmanova@merton.ox.ac.uk





Image credit: Sergei Parajanov, *Sayat-Nova/Nřan guyne (The Color of Pomegranates)*, 1969

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.

26 November 2024

Bernhard Hollick (University of Oslo), *Poetic Frames in Early Medieval Manuscripts: Forms and Functions*
Location: Colin Matthew Room, Radcliffe Humanities Building, Woodstock Rd, OX2 6GG

4 December 2024, 5 pm

Zrinka Stahuljak (UCLA), *Methodologies of Commensuration: Poetry, History, and Knowledge*
Location: Lecture Theatre, Ioannou Centre, 66 St Giles, OX1 3LU

This event is in collaboration with the Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research, part of the LABS Seminars

12 December 2024

Earnestine Qiu (Princeton University), *Magic and Language in Images from the Alexander Romance*
Location: online

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.

In Michaelmas Term 2024, we will focus on poetry from India.

The Reading Group is on Tuesdays, even Weeks, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. The schedule is the following:

- Week 4, Tuesday 5th November: *Light without Sun or Moon*. The poetry of Kabīr. **Colin Matthew Room, Radcliffe Humanities Building, Woodstock Rd, OX2 6GG**
- Week 6, Tuesday 19th November: *One's Own Eye Cannot Be Seen*. The Poetry of Bihari. **Meeting Room 4, Radcliffe Humanities Building, Woodstock Rd, OX2 6GG**
- Week 8, Tuesday 3rd December: TBA. **Colin Matthew Room, Radcliffe Humanities Building, Woodstock Rd, OX2 6GG**

Venue: Radcliffe Humanities Building, ground floor

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)

Opportunities

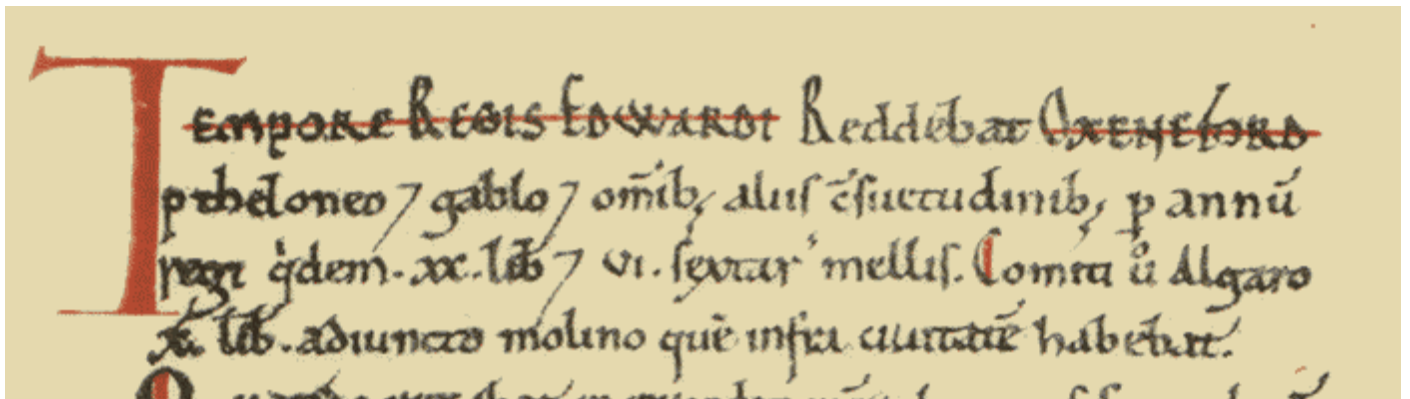
Call for Committee Members – Oxford Medieval Graduate Conference



Magic circle from the De secretis spirituum planetis in which the practitioner stands to summon planetary angels. Collection of alchemical, technical, medical, magic, and divinatory tracts (Miscellanae Alchemica XII), late 15th century. Wellcome Collection, MS 517, f. 234v, from Prof. Sophie Page's keynote talk and a link to next year's theme

The Oxford Medieval Graduate Conference (OMGC) is one of the highlights of the graduate academic calendar every year. Over two days, this interdisciplinary conference brings together graduate students from the UK and around the world to present their research on a wide variety of topics from across the Middle Ages. Read a [review of the 2024 conference](#). If you think you might be interested in becoming a committee member and gaining experience organising conferences, please send an expression of interest to oxgradconf@gmail.com and to the 2025 OMGC president Ryan Mealiffe (ryan.mealiffe@wolfson.ox.ac.uk). The committee is also excited to announce that the theme for the 2025 Oxford Medieval Graduate Conference will be *Magic, Rituals, and Ceremonies!* Until then, keep an eye on the [OMGC blog](#) for posts by this year's presenters.

Introduction to Archival Research



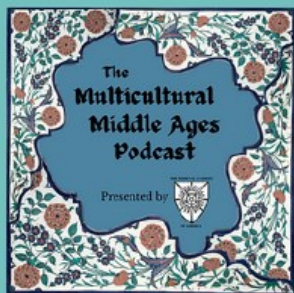
A page of Domesday Book for [Oxford](#), cf. the [National Archives guide to the Domesday Book](#)

From Domesday Book to the Leveson Enquiry, our historical records offer students a myriad of untapped research opportunities across a wide range of time periods and disciplines. With so many options, however, getting started in the archives can be a daunting prospect. Many students have questions which they are too afraid to ask. How will I know where to go? What do I need to bring with me? How do I find records for my research? How do I order documents? Do I need to use gloves? How can I be sure I'm not wasting my time?

To demystify the research process The National Archives has developed a programme of Archival Skills Training, providing students with the key skills and knowledge needed to undertake academic research using the archives.

This introduction day will explain how to get started with archival research, the importance of knowing the history and structure of a collection to navigate the records, and how to make the most of your time on site.

We will be running this one-day on-site training session on October 1 ([BOOK HERE](#)) and December 3 ([BOOK HERE](#)), with more sessions in the new year. For further sessions, check out this [blog post](#).



THE MULTICULTURAL MIDDLE AGES PODCAST

The Medieval Academy of America's podcast series *The Multicultural Middle Ages* ([see the website here](#) // Twitter: [@Podcast_MMA_MAA](#)) is now accepting proposals for our fourth season.

The Multicultural Middle Ages Podcast Series welcomes proposals for single episodes to be featured in its fourth season. After three successful seasons, The Multicultural Middle Ages (MMA) will return for its fourth in 2025. Sponsored by the Medieval Academy of America, MMA is an anthology-style podcast that welcomes the global turn in Medieval Studies. This podcast series is a platform from which to continue ongoing conversations and generate new and exciting avenues of inquiry related to the Middle Ages that emphasize its diversity. We seek to highlight thoughtful reflections on culturally responsible approaches to the study of the Middle Ages. This is a space from which to speak to fellow medievalists and, more importantly, the wider public to inform our audience about the multicultural reality of the medieval period and the plurality of voices that comprise the fields of medieval studies. We invite proposals from individuals and collaborators of all ranks and disciplines, including graduate students, for single podcast episodes aimed at fellow medievalists and the wider public.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Innovative methodological and disciplinary approaches to the Middle Ages
- The future of Medieval Studies
- Research on the multicultural, multiracial, and multiethnic Middle Ages
- Discussions of recent scholarship
- Archival discoveries
- Academic activism and responses to misappropriations of the Middle Ages
- Pedagogical approaches
- Medievalisms
- Medieval culture in contemporary political discourse

Cultural heritage and approaches to curating exhibitions of the Middle Ages

Possible formats may include narrative expositions, interviews, textual analysis, visual analysis, oral performances, and panel discussions. No previous experience with podcasting is required. The Graduate Student Committee of the MAA has hosted several podcasting workshops, which are now available on the MAA YouTube channel. If accepted, an MMA team member will support you through the episode development process and post-production. If you would like our technical assistance to realize your episode, such as facilitating an interview, helping record the episode, or taking care of the audio editing, please make a note of it in your proposal. Your application should include **a brief description (500 words)** of your proposed episode, noting the following: the chosen topic and its relevance; the plan for adapting the topic to a podcast medium (we encourage 40-50 min. episodes, but also welcome proposals for shorter or longer episodes); and the episode format (interview, narrative, etc.) with an overview of its structure a description of the support you'll need (if any) from the MMA production team. This information is not binding but will help the committee assess the potential of the project. **Please include the name and CV of each author.** Submit your proposals and any questions to mmapodcast1@gmail.com and to Loren Lee (lel7qsf@virginia.edu) by **October 11, 2024**.

The Multicultural Middle Ages Podcast Series Production Team, Will Beattie | wbeattie@nd.edu, **Jonathan Correa Reyes** | jonatcr@clemsun.edu, **Loren Lee** | lel7qsf@virginia.edu, **Reed O'Mara** | rao44@case.edu, **Logan Quigley** | quigleylogan@gmail.com, **Website:** <https://multiculturalmiddleages.com/>, **X:** [@Podcast_MMA_MAA](#), **Instagram:** [@MulticulturalMiddleAgesPod](#)

[New Journal: Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Sources](#)

A message from Prof. Julia Smith: I am pleased to announce an open and ongoing call for contributions to a new journal, *Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Sources*, coordinated by the Medieval Studies [Research Group based at the University of Lincoln](#) and published by the redoubtable [ARC Humanities Press](#).

This journal is dedicated to 'nuts and bolts' scholarship: to the analysis and interpretation of the sources - written (in any language), visual, or material - for the period from 400 to 1600. We welcome all such submissions in whatever format, from editions, translations, and commentaries to reports, notes, and reflections. Please see [this flyer](#) for further details and guidance on making contributions.

The first issue of *Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Sources*, is going to be published in open access,; its coverage ranges from the Council of Valencia in the mid-sixth century to the voyage of the Mayflower in the early seventeenth via the origins of the Greek alphabet.

If you have any questions about submitting your source study to a future issue of the journal, please get in touch with the editors Graham Barrett and Louise Wilkinson!

[Doctoral studentship on Chaucer's Thameside Life and Poetry](#)

Applications are invited for an Open-Oxford-Cambridge AHRC DTP-funded Collaborative Doctoral Award at the University of Oxford, in partnership with The National Archives from October 2025. Further details about the value of an Open-Oxford-Cambridge AHRC DTP award are available on the DTP's [studentships page](#). The studentship can be studied either full or part-time. [Full information](#). Closing date: **7th January 2025 (midday, UK time)**

This project sets out to answer some or all of these questions: 1) How does Chaucer's own understanding of landscape, both rural / semi-rural, and urban, relate to his poetry? 2) How did Chaucer and his contemporaries think about human impact on the environment? 3) How does the material landscape of Chaucer's world relate to the imagined worlds of his fictions?

This project would be supervised by [Professor Marion Turner](#) at the University of Oxford and [Dr Euan Roger](#) at The National Archives. The student will be expected to spend time at both the University of Oxford and The National Archives. Applicants should meet the [eligibility criteria for Open-Oxford-Cambridge AHRC studentships](#). For an informal discussion about the opportunity and how you might frame your approach to the CDA project, please contact Marion Turner marion.turner@ell.ox.ac.uk in the first instance.

[Call for Papers: Graduate and Early Career Workshop](#)

'Armenia & Byzantium without Borders V: Disruption and Resilience', University of Oxford, 7-8 February 2025

'Armenia & Byzantium without Borders' is a two-day workshop aiming to bring together advanced PhD students and early career scholars working in the fields of Armeno-Byzantine studies. This event continues the successful collaboration between the University of Oxford and the University of Vienna that began in Vienna in 2018, with the first workshop convened by Dr Emilio Bonfiglio and Prof. Claudia Rapp within the framework of the 'Moving Byzantium: Mobility, Microstructure and Personal Agency' project, and subsequent workshops held in Oxford (II: 2019 & IV: 2023) and Vienna (III: 2021).

For this event, we invite **advanced PhD candidates and early career researchers** working in the fields of Late Antique, Armenian, Byzantine, and Middle Eastern Studies to submit proposals for **20-minute papers** on any aspect of Armeno-Byzantine relations, with a focus on the special (but not exclusive) theme for the 2025 run, which is 'Disruption and Resilience'.

To give participants the opportunity to discuss their ongoing research in conversation with senior specialists in their field, each paper will be accompanied by a **senior scholar's 10-minute response**, followed by a general discussion. The workshop will be inaugurated with the lecture of our **keynote**

speaker, Dr Johannes Preiser-Kapeller (Austrian Academy of Science, Vienna). The working language of the workshop will be English.

Following the publication of Bonfiglio, Emilio and Claudia Rapp (eds), *Armenia and Byzantium without Borders: Mobility, Interactions, Responses*, ARTS 7 (Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2023), which contained select papers from previous workshops, and pending peer-review process, the Scientific Committee aims to publish select papers in a self-contained volume.

Paper proposals including (i) university affiliation, (ii) graduate level, (iii) title of the paper, (iv) abstract (300 words max.), and (v) CV shall be sent by **Sunday 13th October 2024** to Prof. Theo M. van Lint (theo.vanlint@ames.ox.ac.uk). Applicants will be notified about their acceptance by **November 1st, 2024**. **Limited travel grants** will be available to assist those who would otherwise be unable to attend.

Conveners: Dr Emilio Bonfiglio, Prof. Theo Maarten van Lint, Prof. David Zakarian

Scientific Committee: Dr Emilio Bonfiglio (Hamburg), Prof. Claudia Rapp (Vienna), Prof. Theo M. van Lint (Oxford), Prof. David Zakarian (Fresno)

Call For Social Media Contributions and Blog Posts

Are you passionate about medieval studies and public engagement? Would you like to share your research with a wider audience? Oxford Medieval Studies is looking for volunteers at any and all career stages to share fun medieval facts and stories or the most interesting parts of their research in one-minute video clips that will be posted across all our social media channels <https://beacons.ai/oxfordmedievalstudies>. Get in touch with [Ashley Castelino](#) for more details. For news of publications, longer reads, announcements etc. please contact Dr [Miles Pattenden](#), commissioning editor for the blog.

Accessibility and Updates

Inside is the full programme of medieval events taking place in Oxford in Michaelmas Term 2024. 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 Alpey at medieval@torch.ox.ac.uk. Any further suggestions: get in contact with Henrike Lähnemann, Lesley Smith or Tristan Alpey, 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.



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OxMedievalStudies is the interdisciplinary platform for medieval studies across Oxford supported by @TORCHOxford Follow us for events & knowledge exchange across disciplines

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**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!**