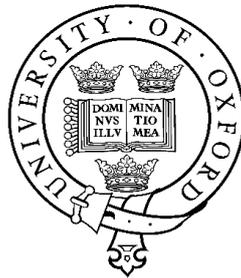


THE OXFORD RESEARCH CENTRE IN THE HUMANITIES



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 2022



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

Follow us on twitter [@OxMedStud](https://twitter.com/OxMedStud)

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





Ashmole Bestiary, Bodleian Library MS. Ashmole 1511, f. 8 v.
[Viewable in full at Digital Bodleian](#)

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Welcome to the Oxford Medieval Studies Programme for Michaelmas Term 2022!

It gives me great pleasure to once again welcome you to the Medieval Booklet! To those of you new to Oxford, I would like to extend a warm welcome on behalf of all of us at OMS; to those returning, it is lovely to see you back. We are extremely fortunate here at Oxford to enjoy a rich and diverse community of medieval research — in fact, it often feels that there are too many seminars to keep track of! The booklet and weekly Medieval Matters emails are a way to keep Oxford’s medieval community together, and to share our various research interests across disciplinary lines.

Alcuin of York, writing to Count Widon, says “haec tibi [...] dictavi; ut habeas cotidie quasi manulem in conspectu tuo libellum” [I have dictated this for you... so that you might have a booklet you could look at every day]. I hope that this booklet is of similar use to you all in guiding you through the term’s events! Please do peruse it at your leisure to discover everything that’s going on. We have a really exciting programme ranging from the Shansabanis of Afghanistan to the *Roman de la Rose*, and from Late Antique Clerical career paths in the Medieval History Seminar to the present day use of the medieval in the Medieval Misuse Reading Group. Make sure to check out our blog (medieval.ox.ac.uk) for all of the latest news, updates, and a handy calendar so that you can see which events are coming up, and add them to your electronic calendar of choice!

I look forward to seeing many of you at OMS events, and wish you all joy, success, and exciting research discoveries in the year ahead!

Luisa Ostacchini (English), Oxford Medieval Studies Communications Officer

We would very much like to thank everybody who made last year’s plethora of online and in-person medieval events such a success, first of all Luisa Ostacchini but also Tom Revell and Llewelyn Hopwood who spearheaded the Events and Social Media side! A key part in the calendar was the Medieval Mystery Cycle. They say that everything that has happened twice in Oxford is a tradition and we very much hope that you will contribute to making this indeed an Oxford tradition and that many of you will rush forward to volunteer to take part in the medieval drama experiment that is the Oxford Medieval Mystery Cycle 2023, taking place on the Saturday before Trinity Term (23 April 2023) – full details on the poster or under <https://www.seh.ox.ac.uk/mystery-cycle>.

Henrike Lähnemann (German) and *Lesley Smith* (History), Co-Directors of the Programme for 2022/23

The Oxford Medieval Mystery Plays 2023

Would you like to take part in a
medieval drama experiment?

Directors, actors, costume makers and musicians wanted!

More information and apply at
<https://www.seh.ox.ac.uk/mystery-cycle>



22 April 2023
St Edmund Hall
Oxford



Call for Papers: Memorial Symposium for Nigel F. Palmer

Literary, religious and manuscript cultures of the German-speaking lands: a symposium in memory of Nigel F. Palmer (1946-2022)



*Nigel F. Palmer studying the facsimile of the Osterspiel von Muri on the gallery of the Taylor Institution Library.
Photograph Henrike Lähnemann*

When: 19/20 May 2023

Where: Oxford, Bodleian Library, Taylor Institution Library, St Edmund Hall

To celebrate the life and scholarship of [Nigel F. Palmer](#), Professor of German Medieval Literary and Linguistic Studies at the University of Oxford from 1992 to 2012, we invite expressions of interest from those who wish to honour his memory with an academic contribution to speak at a symposium in Oxford that is to take place 19-20 May 2023. Exact details are yet to be confirmed but the plan is to have presentations of twenty minutes' length speaking to an aspect of the wide spectrum of Nigel's intellectual interests, which ranged extensively within the broad scope of the literary and religious history of the German- and Dutch-speaking lands, treating Latin alongside the vernaculars, the early printed book alongside the manuscript, and the court and the city alongside the monastery and the convent.

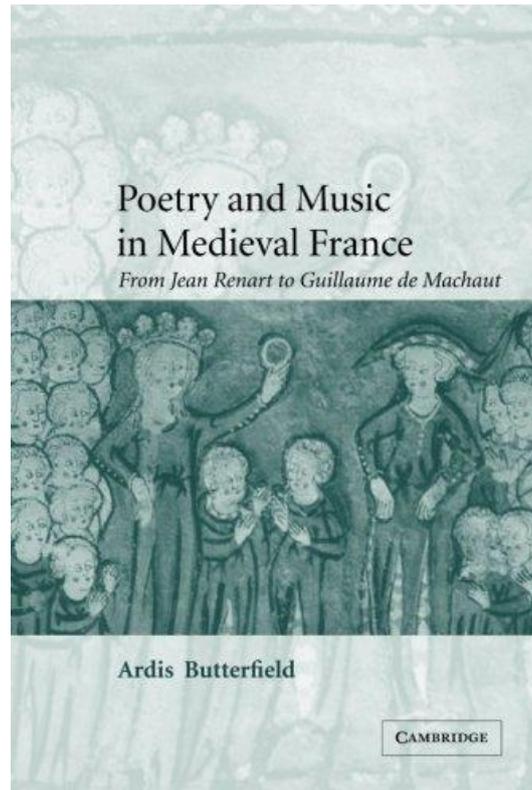
More information on the [OMS blog](#). We would request expressions of interest, of not more than one full page, to be received by 28 October 2022, to be sent to [Stephen Mossman](#). On the afternoon of the Saturday, there will be a reception at St Edmund Hall, to which everybody is invited, followed by a dinner in College. Registration for this will be possible via the [Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages web-site](#) in early 2023.

For the organising committee
Racha Kirakosian, Henrike Lähnemann, Stephen Mossman, Almut Suerbaum

Ardis Butterfield (Yale)
'Do we mean lyric or song?'

When: Monday 31 October, 5.15pm, followed by drinks

Where: English Faculty Lecture Theatre 2



We are very pleased that Prof. Ardis Butterfield (Yale) is giving the **Medieval Studies and Astor Visiting Lecture** in Michaelmas Term, as part of her stay in Oxford as an Astor Visiting Lecturer. The Astor visiting scheme enables Oxford to host leading academics who are based in North America, and Prof. Butterfield has been based at Yale University since 2012. Her work spans linguistic, geographical and disciplinary boundaries. Her books include *Poetry and Music in Medieval France* (2002) and *The Familiar Enemy: Chaucer, Language and Nation in the Hundred Years War* (2012), and she has written many important articles on medieval manuscripts, music, linguistic relationships, translation, and theories of language, form and genre. She is the Marie Borroff Professor of English at Yale, and by courtesy is also Professor of French and Music there. Prof. Butterfield is currently completing a major multilingual edition of medieval lyrics, and writing a book about medieval song.

In addition to the Astor lecture, Prof. Butterfield will give a manuscripts masterclass on Tuesday 1 November, 2pm, in the Weston Library (Sir Victor Blank Lecture Theatre). She will also be involved in teaching sessions for undergraduate and masters students, and will take part in a workshop in the Music Faculty on Thursday 3 November.

Quarterly Meeting of the Slavonic and Eastern European Medieval Studies Group

**Saturday 19th November 2022, 11am-4pm
Wolfson College, Seminar room 2**

All four talks are free and open to the public



Programme:

11:00 - 12:00 Elena Draghici-Vasilescu (Oxford) "Byzantine objects in mediaeval Rus': a case study"

12:00 - 13:00 Lilian Ann-Charlotte Gutsjö (Gothenburg) "Змнн and лвъ with the -ov- suffix in the Codex Suprasliensis"

13:00 - 13:45 Lunch

13:45 - 14:45 Angus Russell (Cambridge) "Taxation or bribery? The semantics of bureaucracy in fifteenth-century Moscow"

14:45 - 15:45 Ralph Cleminson (Oxford) "Pilgrimage literature in mediaeval Rus': fact or fiction?"

15:45 - 16:00 AGM

DR NIKOLAUS RUGE (TRIER)
MICHAELMAS TERM 2022



LINGUISTIC INTRODUCTION TO MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN

During Michaelmas 2022, [Dr Nikolaus Ruge](#) (Universität Trier) will be in Oxford as Visiting Lecturer in German Historical Linguistics at the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages and will deliver a lecture series on Middle High German. This is mainly designed as an introductory course for students of the German Paper IV ‘Historical Linguistics’ but will be open to a general audience interested in medieval languages. The first two lectures will take place on **Friday 4-5pm in the Taylor Institution Library, Room 2**, the following lectures will be online.

Friday 14 Oct., 4pm I. **Middle High German: time, space, language**

Friday 21 Oct., 4pm II. **Early Middle High German (1050-1170)**

- III. ‘Classical’ Middle High German (1170-1250)
- IV. Late Middle High German (1250-1350)
- V. Developments in the Language System 1: Graphemics and Phonology
- VI. Developments in the Language System 2: Morphology
- VII. Developments in the language system 3: Word formation
- VIII. Developments in the Language System 4: Morphosyntax and Syntax

Lectures will be recorded and added to the playlist “German Historical Linguistics”
<https://tinyurl.com/PaperIVHistoricalLinguistics>

The textbook for this lecture course is [The Oxford Guide to Middle High German](#). The set text for Middle High German is Helmbrecht in the edition by Karl-Heinz Göttert (2015). Oxford students can access further resources such as reading lists and essay topics via the [Canvas page](#).

Launch of the Sendbrief vom Dolmetschen



When: Friday 28 October, 5-6:30pm

Where: [Taylor Institution Library](#), Room 2, St Giles, OX1 3NA, Oxford

What: Launch of the updated and expanded edition of the Taylorian copy of Martin Luther's seminal 'Sendbrief vom Dolmetschen und Fürbitte der Heiligen' (Open Letter on Translating and the Intercession of Saints) with a presentation on Luther's translation principles and a full reading of the Letter in German with the new English translation as subtitles.

Everybody welcome! Anybody interested in taking part in the Relay Reading of the full Sendbrief should contact [Henrike Lähnemann](#)

Digital Editions Community of Practice

A series for anyone interested in learning about Digital Editions or in sharing their expertise on Digital Editions. Thursdays of even weeks in Room 2 of the Taylorian, 1pm – 2pm. Each session will start with a short talk followed by an opportunity to share knowledge and ask questions. Snacks and drinks are provided, but please bring your own mug! Contact emma.huber@bodleian.ox.ac.uk for more information.

WOOPIE (Oxford Old English Work-in-Progress):



**Prof. José Luis Martínez-Dueñas
(Universidad de Granada):
'Jorge Luis Borges's Old English Poetics'**

**10th November 2022, 5.15pm,
New College, Room LR4**

Followed by drinks reception.
All welcome.

For further details, contact:
rafael.pascual@ell.ox.ac.uk

Early Medieval Britain and Ireland Network Lecture

Discovering the Northern Picts

Gordon Noble, Professor of Archaeology, University of Aberdeen

Date: 29 November 2022

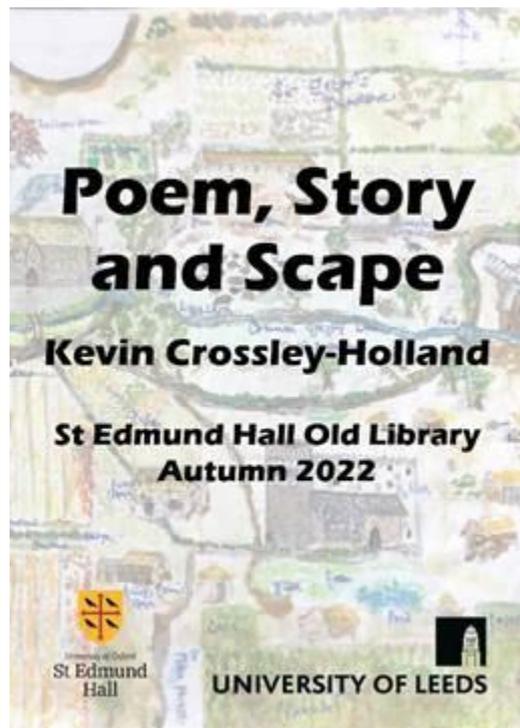
Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Worcester College in Staircase 5 Lecture Room

All are very welcome to attend!

The Northern Picts project at Aberdeen is an award-winning project run by the University of Aberdeen uncovering the archaeology of Pictish society in Scotland. Winners of the 2021 Current Archaeology Research Project of the Year, the project has uncovered major new central places of the Picts including an early royal centre at Rhynie and a 16-hectare settlement at Tap o' Noth with over 800 house platforms. This talk will outline some of the major discoveries of the project and outline what the new findings mean for Pictish society in the period c.300-900 AD.

For questions, please contact: meredith.cutrer@worc.ox.ac.uk.



Poem, Story, and Scape in the work of Kevin Crossley Holland': An exhibition in the Old Library of St Edmund Hall

- The exhibition will run from Friday 8 September – Monday 31 October
- Visit by arrangement with the Librarian: library@seh.ox.ac.uk or 01865279062
- Public opening on Monday 24 and Friday 28 October 10am-4pm

This exhibition explores the work of [Kevin Crossley-Holland](#) (Honorary Fellow and 1959, English), prize-winning children's author, translator, poet, librettist, editor and professor. Kevin engages creatively with language and poetry, place, history and legend. He captivates us by telling stories deeply rooted in past cultures, which he remakes to be compellingly contemporary and relevant. For this exhibition, Kevin has generously loaned items from his private collection to add to material from St Edmund Hall's Archives and Special Collections; we gratefully acknowledge his help.

Early in his career, Kevin established himself as a poet and as a translator and re-teller of Old and Middle English poetry, romance, and folklore for all ages, and as an enthusiastic collaborator with composers and visual artists. His Arthur trilogy has sold over one million copies worldwide and is available in twenty-six languages; it has inspired young readers to become medievalists and writers themselves. Recent works, such as *Norse Tales: Stories from Across the Rainbow Bridge* (2020) demonstrate how Northern European myth and legend continue to beguile him.

Kevin is passionate about how history, landscape and poetic language shape and inform one another. This exhibition explores continuities from Kevin's childhood in how he sees, interprets, and responds to these creative stimuli. It also reveals how meticulously he researches the past to create his imaginary yet historically accurate worlds, and how carefully he crafts his poetry.

The exhibition is based on and inspired by 'Poem, Story & Scape in the Work of Kevin Crossley-Holland' which ran at the Stanley and Audrey Burton Gallery at the University of Leeds from 29 March–20 August 2022, curated by Dr Catherine Batt, Senior Lecturer in Medieval Literature at the University of Leeds. Many thanks to Sarah Prescott and the University of Leeds for their generous help and support in staging this version.



Seminars

Celtic Seminars

The Celtic Seminar will be held jointly this term 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. Where held in person, Oxford seminars are in the History of the Book Room, English Faculty, Manor Road. Please contact david.willis@jesus.ox.ac.uk if you need a link. All CAWCS seminars will be held online at 5.00 pm on Thursdays via Zoom. Please contact a.elias@wales.ac.uk for the link.

13 October CAWCS (via Zoom and at the Council Chamber, National Library of Wales)
Imanol Larrea Mendizabal (Soziolinguistika Klusterra), The Etxepare Basque Institute Alan R. King Professor in Residence

Basque language seminar with translation into Welsh

“Hizkuntza ohiturak aldatzeko ikerketa soziolinguistikoa Euskal Herrian: hainbat esperientzia”

Ymchwil Sosioieithyddol a newid arferion iaith: profiad Gwlad y Basg

20 October CAWCS (via Zoom)

Elena Parina (Bonn)

Dysgeidiaeth Cristnoges o ferch in Aberystwyth, NLW, Peniarth 403 and its sources

27 October at Oxford (hybrid)

Jon Morris (Caerdydd)

The interplay between social structures and language variation in Welsh-speaking communities

3 November CAWCS (format to be confirmed)

Llewelyn Hopwood (Oxford)

Beth oedd ‘Cymraeg da’ (1300–1600)?

10 November at Oxford (hybrid)

Charlene Eska (Virginia Tech)

Let’s do it in the garden: A tale of temptation and redemption in NLS MS 72.1.26

17 November at Oxford (hybrid)

Sarah Hill (Oxford)

Legacies and failures: Rethinking Welsh pop history

24 November at Oxford (hybrid)

Myriah Williams (Berkeley)

Beginnings and endings: *Moli Duw yn Nechrau a Diwedd* and *Cyntefin Ceinaf Amser*

1 December - seminar to be confirmed

Medieval Archaeology Seminar

Mondays 3.00, Institute of Archaeology, Lecture Room



Wk 2 (17 Oct.) – Claus Kropp

Of droughts, 'internal climates' and the mouldboard plough. Experimental Archaeology and the Study of the Early Middle Ages

Wk 4 (31 Oct). Gabor Thomas

Not so much a backwater: New archaeological research on the early medieval Middle Thames

Wk 6 (14 Nov). Helena Hamerow

'Women of the Conversion Period'. A biomolecular investigation of mobility

Wk 8 (28 Nov). Jane Kershaw

A Viking winter camp in Northumberland? Ongoing work in the Coquet valley

Convenors: J. Kershaw/ H Hamerow

Medieval English Research Seminar

**Tuesdays at 12.15pm in Lecture Theatre 2, followed by lunch with the speaker.
All welcome!**

Week 1 (11th October)

Nicola McDonald (York), 'Doing Justice: Who Read Middle English Romance and Why Does it Matter?'

Week 2 (18th October)

Harriet Soper (Oxford), 'Twists, Turns, and Jumping the Riverbed: The Life Course in Old English Poetry'

Week 3 (25th October)

John Colley (Oxford), 'Skelton and the Commonweal: Greek History in Quattrocento England' and
Lucy Fleming (Oxford), '“A Racket at the Mill”: *The Reeve's Tale* for a Century of Young Readers'

Week 4 no Tuesday seminar, but instead:

MONDAY 31 October: Astor Visiting Lectureship / Medieval Studies Lecture

Ardis Butterfield (Yale), 'Do we mean lyric or song?'

[Ardis will also be giving a manuscripts masterclass/seminar in the Weston Library on Tuesday 1 Nov, c.2pm, and sessions for undergraduate and masters students that week.]

Week 5 (8th November)

Brittany Schorn (Oxford), 'Reading the Codex Regius of the Poetic Edda'

Week 6 (15 November)

Megan Cavell (Birmingham), 'Before Attenborough: Early Medieval Natural History, Animal Diversity and "Edutainment"'

Week 7 (22nd November)

Eleanor Myerson (Cambridge), 'Syrian Silks: The Fabrics of English Identity'

Week 8 (29 November)

Rhiannon Purdie (St Andrews), 'Synchronic histories of Older Scots Literature: the rewards and challenges of reconstruction'

Byzantine Graduate Seminar

Mondays, 12:30 – 14:00 (UK), via Zoom.

Monday 24th October

Joaquin Serrano (University of Edinburgh)

The reliquary-cross of Saint Constantine and the military use of holy relics

Monday 31st October

Nuna Terri (Université libre de Bruxelles)

Saint Thekla's popularity in Rough Cilicia

Monday 7th November

Niels De Ridder (KU Leuven / Universität zu Köln)

Representations of Jews in Middle-Byzantine hagiographical apocalypses

Monday 14th November

Elvira Miceli (University of Oxford)

The Byzantine Heritage of the Liber ad honorem Augusti

Monday 21st November

Bahattin Bayram (İstanbul Medeniyet University)

Barbarians of Eusebius

Monday 28th November

İrem Kısacık (İstanbul Medeniyet University)

Emotions in Late Antiquity

Monday 5th December

Carlo Berardi (University of Michigan)

Translating Chivalry: The Aesthetics of Warfare in the Age of the Komnenoi

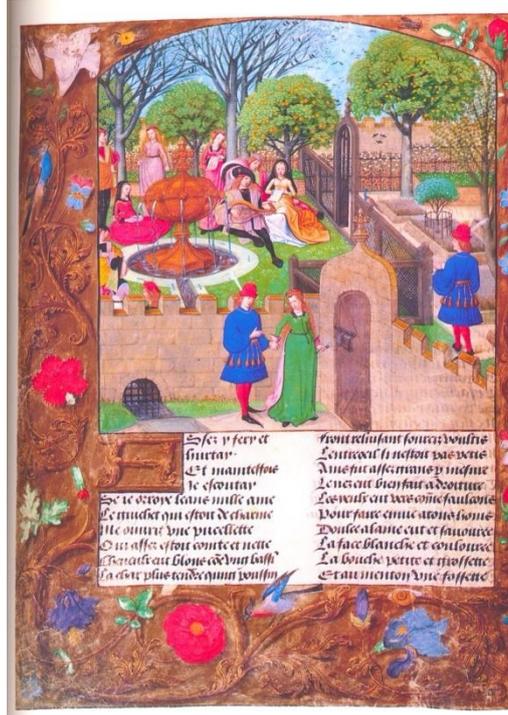
Monday 12th December

Nila Namsechi (University of Birmingham)

The Duchy of Naples under Byzantine rule

Medieval French Research Seminar

With the exception of the OMS lecture, the seminars will take place in person at the *Maison française d'Oxford* (www.mfo.ac.uk). Drinks will be served from 5pm; the presentations will start at 5:15pm.



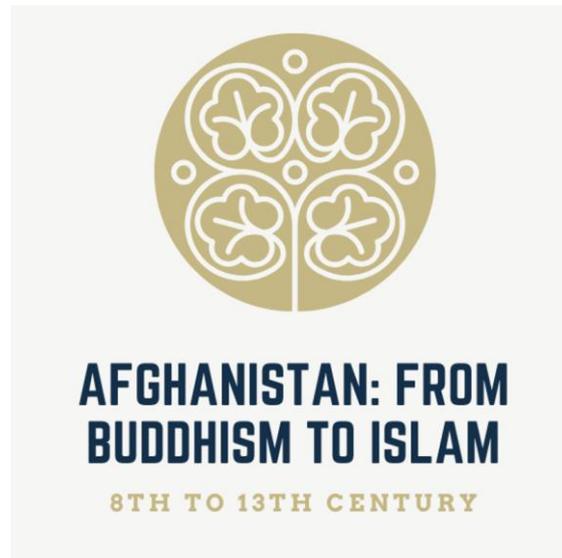
- **Tuesday Week 1, Tuesday 11 October 2022**
Doctoral student research showcase
- **Monday Week 4, 31 October 2022**
Professor Ardis Butterfield (Yale University) Oxford Medieval Studies Lecture (see start of the booklet)
- **Tuesday Week 5, Tuesday 8 November 2022**
Dr David Murray (Universiteit Utrecht): 'The Crusades and Flemish Literary History: Home and Away?'
- **Tuesday Week 7, Tuesday 22 November 2022**
Dr Melek Karatas (John Rylands Library, Manchester): 'Makers of Manuscripts as Readers of Manuscripts: The Montbaston Illuminators and the *Roman de la Rose*'

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

For more information and to be added on the seminar's mailing list, contact sophie.marnette@balliol.ox.ac.uk

Invisible East Seminar

The [Invisible East](#) team is delighted to invite you to its [next events](#):



- Thursday 29th September, 5PM: **Connecting Worlds: The Shansabanis of Afghanistan** with Alka Patel. Register for the webinar [here](#).
- Monday 3rd October, 4PM: **The History of the Armenian Community of Afghanistan** with Jonathan L. Lee. Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Lecture 1. More information [here](#).
- Thursday, 6th October, 5PM: **Islamisation, a closer look** with Majid M. Mahdi. Register for the webinar [here](#).
- Thursday, 13th October, 5PM: **A Day in Late Antique Bactria** with Reza Huseini. Register for the webinar [here](#); the lecture is **in Persian**.

To stay updated on the activities and events of the Invisible East team, [visit our website or follow us on social media](#).

Medieval German Seminar: Dietrichs Flucht



Wednesday 11:15-12:45pm, week 1–8:

In Michaelmas Term, we are going to discuss 'Dietrichs Flucht', part of the 'Historische Dietrichsepik', an incredibly popular genre in late medieval Germany. The edition by Elisabeth Lienert is available via solo. During the term, we will also have the opportunity to hear Ruth von Bernuth, Visiting Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, talk about another text from the 'Dietrichsepik' complex, the Yiddish edition of 'Sigenot', printed in Krakow in 1597 (in week 7).

We will meet in person in Somerville College at Almut Suerbaum's office, ask at the Lodge for directions. The first week will be a coordination session; further information and reading recommendations via the teams channel; if you want to be added to that: please email [Henrike Lähnemann](mailto:Henrike.Laehnemann).

Image: Hildebrant rescues Dietrich from a snake-pit (Sigenot edition from 1606, Berlin Yf 7808). For more on the history of illustrating the Sigenot story cf. Henrike Lähnemann's website to the [wall paintings on the Burg Wildenstein](#)



Medieval Church and Culture

Tuesdays, **Charles Wellbeloved Room**, Harris Manchester College

Refreshments from 5pm; papers begin at **5.15pm**
Everyone is welcome at this informal and friendly graduate seminar

The Theme for the Term is **Women**

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Week 1
11 October | Luisa Ostacchini (Exeter)
<i>The World of the Old English Martyrology: Carthage and the case of St Perpetua's sword</i> |
| Week 2
18 October | Emily Winkler (SEH)
<i>The Many Grievs of Merlin</i> |
| Week 3
25 October | Philippa Byrne (Somerville)
<i>Making Germans Sicilian in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries</i> |
| Week 4
1 November | Chimene Bateman (LMH)
<i>Christine de Pizan and Saint Christine: the power of women's speech</i> |
| Week 5
8 November | Alice Spiers (St Anne's)
<i>Situating the Visionary: the politics of Mechthild of Magdeburg and Henry Suso</i> |
| Week 6
15 November | Hannah Skoda (St John's)
<i>'Eius filia incepit sugere mammillam dicte eius matris' (Life of St Nicholas of Tolentino): breast-feeding mothers in the later Middle Ages</i> |
| Week 7
22 November | Elena Rossi (Magdalen)
<i>Our Mother the University: maternal roles and the medieval university</i> |
| Week 8
29 November | Delfi Nieto-Isabel (Queen Mary University of London)
<i>Connecting the Dots: heresy, inquisitors and invisible women</i> |

Convenors: Lucia Akard (Linacre), Sumner Braund (St John's), Bee Jones (Jesus), Lesley Smith (HMC)

Medieval History Seminar

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

This term the seminar will continue in a hybrid format, with a physical meeting in the Wharton Room together with simultaneous interactive access via Microsoft 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 rmpuccs). If you have any difficulties please email: medhistsem@history.ox.ac.uk

The Teams link for the MT22 meetings is:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZTQyOTMxNTktYmUzMi00Y2MyLTg2MmEtMWI5ZjcyYzNkMjI4%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%226a0afebc-f177-4bac-878a-cd04e2bd0ac2%22%7d

Week 1 10 October	John Watts (Corpus) 'Political Economy and the Wars of the Roses'.
Week 2 17 October	Christian Liddy (Durham) 'The city and the household: Towards a social history of politics in the late medieval town'.
Week 3 24 October	Ildar Garipzanov (Oslo) 'Early Medieval Minuscule Texts: What, where, and why?'.
Week 4 31 October	Julia Crick (KCL) 'Staffing the Conquest: Mobility, Stasis, and Scribal Work in England, 1066-1100'.
Week 5 7 November	Lucia Akard (Oxford SU) 'Rape and Survival in Late Medieval France and Burgundy'.
Week 6 14 November	Jane Kershaw (Institute of Archaeology) 'A new look at silver in the Golden Age of Islam'.
Week 7 21 November	Barbara Bombi (Kent) 'Lost in translation: diplomacy and the use of languages at the papal curia in Avignon'.
Week 8 28 November	Robert Wiśniewski (Warsaw) 'Avoid undue leaps. Clerical career paths in Late Antiquity'.

Conveners: Ian Forrest, Julia Smith, Benjamin Thompson

Student assistants: Antonia Anstatt, Annabel Hancock

Seminars in Medieval and Renaissance Music

Seminars in Medieval and Renaissance Music All Souls College, Oxford Michaelmas Term, 2022

The seminars in 2022–23 will continue on Zoom. The seminars are all on Thursdays at 5 p.m. UK time (BST for the first seminar, GMT for the others). This mailing comes to you from our colleague Dr Matthew Thomson, who expertly hosts the Zoom meetings, as set out below. We hope you will join us.
Margaret Bent, All Souls College (Convenor)

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 questions, please just send me an email (matthew.thomson@ucd.ie).
Matthew P. Thomson, University College Dublin

Seminar programme

Thursday 27 October, 5pm BST

Laurie Stras (University of Southampton)

Music, musicians, and community at the Florentine convent of San Matteo in Arcetri (1540-1630)

Discussants: Bonnie Blackburn and Marica Tacconi

The Clarissan convent of San Matteo in Arcetri is well known in both scholarly and non-specialist histories as the home of Suor Maria Celeste Galilei, daughter of Galileo Galilei and granddaughter of the musician Vincenzo Galilei. Brought to modern imagination by the 1999 non-fiction work *Galileo's Daughter* by Dava Sobel, the convent has been portrayed as a rather dour, unsophisticated, and impoverished house. And yet, evidence of San Matteo's rich musical life in the mid-sixteenth century has recently emerged, in one of the most complete music manuscripts that can securely be associated with an Italian convent of the Renaissance.

Copied in 1560, Brussels MS 27766, the Biffoli-Sostegni manuscript - so called because of the names of the nuns embossed on its binding - preserves polyphony for the entire year, and reveals intriguing local detail regarding liturgical practice and chant in its destination community. Its most impressive contribution is a set of twelve polyphonic Vespers antiphons for the Feast of St Clare, unique form and function in the sixteenth-century repertoire. Its provenance is confirmed by the only surviving ledger from the sixteenth century in the Florentine Archivio di Stato pertaining to San Matteo. Names, faces, and traces of relationships are found entwined in the music's elaborate cadellae, and the feasts to which the polyphony pertains are given depth and context in the ledger, which records the convent's expenses.

Triangulating information from the manuscript, the ledger, and from Suor Maria Celeste's letters - and experiencing chant and polyphony performed by *Musica Secreta* - we can start to piece together a better picture of why this convent might have felt an appropriate choice for the Galilei family. We may also understand better how family connections that weave in and out of the convent space are used to forge relationships over generations.

Thursday 17 November, 5pm GMT

Konstantin Voigt (University of Freiburg)

From Lyre to Staff – Relating Diagrams, Neumes and Diastematic Notation

Discussants: Charles Atkinson and Susan Rankin

Guidonian diastematic notation derived ultimately from a fusion of neumes, stemming from grammatical accents, with the line-diagram of the tone-system found in Boethius. This paper limns the history of neumatic notation as reception of grammar and the history of the line diagram as reception of *ars musica*, examining the "operative potential" (Sybille Krämer) of both types of visualization. The study shows that the operativity of both diagrams and neumes changed drastically between the ninth and the eleventh centuries. Whereas the Boethian diagram lacked any reference to melodic motion, ninth-century adaptations of it relate it to the melodies of Roman chant,

temporalizing it and changing its orientation - a process resulting from the spatial orientation of neumes. Neither medium was intended primarily for "storing" melodic material. Instead, both relied heavily on the melodic knowledge of their users. This recall-based operativity of both ninth-century diagrams and neumes is substantially different from the operativity of Guidonian notation, devised as a means of storage to enable musical practice from the book and resting firmly on the mathematic/aural foundation of the monochord. Indeed, the monochord as the basis for this new operativity meant less a development of notational means than a conceptual restart in the history of notation.

Thursday 1 December, 5pm GMT

David Burn (University of Leuven)

Sixteenth-Century Symbola

Discussants: Inga Mai Groote and Christian Leitmeir

When the Passau school-master and composer Leonhard Paminger died in 1567, his sons announced a plan to publish a multi-volume edition of their father's music. The plan included descriptions of the contents of each of the projected volumes. While most of the types of piece mentioned are self-explanatory, one category, "symbola", was unfamiliar to me. What was intended? The projected Paminger volume was never produced, but one piece among his surviving music was identified as a "symbolum", which was sufficient to show that they are settings of emblems or mottoes. Yet, beyond this, the type remains obscure in existing literature: only one collection, Caspar Othmayr's *Symbola* of 1547, has received (limited) discussion, and this turns out to raise more questions than it answers. In an attempt to deal with the type more broadly, the present paper thus not only defines what symbola are but also addresses three further basic questions: How many are there? What are their features? And what functions did they fulfil?

Advance notice for HT 22

26 January, Julia Craig-McFeely (DIAMM, University of Oxford), 'The Sadler partbooks and the Merchant of Norwich: A Tudor whodunnit and its wider implications'.

16 February, Martin Kirnbauer and the project team Vicentino21 (Schola Cantorum Basiliensis / FHNW), 'Soav' e dolce – Nicola Vicentino's intervallic vision'.

9 March, Emily Zazulia (University of California at Berkeley), 'The Fifteenth-Century Song Mass: Some Challenges'.

Codicology and the material book seminars

All events are open to current Oxford students, and take place in the Weston Library.

To attend, email bookcentre@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

Wednesday 26 October, 2-3:30pm
Paper & Parchment/Inks & Pigment

Wednesday 2 November, 2-3:30pm
Structures of the manuscript book

Tuesday 29 November 6-8pm
Welcome evening for Oxford DPhil students



BodleianConservation @BodCons · 20. Feb. 2018

No, this isn't a medieval torture device. This is **parchment** prep for Friday's Library Lates @bodleianlibs and we have much more to show visitors!
bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whatson/whats-...



Time: Wednesdays, 5pm

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

- (W1) 12 October Claudia Rapp (Vienna), *The Oxford conundrum: Cyril Mango and Byzantine elitism, or: what about popular culture?*
- (W2) 19 October Alberto Ravani (Oxford), *"Manuscripts don't burn": Composition and story of the text of John Tzetzes' Homeric Allegories*
- (W3) 26 October Ine Jacobs (Oxford), *The Byzantine Dark Ages at Stauropolis/Karia (FKA Aphrodisias)*
- (W4) 2 November Georgi Parpulov (Lincoln College), *Middle-Byzantine Evangelist Portraits*
- (W5) 9 November Federica Scognamiglio (Scuola Normale Superiore), *Before isometry: metrics and style of Ignatios the Deacon (and Pseudo-Ignatios)*
- (W6) 16 November Marie-Hélène Blanchet (CNRS) & Raúl Estangüi Gómez (Sorbonne), *The Byzantine World in the Palaeologan Era: Empire(s) and Emerging Nation-States*
- (W7) 23 November Liz James (Univ. of Sussex), *Connecting Mosaics*
- (W8) 30 November Michael Jeffreys (Oxford), *Imperial ceremonies away from the Great Palace, 1148-1159: the evidence of Manganeios Prodromos*

Convenors: Ine Jacobs, Marc Lauxtermann and Ida Toth, in collaboration with Olivier Delouis (Maison Française d'Oxford)



St Catherine's College, Arumugam Building
Thursdays 5 p.m.



Week 2 20 October

Sandy Heslop University of East Anglia

Reconfiguring the Cloisters Cross: art and crusading in Cnut VI's Denmark

Week 4 3 November

Laura Cleaver and **Danielle Magnusson** University of London

The market for medieval illuminated manuscripts and the making of a canon, c. 1900-1925

Week 6 17 November

Spike Bucklow Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

The Seven Ages; a medieval theory of growing up and aging, as illustrated by artists' lives

Week 8 1 December

Julian Luxford University of St Andrews

The iconography of the Mass of St Gregory in England

Convenors: Elena Lichmanova (elena.lichmanova@merton.ox.ac.uk) and Gervase Rosser

Reading Groups and Societies

Old Norse Reading Group



Michaelmas 2022

Monday 5.30–7pm } Odd weeks starting Week 1 } Location to be announced

Join our Old Norse reading group! This Michaelmas we will be making our way through some Old Norse texts together (in a very informal setting!) If you want to gain or improve your language skills, or simply find some fellow Old Norse enthusiasts, you've come to the right place. No matter what your level of Old Norse, you'd be very welcome to join us as we explore some lesser read *sögur* and *þættir* together!

Please email Ashley Castelino (ashley.castelino@lincoln.ox.ac.uk) to be added to the mailing list.



Yggdrasil ©2019 Roger Creus Dorico



OLD
ENGLISH
READING
GROUP

MICHAELMAS 2022

Monday 5.30–7pm † Even weeks starting Week 2 † Location to be announced

Hwæt! The apocalypse is here! This Michaelmas, the Old English Reading Group will be tackling some end-of-times poetry. Whether you're an Old English newcomer or an expert, we'd love to have you as we face chaotic kennings and hellish half-lines while the stars fall and the sun bleeds! Don't feel daunted, the setting will be very casual and informal. If this sounds like your kind of thing, come along!

Please email Grace O'Duffy (grace.oduffy@sjc.ox.ac.uk) to be added to the mailing list.

Anglo-Norman Reading Group

The Anglo-Norman Reading Group continues this term at St Hilda's College, in the Julia Mann Room; initially we meet at the lodge and arrange swipe-card access.

The Anglo-Norman Reading Group meets online on Zoom Fridays of ODD WEEKS from 5 to 6.30 pm. Dates: 14th and 28th October, 11th and 25th November.

The text will be extracts from the Chronicle of Langtoft; pdf will be provided.

We hope to continue as a hybrid session, so people can join us from outside Oxford. But for those who come in person there will be drinks available!

For texts, joining instructions, and further information, please email: stephanie.hathaway@gmail.com or jane.bliss@lmh.oxon.org

Germanic Reading Group

We'll be holding four meetings of the Germanic Reading Group this term. The first two will be online only. The third and fourth will be hybrid (online and in person), with the in-person venue to be notified in due course.

Friday, 21 October, 4:00–5:00 (2nd Week). Old Dutch/Old Low Franconian (Johanneke Sytsema leading) - online

Friday, 4 November, 4:00–5:00 (4th Week). Old Saxon (Will Thurlwell leading) - online

Thursday, 17 November, 4:00–5:00 (6th Week). Gothic (relationship between the Gothic Bible and its possible Greek Vorlagen) (Carla Falluomini leading) - hybrid

Friday, 2 December, 4:00–5:00 (8th Week). Modern Bernese German (Bärndütsch). (Philomen Probert leading) - hybrid

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

Queer and Trans Medievalisms: A Reading Group

Mondays at 3pm, weeks 2, 4, 6 and 8, Univ College 12 Merton St Room 2

This informal reading group will explore queer and trans themes in medieval texts. In Michaelmas, we'll be thinking about queer/trans sanctity across medieval Christian, Jewish and Sufi traditions.

Week 2: Queer longings for God

Week 4: Transfemme prayer: Kalonymus ben Kalonymus

Week 6: Transmasc sainthood: Euphrosyne/Smaragdus

Week 8: The trial of Joan of Arc

All extremely welcome! To join the mailing list and get texts in advance, or if you have any questions, email rowan.wilson@univ.ox.ac.uk



Booking is now open for **Oxford Latinitas 2022/23 online classes in both Latin and Ancient Greek.**

Ope retis scholas audimus: Online Group Learning

Twice-weekly classes of no more than 8 students. In these classes we teach the foundations of Latin and Ancient Greek, strengthen students' active linguistic abilities, and improve their reading and writing fluency. Classes are usually available at all levels.

Autumn Term 2022: 10th October to 2nd December

Spring Term 2023: 16th January to 10th March

Summer Term 2023: 24th April to 16th June.

The Autumn Term runs from 10th October to 2nd December, and classes are available at all levels in both languages; bookings may also now be made for two terms or for the whole year. Students new to Oxford Latinitas (or new to our courses in either language) will have a short diagnostic call with one of our teachers in order to make sure they are placed in the right group.

Oxford Latinitas classes teach the foundations of the classical languages, strengthen students' active linguistic abilities, and improve their reading and writing fluency, all through a sound grasp of grammar and an extended vocabulary. The classes are conducted fully in the target language (Latin or Ancient Greek), and involve reading, speaking, and various interactive exercises. Beginner, pre-intermediate, and intermediate classes use *Lingua Latina Per Se Illustrata* (Hans Ørberg), *Athenaze* (Italian version), *Assimil Ancient Greek*, and *Ancient Greek Alive* (Paula Saffire and Catherine Freis); advanced classes use classical Greek and Latin texts. Each class will have a maximum of 8 students.

Full details and link to application sign-up can be found [here](#).



GLARE

(GREEK AND LATIN READING GROUP)

MICHAELMAS 2022

HAROLD WILSON ROOM, JESUS COLLEGE

(MEET AT JESUS LODGE)

TUESDAYS, 4-5

Week 1: Aristotle - Poetics

Week 2: Seneca - Thyestes

Week 3: Sophocles - Antigone

Week 4: Seneca - Thyestes

Week 5: Sophocles - Antigone

Week 6: Seneca - Thyestes

Week 7: Sophocles - Iphigenia at Taurus

Week 8: Pseudo-Seneca - Octavia

All welcome to attend any or all sessions! For more details and for specific readings for each week, or to be added to the mailing list, please contact Jack (john.colley@jesus.ox.ac.uk) or Jenyth (jenyth.evans@seh.ox.ac.uk)

Medieval Latin Document Reading Group

This reading group for largely Latin palaeography practice meets **every Wednesday 16.00 - 17.00 on Teams**.

We are currently focusing on medieval documents from New College's archive as part of the cataloguing work being carried out there, so there will be a variety of hands, dates and types. Other material such as medieval documents from Durham Cathedral's archive have featured as well. We read a line at a time in the original and then translate it, with occasionally other exercises thrown in as well. A document is sent out in advance but homework is not expected.

Contact Michael Stansfield (michael.stansfield@new.ox.ac.uk) for further details and the Teams link.

Discussion Group: Governability across the medieval globe



We are a new discussion group which meets twice a term to discuss governance and the experience of being governed - and how these interacted with different kinds of spaces, different sorts of scales and with specific communities and localities. In particular, we are interested in interrogating such questions as:

- What was the experience of being governed?
- Why were some areas more intensely governed than others?
- How did different actors interact with governance and governments?
- Who governed, how and why?
- How did identity, community, religion and gender affect interactions/relationships with governing/those governing?

This term we will meet at 12:30 on Tuesday in the History Faculty. Everyone welcome, staff, students and researchers, of all historical periods. We encourage you to bring lunch along.

- Session 1, week 3, Tuesday 25th October - What is governability and how can we study it?
- Session 2, week 6, Tuesday 15th November - Mountains & uplands

The governability team:

Annabel Hancock, Bee Jones, James Cogbill & Susannah Bain



Medieval history and its imagery is consistently misused and warped by political parties, extremist online groups and domestic terrorist movements. This fortnightly reading and discussion group aims to explore the misuse of medieval history (defined in the broadest chronological and geographical terms) and culture (including art, literature, architecture etc) within a modern world, along with how academia can hope to challenge this issue in the future.

Please email tristan.alphey@stx.ox.ac.uk to be added to the email list.

Time and Place: TBA

All welcome, hybrid available

Opportunities

CFP: German Historical Institute Medieval History Seminar



German Historical Institute London &
German Historical Institute Washington, D.C.



Medieval History Seminar

5–7 October 2023

The German Historical Institutes in London and Washington, D.C., are excited to announce the thirteenth Medieval History Seminar, to be held in London from 5 to 7 October 2023. The seminar will bring together **Ph.D. candidates and recent Ph.D. recipients** (2022/2023) in medieval history from American, Canadian, British, Irish, and German universities for three days of scholarly discussion and collaboration. Participants will have the opportunity to present their work to their peers and **distinguished scholars from both sides of the Atlantic**. Conveners for the 2023 seminar will be Fiona Griffiths (Stanford University), Michael Grünbart (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster), Jamie Kreiner (University of Georgia), Simon MacLean (University of St Andrews), Len Scales (Durham University), and Dorothea Weltecke (Humboldt-Universität Berlin).

The Medieval History Seminar invites proposals from **all areas and periods of medieval history** and is not limited to historians working on German history or German-speaking regions of Europe. All methodological approaches are welcome. Applications from neighbouring disciplines are welcome if the projects have a distinct historical focus.

The **seminar is bi-lingual** and papers and discussions will be conducted both in German and English. Participants must have a good **reading and listening** comprehension of both languages. Successful applicants must be prepared to submit a paper of approximately 5,000 words by August 15, 2023. They are also expected to prepare and present a commentary on the papers of another session.

Travel and accommodation **expenses of the participants will be covered**.

Applications may be submitted in German or English and should include:

- a CV (including institutional affiliation, postal address, and e-mail)
- a description of the proposed paper (4–5 pages, double-spaced)
- one letter of recommendation

Please e-mail a single PDF-file with all application documents to: events@ghil.ac.uk

The deadline for submissions is 31 January 2023.

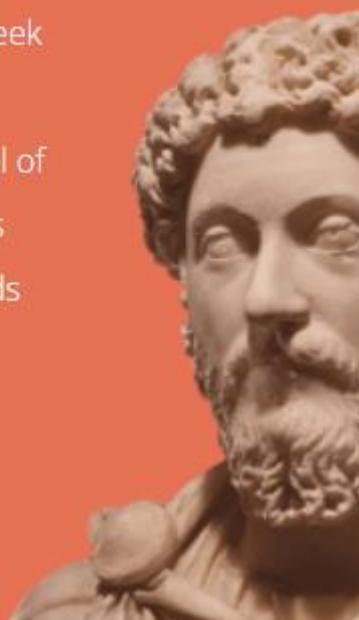
For further information, please contact Stephan Bruhn: s.bruhn@ghil.ac.uk

German Historical Institute 17 Bloomsbury Square
Tel. +44-(0)20-7309 2050 London WC1A 2NJ (UK)

Booking is now open for the Oxford Latinitas Septimana Latina Hiemalis, to be held at Palazzola, Rome, from 3rd-9th December 2022.

Septimana Latina Hiemalis, Rome, 3rd-9th December 2022

Forget about the pre-holiday rush and spend a week improving your Latin with like-minded people in historic surroundings. Whatever your current level of Latin, from beginner to advanced, this week offers you the opportunity to make real progress towards fluency.



Dates: 3rd-9th December 2022.

Location: the historic Palazzola estate, in the Alban Hills, Rome.

Accommodation: individual ensuite rooms.

Daily schedule includes morning and afternoon classes, evening activities such as music, poetry and drama, and one archaeological field trip.

Classes available at all levels.

Pre-course diagnostic to ensure each student is placed in the right class for their needs.

Academic excellence under the guidance of highly experienced teachers.

Fully inclusive price covers accommodation, full board, field trip, use of all Palazzola's facilities, and transfer from airport in Rome. The only other cost students will have is their travel to and from Rome.

Full details and application sign-up can be found at <https://www.oxfordlatinitas.org/>.

Teaching the Codex: Call for Contributors

teachingthecodex.com

Teaching the Codex publishes two series on our website, and we are looking for more contributors for both items.

Our **blog** contains posts from the manuscript studies community on any aspect of teaching or learning with manuscripts. Past topics include teaching yourself the codex, making your own parchment, personal teaching reflections, applying palaeographical techniques to modern research, and teaching palaeography during the pandemic.

Teachable Features is an online pedagogical resource offering images and descriptions of palaeographical and codicological features. It is a digital learning facility which can be accessed without geographical restrictions. If any manuscript features catch your eye, think about contributing! Previous contributions include a binding error, pricking and ruling, digitization, and we have an entry on errors and corrections which is regularly updated. An image (with permission to share) and a caption are all we need, but we also post fuller descriptions.

We welcome posts from contributors at all stages, and guidelines are available at <http://bit.ly/TtCGuidelines>. If you are interested in participating, please email a brief outline of your post to teachingthecodex@gmail.com

OXFORD MEDIEVAL GRADUATE COMMITTEE



OXFORD MEDIEVAL GRADUATE CONFERENCE 2023

The Oxford Medieval Graduate Conference will be returning bigger and better in 2023, and we are looking for *new committee members!* If interested, contact Ashley Castelino at oxgradconf@gmail.com.

Do also follow us on Twitter [@OxMedGradConf](https://twitter.com/OxMedGradConf) and check out our website, blog, and manuscript collection at oxgradconf.wixsite.com/omgc!

(image © Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford, MS. Rawlinson C. 28 f. 3r)

Accessibility and Updates

Inside is the full programme of medieval events taking place in Oxford in Michaelmas Term 2022. 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 Luisa Ostacchini at luisa.ostacchini@ell.ox.ac.uk.

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!



**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!

OxMedievalStudies
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OMS is the interdisciplinary platform for medieval studies across Oxford supported by @TORCHOxford Follow us for events & knowledge exchange across disciplines
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torch.ox.ac.uk/medievalstudies

Any suggestions: get in contact with Henrike Lähnemann, Lesley Smith or Luisa Ostacchini, either via email or via twitter [@OxMedStud](https://twitter.com/OxMedStud). Blog entries to go up on the website are also welcome - email medieval@torch.ox.ac.uk