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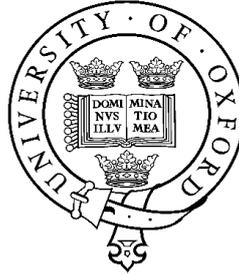
FACULTY OF  
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LITERATURE



THE OXFORD RESEARCH CENTRE IN THE HUMANITIES



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## 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

Trinity Term 2024

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Up-to-date calendar of all events on [torch.ox.ac.uk/medievalstudies](https://torch.ox.ac.uk/medievalstudies)

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St John's College Oxford, MS. 61, fol. 50 r.  
 By permission of the President and Fellows of St John's College,  
 Oxford. [Viewable in full at Digital Bodleian](#)

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## Welcome to the Oxford Medieval Studies Programme for Trinity Term 2024!

The days are getting longer, the gardens are in full bloom, and Oxford’s streets are filling with exam sub fusc... it must be Trinity Term! Welcome back to another wonderful term of medievalist joys. The eighth-century Abbess Eangyth (from the *Epistolae* project) writes that:

*ut dicitur, Sextilis aut Quintilis tempora protelent aestatis*  
[as the saying goes, July and August should lengthen out the hours of summer]

Eangyth clearly wasn’t working to Oxford term time, where the months of May and June are those most lengthened out, with good weather for evening events, the OMS Trinity Term Lecture, and an exciting chainmail workshop courtesy of Oxford Medieval Society! You will find so many fantastic things in store in this booklet that you’ll only wish the days were longer to fit more events in. Please do peruse this at your leisure. I will, of course, be in your inboxes weekly with all of the latest news, events, and opportunities. I look forward to being your herald and guide for the term ahead!

*Luisa Ostacchini* (English), Oxford Medieval Studies Communications Officer

Welcome to the term! 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 in Trinity Term showcase our current cohort of wonderful MSt. Medieval Studies students, working on a wide range of topics. The series will conclude with a end-of-term celebratory book launch on Medievalism in the chapel of Harris Manchester. Finally: we are in the early stages of planning the Fourth Medieval Mystery Cycle, probably for 26 April 2025 - watch this space and start looking out for suitable plays!

*Henrike Lähnemann* (German) and *Lesley Smith* (History), Co-Directors of the Programme for 2023/24

## Welcome to Dr Peter Tóth, Cornelia Starks Curator of Greek Collections

April marks my third month at the Bodleian Library as Cornelia Starks Curator of Greek collections. My post is named after a generous benefactor of the Library and a committed admirer and teacher of Classical Culture and collections in Oxford, the late Cornelia Starks.

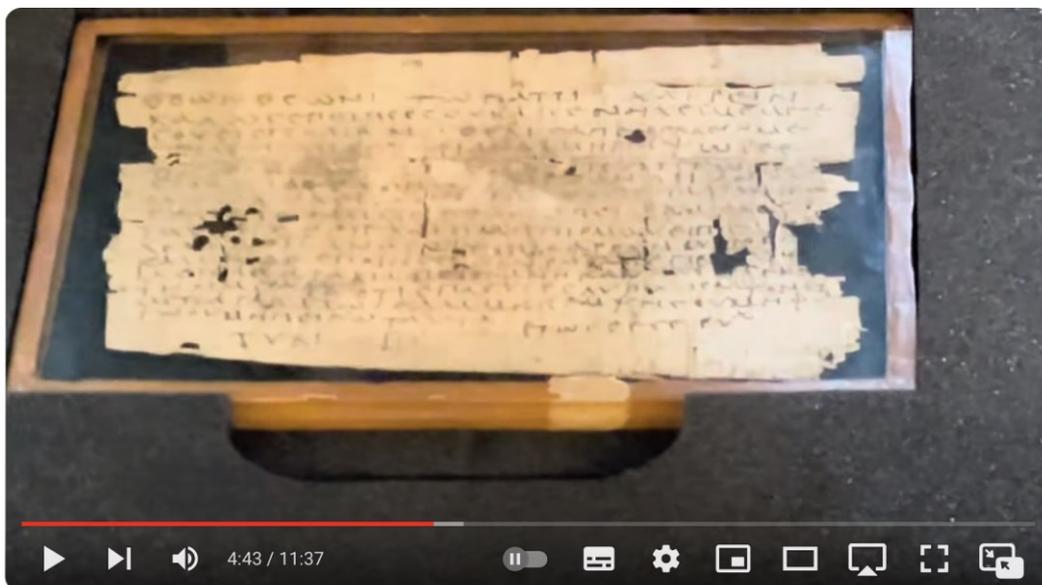
It is a great honour for me to join Martin Kauffmann's (Head of Early and Rare Collections) team of curators, Matthew Holford (Tolkien Curator of Medieval Manuscripts) and Andrew Dunning (R. W. Hunt Curator of Medieval Manuscripts), to support and contribute to their work at the Library.

The time span of my current curatorial area is astonishingly wide and exciting: it comprises some of the Library's oldest items, papyri from the 3rd century BC to manuscripts and prints from the early 20th century - all connected by the Greek language and Hellenic culture. It is not only a distinguished task to look after one of the world's finest and most important collections of Greek manuscripts but also an inspiring challenge to be successor of eminent cataloguers and students of the Bodleian's Greek holdings.

After a PhD in Classics and an MA in Egyptology, studying transfers of ideas between Latin, Greek, Syriac and Coptic languages and cultures, I held research positions at the Warburg Institute and King's College London and was curator of Ancient and Medieval Manuscripts at the British Library for 8 years.

The main scope of my job at the Bodleian is to open up this amazing collection and make it accessible in the most varied ways to the widest and most diverse audiences. Digitisation, cataloguing, interpretation, promotion of ancient, medieval and early modern manuscripts in writing, online or in-person presentations is what I love and would like to do here.

The riches of the Bodleian's collections are genuinely amazing and multifaceted. The papyri, manuscripts, codices or printed books housed here preserve constantly sounding voices from the past - we just need to let them speak and their message will reach and enrich us in the most surprising ways. This is what I am here to facilitate.



**From Birth to Mummy: Papyri in the Bodleian Library (Peter Tóth)**

I am always open for collaboration and co-operation to find new ways of interpreting the collections such as this [presentation of everyday life in the light of ancient papyri](#) or the [upcoming comparative presentation of manuscripts of Homer and the German Nibelungslied](#). If you have ideas how we could work together to do more achieve this and inform each other's work - please do reach out and contact me at [peter.toth@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:peter.toth@bodleian.ox.ac.uk).



Welcome to Prof. Rosa Vidal Doval, Fellow in Medieval Spanish

### GENEALOGY, DISCRIMINATION, AND RACE IN LATE MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN SPAIN

My current research project, supported by a Leverhulme Research Fellowship for 2024-25, provides a new understanding of discrimination and intolerance in fifteenth- and sixteenth-century Spain. It

investigates *limpieza de sangre* (purity of blood), the idea that descendants of Jewish and Muslim converts to Christianity were spiritually tainted by their impure blood and ought to be excluded from public life. This project demonstrates that *limpieza* was a racialised system of discrimination, turning doubts about the bona fides of new converts into an inherited defect, carried in the body of the believer. It was also a racial project, which translated the

notion of damaged lineage into social, economic, and cultural inequality. Moreover, though *limpieza* is often seen as a distinctively Spanish phenomenon, it drew strength from well-established European ideas about heredity, descent, and status. The book arising from this research will be the first English monograph on purity of blood in Spain.

*Rosa Vidal Doval is Associate Professor of Medieval Iberian Literature*

*Lecturer in Spanish, St Edmund Hall, and Tutorial Fellow in Spanish, Magdalen College*



*Ejecutoria* or purity of blood dossier of the Crespo López family (Granada, [Palacio de los Olvidados](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=79565037)).

Jerónimo Roure Pérez, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=79565037>

## Events

### 22 April 2024: Special Lecture on 7<sup>th</sup> Century Armenian Cosmology

Monday 22 April 5PM Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Lecture Room 1.

Dr. Stephanie Pambakian (Tübingen / Venice Ca'Foscari)

*A 7th-century Armenian Cosmology: Anania Širakac'i's treatise on the Universe*

### 23, 25, 30 April and 7 and 9 May 2024: The Lyell Lectures

This year the Lyell Lectures will be given by Professor Stephen Oakley, Kennedy Professor of Latin and Fellow of Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge

'Copying the Classics (and Fathers): explorations in the transmission of Latin text'

A series of five lectures, all at 5:15 pm in the Sir Victor Blank Lecture Theatre, Weston Library

In this series of lectures, Professor Stephen Oakley, Kennedy Professor of Latin and Fellow of Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge, examines the transmission of Latin texts. These five lectures will explore how works of different kinds—the military histories written by Julius Caesar, the poetry of Catullus, and the teachings of early Christians—were passed down over time. A special focus is on the media revolution from hand-written to printed books.

Following the series, recordings of the lectures will be available on the Lyell Lectures series page.

Lecture 1: The transmission of Julius Caesar's Civil War

Tuesday 23 April 2024, 5.15-6.15pm

Lecture 2: The transmission of the Corpus Cyprianum and Pontius' Life of Cyprian

Thursday 25 April 2024, 5.15-6.15pm

Lecture 3: Cross-fertilization and the limits of the genealogical method: the case of Catullus

Tuesday 30 April 2024, 5.15-6.15pm

Lecture 4: What happens when incunables replace manuscripts?

Tuesday 7 May 2024, 5.15-6.15pm

Lecture 5: Some generalizations about the shape and geographical spread of Latin textual traditions

Thursday 9 May 2024, 5.15-6.35pm

### 26 April 2024: Pseudo-Seneca Octavia in a Tudor Translation

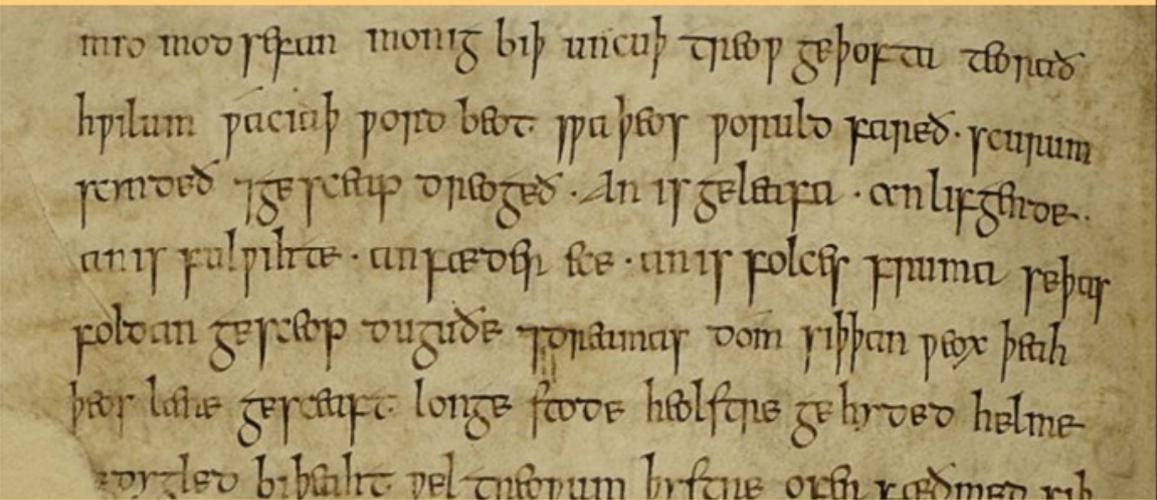
**On 26 April, 1.15pm** David Wiles (Emeritus Professor of Drama, University of Exeter) is **performing the pseudo-Senecan Roman history play *Octavia*** in the exuberant rhetorical language of the 1561 translation in the **Wolfson College Buttery at 1.15pm**, under the aegis of the Ancient World Research Cluster. The play lasts for half an hour; [watch a recording here](#). You may have seen previous productions in the garden of St Edmund Hall - last year, [Mary Magdalene Play from the Carmina Burana](#). This is also early notice that there hopefully will be **another Medieval Mystery Cycle in 2025**, probably 26 April in St Edmund Hall - mark the date!

### 30 April 2024: Creative-Critical Research afternoon

**Tuesday of 2nd week, 30th April, 2.30pm-4.30pm at University College** (the Swire Seminar Room). There will be short talks from colleagues on their current creative-critical projects (ranging from poetry to performance, trade books to medievalism) and we'll be discussing the benefits, opportunities, and challenges in this kind of work. There will also be chance to discuss using creative writing and creative responses in teaching. The hope is that we'll get a sense of the vibrant work being done in this area in our period group and that there will be opportunities for future collaborations.

PROF. PAUL CAVILL  
(UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM):

“GATHERING UP THE FRAGMENTS:  
HOMILETIC FRAGMENT II”



into mod rēfan monig bi uncuþ trawp geþofra tōnād  
hþilum þaciab þoro bāt. þa þof þorulo þared. þeupum  
þerod þeþeap oþroged. An iþ gelara. an liþþroē.  
an iþ þalþra. an þeodri fe. an iþ folcþ þuma þeþar  
þoþan geþeþ þuþide þonamaf þom riþþan þeox þeah  
þar laha geþeap longe foþe habþe geþroþ helme  
þeþeþ biþalre þel tawum þeþe oþri rēþmed riþ

OXFORD OLD ENGLISH WORK-IN-PROGRESS (WOOPIE)  
HISTORY OF THE BOOK ROOM, FACULTY OF ENGLISH  
THURSDAY 25TH APRIL 2024, 5.15PM

ALL WELCOME

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND, PLEASE CONTACT:

FRANCIS.LENEGHAN@ELL.OX.AC.UK

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UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD

8 May 2024: Environmental History Lecture

Wednesday 8th May at 5pm in the Oxford Martin School



OXFORD  
MARTIN  
SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD

**HISTORICAL RESEARCH IN THE  
TIME OF THE ANTHROPOCENE:  
CAN CLIMATE DATA HELP US READ  
THE PAST (AND, IF SO, HOW)?**

**WITH  
PROFESSOR NICOLA DI COSMO**

14 May 2024: Zernov Lecture

**Dr Sebastian Brock FBA (University of Oxford)**

**'The Ecumenical Journey of the Writings of St Isaac the Syrian'**

Introduced by **David G.K. Taylor** (Associate Professor in Aramaic and Syriac, Wolfson College, Oxford)

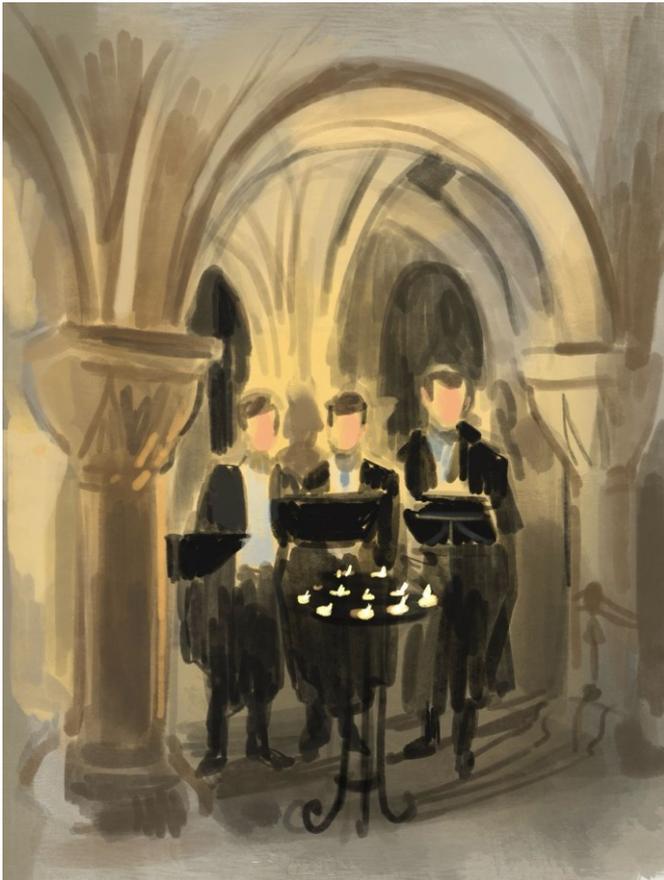
Tuesday 14 May at 5 p.m., Maison française d'Oxford, 2-10 Norham Road, OX2 6SE

Sebastian Brock is a leading authority in the field of Syriac studies which he taught for many years in the University of Oxford, where he remains Emeritus (<https://www.ames.ox.ac.uk/people/sebastian-p-brock>), and Fellow of the British Academy. He is widely recognised for his important work translating Syriac texts, especially those of 4th to 7th centuries, and making better known the mediating role of textual translation in late Antiquity, especially the cultural interface between Syriac and Greek. Among his many publications are *The Luminous Eye: The Spiritual World Vision of St Ephrem* (1985), *The Wisdom of Isaac of Nineveh* [Syriac-English] (Piscataway NJ, 2006), *A Brief Outline of Syriac Literature* (2nd edition 2011); *The Bible in the Syriac Tradition* (3rd edition 2023); *An Inventory of Syriac Texts Published from Manuscripts in the British Library* (2020). This lecture will explore the way in which the texts of the 7th century Isaac the Syrian form part of a multi-dimensional Christian heritage.

The Zernov Lecture is an annual event hosted jointly by the House of St Gregory and St Macrina, the Fellowship of St Alban & St Sergius and the St Theosevia Centre for Christian Spirituality, charities working in the field of Eastern Christian studies. It honours the memory of the Orthodox theologian and worker for Christian unity, Nicolas Zernov (1898-1980), whose vision lay behind the founding of these charities. The charities are pleased to be collaborating for this

lecture with the Maison française d'Oxford (<https://www.mfo.ac.uk/>), especially given the connections between the Paris School of Theology and Oxford which Zernov represented.

### 16 May and 13 June 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 4 and week 8.

Thursday of Week 4, 16 May 2024, 9:30pm: Compline in the Crypt, sung by the St Edmund Consort in English (Tudor Music)

Thursday of Week 8, 13 June 2024, 9:30pm: Compline in the Crypt, sung by the St Edmund Consort in Latin (medieval chant and modern compositions)

Please contact Henrike Lähnemann [henrike.laehnemann@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk](mailto: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*

17 May 2024 Oxford Medieval Society

Register by clicking [THIS LINK](#).



Come and learn how to make chain maille with Master Maille Maker Nick Checksfield! Nick is a world-leading expert in medieval chain maille, and will be visiting Oxford Medieval Society for an all-you-need-to-know workshop. Don't miss out, places are limited!

Tickets: £15

Refreshments will be provided

**Click the [link](#) or use the QR code to register!**



**Oxford Medieval Society**

## **Chain Maille workshop**

Friday 17th May  
(4th week)

2pm-5.30pm

St John's College, New  
Seminar Room



21 May 2024: CMTC Colloquium

Queen's College on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of May (week 5), 5.15pm. The two speakers will be Carolin Gluchowski and Paola Rea (PhD candidate in Palaeography at SSM Naples / Valencia). More information to come on <https://cmtc.queens.ox.ac.uk/>

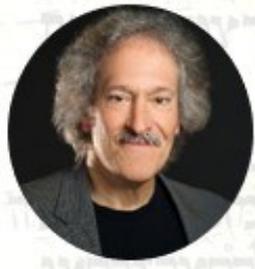


# P R E S E N T S

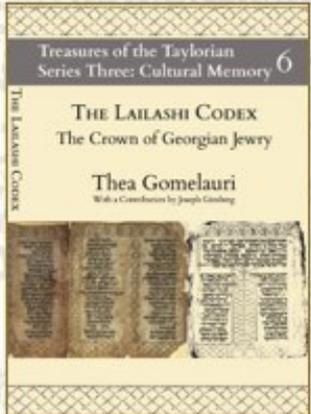
## The Greatest Medieval Masoretic Pentateuch The Lailashi Codex: The Crown of Georgian Jewry



**Dr Thea Gomelauri**  
University of Oxford, UK



**Prof Ori Soltes**  
Georgetown University, USA



**Prof Geoffrey Khan FBA**  
Regius Professor of Semitic Philology  
University of Cambridge, UK



**Ilana Tahan OBE**  
Hebrew & Christian Orient Studies  
The British Library, UK

Moderated by **Dr Ben Outhwaite FRAS FSA**  
Director of the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit, University of Cambridge, UK



**28 May, 2024**  
**1800—1900 UK**  
**1300—1400 NY**  
**1000—1100 PDT**  
**2000—2100 Israel**

Scan the QR Code or visit [www.oxfordinterfaithforum.org](http://www.oxfordinterfaithforum.org)

Dr Thea Gomelauri will also present on 'Shota Rustaveli and the Lailashi Codex' at one of the Weston Library Medieval Coffee Mornings, 3 May, 10:45am. See the last page of the booklet for information how to attend the coffee mornings

## 31 May 2024: Workshop: Binding the world, withholding life. Poetry Books in the Medieval Mediterranean

Friday 31 May 2024, 10 am

Exeter College, FitzHugh Auditorium, Walton St, Oxford OX1 2HG and online

Convenors: Ugo Mondini (University of Oxford), Alberto Ravani (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna)

Is transmitting a poem the same as transmitting any other text, or are poems like flowers, the transport of which could fatally harm their petals and waste their inner life away? When poems travel across the ages, they must be cushioned from the blows of time. This workshop explores how poems were transmitted in the Middle Ages, and, in particular, how they were 'stored' inside poetry books.

While nowadays writing a poetic book or compiling an anthology implies a negotiation with established traditions and criteria, the reasons behind this process in the Middle Ages may not be that apparent and still largely lie unexplored. Were they striving to gather world-embracing poetic encyclopaedias, or were they perhaps led by their individual rationales or shared narrative structures? The broader question is what ideas of medieval poetry and poetry books we can glean from these sources, where medieval poetry is transmitted and its life withheld.

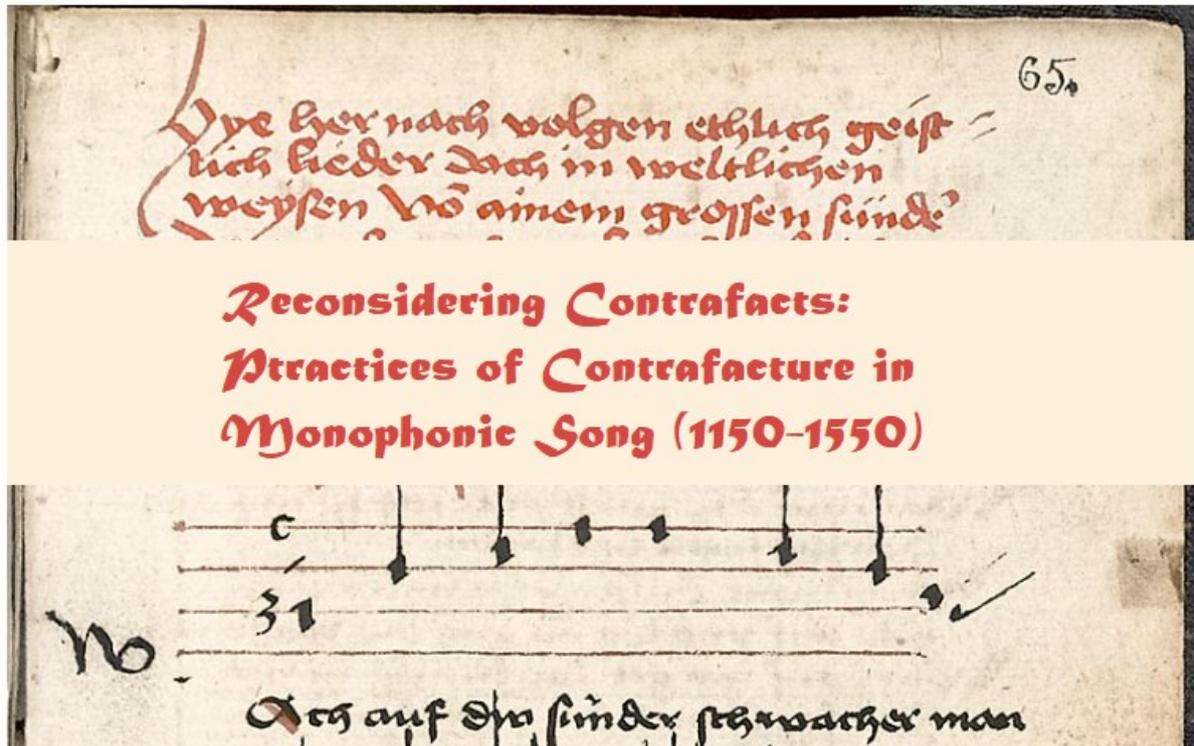
We take a comparative approach; each speaker focuses on a literary tradition that flourished around the Medieval Mediterranean. Our invited speakers are Marisa Galvez (Stanford University) for Romance Languages, Niels Gaul (University of Edinburgh) for Greek, Marlé Hammond (SOAS) for Arabic and Adriano Russo (École française de Rome) for Latin.

[Register via Eventbrite for online attendance.](#)

Online registration closes 2 hours before the start of the event. You will be sent the joining link within 24 hours of the event, 2 hours before and once again 15 minutes before the event starts.

The full programme will be shared after registration and on <https://torch.ox.ac.uk/event/binding-the-world-withholding-life.-poetry-books-in-the-medieval-mediterranean>.

This is an activity of the TORCH Network Poetry in the Medieval World. For more information, you can refer to our website <https://torch.ox.ac.uk/poetry-in-the-medieval-world>; you can also contact Ugo Mondini at [ugo.mondini@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ugo.mondini@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk).



**Reconsidering Contrafacts:  
Practices of Contrafacture in  
Monophonic Song (1150-1550)**

**When? 20 June 2024 (week 9), 10am-7pm**  
**Where? Committee Room, Faculty of Music**  
**Convenor: Philip Wetzler,**  
**[philip.wetzler@music.ox.ac.uk](mailto:philip.wetzler@music.ox.ac.uk)**

Image: Image sections of the Hohenfurt Songbook (Hohenfurter Liederbuch), fol. 65r, Hohenfurt / Vyšší Brod (Böhmen), Stiftsbibl., Ms. 8b

Looking at different repertoires of monophonic song between 1150 and 1550, the aim of this workshop is to explore different approaches to the widespread spectrum of practices and concepts of contrafacture: composing new texts for pre-existing melodies. The fact of a song being a contrafact will not be taken as a result but as a starting point for further inquiries. In this workshop we will encounter similarities, analogies, and differences between different regions, languages, genres, and times between 1150 and 1550, looking at Trouvère, Sangspruch and Minnesang, religious song (*geistliches Lied*), Meistersinger and puy societies.

The schedule will be split into two parts: the first half is reserved for presentations of individual papers with a following discussion, in the second half we will collectively examine and interpret further selected case studies. Anybody interested is welcome to attend the presentations and take part in the discussions. If you want to attend or if you have questions, please email [philip.wetzler@music.ox.ac.uk](mailto:philip.wetzler@music.ox.ac.uk).

## Seminars

### Medieval English Research Seminar

Convenors: Prof. Mishtooni Bose and Prof. Annie Sutherland  
Tuesdays 12.15pm, Weeks 1-6  
Lecture Theatre 2, St. Cross Building

#### Week 1 (23<sup>rd</sup> April)

Christine Rauer (St Andrews)

**The Earliest Insular Almanac?: Types of Information in Old English and Insular Latin Calendrical Texts**

#### Week 2 (30<sup>th</sup> April)

Fred Morgan (Merton College, Oxford)

Title TBC

and

Simon Heller (Lincoln College, Oxford)

**Rewriting Heorot in American Fiction**

#### Week 3 (7<sup>th</sup> May)

Audrey Southgate (Lincoln College, Oxford)

**'Playing the Ten-Stringed Lyre': Psalter and Decalogue in the English Primers and**

Hannah Schühle-Lewis (University of Kent)

**'All suche clytter clatter'?: Medieval devotional compilations after the Reformation'**

#### Week 4 (14<sup>th</sup> May)

Tim Glover (Emmanuel College, Cambridge)

**Compilatory Form and Authorship in Richard Rolle and in Late-Medieval Religious Literature**

#### Week 5 (21<sup>st</sup> May)

Alicia Smith (Corpus Christi College, Cambridge)

**Negotiating shame through the 'harlot saint' Thais**

and

Nancy Jiang (University of Warwick)

**Medieval Penitential Piety and the Virtues of Debt Suretyship**

#### Week 6 (28<sup>th</sup> May)

Alex Paddock, Keble College, Oxford

**Patience, the Middle English *Physiologus*, and the deep sea of experience**

Seminars followed by a sandwich lunch. All welcome!

## 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

Convenors: Lucia Akard (Oriell), Sumner Braund (History of Science Museum), Bee Jones (Jesus), Lesley Smith (HMC)

Week 1 Alexander Murray (Univ.)

23 April

Week 2 Visit to the Ashmolean with Jim Harris: NB Time: 3.30-5pm

30 April Limited numbers; sign up: [lesley.smith@hmc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:lesley.smith@hmc.ox.ac.uk)

Week 3 James Buchanan (Kellogg)

7 May *English Saints and the Normans: tracing community and identity in the post conquest hagiography of St Dunstan*

Cory Nguen (Univ.)

*Constructing Identity in 14<sup>th</sup>c Norman Ireland: law, lyric, language*

Week 4 Elena Vermeer (Trinity)

14 May *The Old English and Old Norse 'Joshua': translation and readership in context*

Vita Dervan (Lincoln)

*Rewriting Virgil through Dante: Guido da Pisa's Fiore d'Italia and medieval translation*

Week 5 Alex Still (BNC)

21 May *Hrothgar's horse: the evidence for an interconnected elite across the North Sea world*

Elizabeth Williams (LMH)

*Heavenly Sensations: multisensory encounters with the liturgy in medieval Jerusalem's Holy Sepulchre, c. 1099-1215*

Week 6 Marion Ryley (Wadham)

28 May *Envisioning Division: marginal medallions in medieval Judaic and Islamic manuscripts*

Maya Smith (St Cross)

*Using Pigment Analysis of Pre-Conquest Manuscripts to Illuminate Trade and Commerce*

Week 7 Charlie West (Regent's)

4 June *Cruising Hell: seeing and writing Dante's sodomites*

Fergus Bovill (Merton)

*Cut and Paste: the album of illuminated manuscript cuttings in the 19thc*

Week 8 Book Launch: *New Zealand Medievalism: reframing the medieval*, edited by Anna

11 June Czarnowus and Janet Wilson (Routledge)

## Medieval History Seminar

Medieval History Seminar  
Trinity Term 2024  
Mondays at 5pm

All seminars **EXCEPT** 20 May are in the Wharton Room, All Souls College  
Monday 20 May is in the Old Library, all souls College

All seminars are 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 rmpuc). Alternatively, you can use this link: <https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3a932349f56c7c40a9b2e92e3763546bf2%40thread.skype/1713190287056?context=%7b%22tid%22%3a%22cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22b36d0c45-29a3-4ae6-aa0f-346d7099825f%22%7d>

If you have any difficulties please email: [medhistsem@history.ox.ac.uk](mailto:medhistsem@history.ox.ac.uk)

Week 1 22 April	Lindy Grant (Reading), 'Eleanor of Aquitaine: the power of a queen and duchess'.
Week 2 29 April	Elisabeth Lorans (Tours/All Souls) confirmed. 'The transformation of the monastic enclosure at Marmoutier (Tours, France) between the 11 <sup>th</sup> and the early 13th century'.
Week 3 6 May	Helen Flatley (Somerville, Oxford): 'Reading the Arabic Documents of Medieval Toledo: Local Practice and Community Formation on the Iberian Frontier'.
Week 4 13 May	Emma Hornby (Bristol): 'Intertextuality in medieval Spain: liturgy, iconography, architecture and music at San Miguel de Escalada in the tenth century'.
Week 5 20 May	Charles West (Edinburgh), Helen Gittos (Balliol) and Mirela Ivanova (Sheffield), in discussion: <i>Inventing Slavonic Cultures of Writing Between Rome and Constantinople</i> . <b>This seminar is in the Old Library, All Souls College</b>
Week 6 27 May	Laure Miolo (Lincoln, Oxford) 'Establishing a school of astronomy and astrology in the fourteenth century? The case of the universities of Paris and Oxford'.
Week 7 3 June	Peregrine Horden (All Souls, Oxford) 'A room with a view: Chichele's college'.
Week 8 10 June	Katherine Jansen (Catholic University of America) 'The Relics of Rome'.



## Medieval German Seminar

The **Medieval German Graduate Seminar** meets **Wednesdays 11.15am-12.45pm** in Oriel College, **King Edward Street 7** (Annette Volting's office; press the intercom buzzer). First week will be a shortish planning meeting. The topic for this term is Konrad von Würzburg: 'Der Schwanritter'. [Open access edition here](#). If you are interested to be added to the teams group for updates, please [contact Henrike Lähnemann](#).

Image: The Swan Knight on a misericord of Exeter Cathedral

## Late Antique and Byzantine Seminar

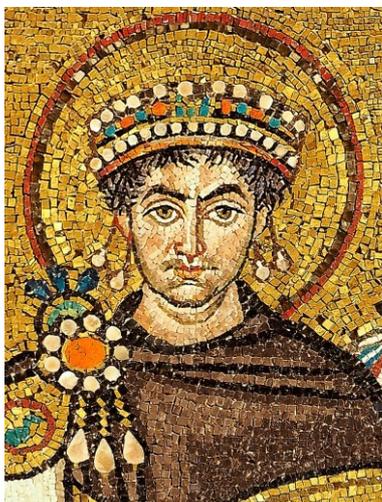
Time: Wednesdays, 5pm

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

Teams link: <https://msteams.link/FWOC>

Seminar convenors: Ida Toth, Ine Jacobs, Olivier Delouis

- W1, 24 April      Thea Ravasi (University of Newcastle) - 'Imperial benefaction, sanitary and religious practices in 4th-century Rome. The archaeology of the Baptistery of St. John Lateran revisited'
- W2, 1 May        Polymnia Synodinou (University of Crete) - 'The Church of the Holy Apostles (Hagioi Apostoloi) at Kavousi, Crete: Aspects of Byzantine Art under Venetian Rule'
- W3, 8 May        Natalija Ristovska (University of Oxford) - 'The Byzantine Craft of Enamelling and its Links with Islamic Metalwork, ca. 800-1204'
- W4, 15 May      James Cogbill (University of Oxford) - 'Fourteenth-Century Byzantine History-Writers and the Problem of Emperors' Family Ties'
- W5, 22 May      Maximilien Durand (Musée du Louvre) and Jannic Durand (Musée du Louvre) - 'Creating the Louvre's New Department of Byzantine and Eastern Christian Art: Issues and Challenges in a Turbulent World'  
**Venue: Auditorium, Corpus Christi College**  
**Start time: 5.15pm**



In addition, this year the OCBR Annual lecture will take place on **Thursday 13 June (W8)**:

W8, 13 June Peter Sarris (University of Cambridge) - 'Justinian: Between East and West'.

**Venue: Danson Room, Trinity College**



# MEDIEVAL VISUAL CULTURE SEMINAR

St Catherine's College, Oxford

Arumugam Building

Thursdays 5 pm

All welcome

Week 1 Lucy Wrapson | University of Cambridge

25 April Colour Conventions and Material  
Hierarchies on Late-Medieval Rood Screens

Week 4 Livia Lupi | University of Warwick

16 May Artistic Practice and the Emergence of the Architect in Italy, c. 1300 - c. 1480

Week 6 Gervase Rosser | University of Oxford

30 May Irrational, Feminine, Subversive: The Cult of Miraculous Images in Medieval England

Week 7 Lara Frentrop | University of Heidelberg

6 June Objects of Desire: The Byzantine Art of Dining as Social and Romantic Agents

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

Gervase Rosser, Martin Kauffmann, Hannah Skoda

## Tolkien 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Seminar Series

**Mondays, 5 pm. Summer Common Room, Magdalen College (Weeks 1,2,3,4,6,8);  
T.S. Eliot Theatre, Merton College (Weeks 5 and 7).**

**Organisers:** Prof. Giuseppe Pezzini, Prof. Simon Horobin, and Grace Khuri.

**Week 1 – April 22**

**Catherine McIlwaine**, Tolkien Archivist (Bodleian Library)  
'Being a cult figure in one's lifetime is not at all pleasant': Tolkien's Relationship with His Fans

**Week 2 – April 29**

**Hugh Lacoue-Lebarthe** (Exeter College, University of Oxford)  
Tolkien's Lancelot in *The Fall of Arthur*: The Living Memory of a Decaying World

**Week 3 – May 6**

**Edmund Weiner** (Oxford English Dictionary)  
'I always felt that something ought to be done about the word...': Tolkien's Latchwords

**Week 4 – May 13**

**Dr. Eleanor Parker** (Brasenose College, Oxford)  
Tolkien and the Anglo-Saxon Calendar

**Week 5 – May 20**

**Will Sherwood** (University of Glasgow)  
'I am a link in the chain': Victorian Transformations of British Romanticism and Their Influence on Tolkien

**Week 6 – May 27**

**David Bernabé** (University of Oxford/University of the Basque Country)  
Riddles in the Grass: The Characterisation and Narrative Value of Landscape Over the Fields of Rohan

**Week 7 – June 3**

**Michael G.R. Tolkien** (Critic and Poet)  
A Grandson's Reflections on J.R.R. Tolkien

**Week 8 – June 10**

**John Holmes** (University of Birmingham)  
A Veritable 'Middle Earth': Tolkien and the Palaeoanthropological Imagination



## Medieval French Research Seminar

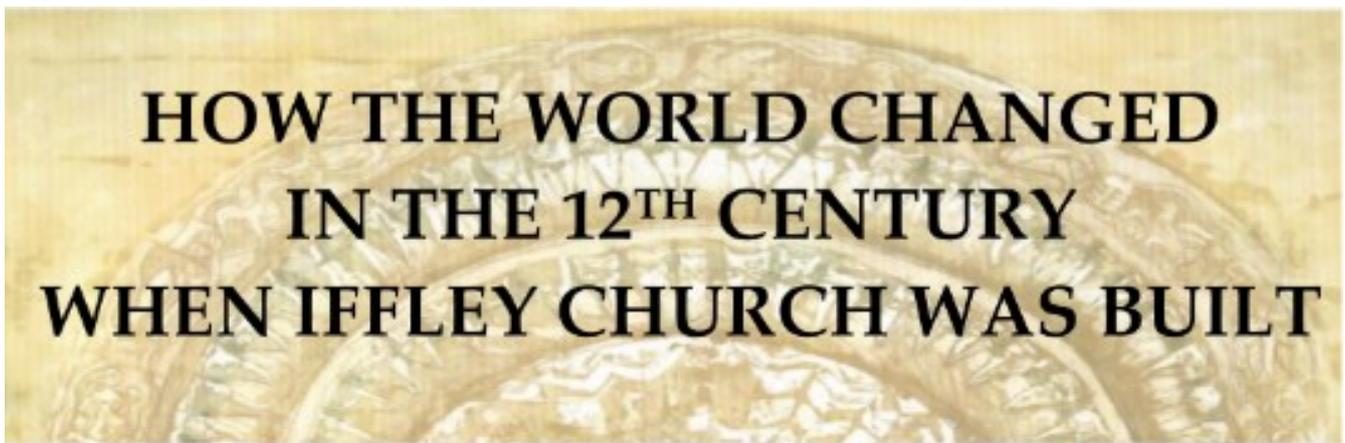
**Tuesdays of Week 1, 3, and 7 at the Maison Francaise**

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

**Week 1 (23 April) - Tom Hinton (University of Exeter), 'What Did A French Language Learning Text Look Like in Medieval Britain?'**

**Week 3 (7 May) - Richard Trachsler (Zurich University), 'God's Tennisman: the *Jeu de Paume allégorisé* and the Difficulty of Playing Ball in the Late Middle Ages'**

**Week 7 (4 June) - Jonathan Morton (Tulane University), 'Integuments, Astral Magic, and Robots: Virgil and Medieval Technologies of Literature'**



Artist: Sally Levell

**Three days of talks and workshops with Living Stones**  
all starting at 2.00 in Iffley Church Hall followed by tea

### **Saturday 18 May**

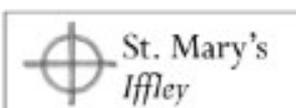
Oxford in 1160: Scholars and Pilgrims at St Frideswide's Priory  
Talks by Andrew Dunning and Anne Bailey

### **Saturday 13 July**

Building on the past and writing for the future  
Talk by Emily Winkler, and Workshop with Stewart Tiley

### **Sunday 8 September**

An expanding world: conflict, connection and music in 12C Europe  
Talk by Teresa Whitcombe, and Workshop with Ian Pittaway



*For more information and Tickets please visit*  
<https://livingstonesiffley.org.uk/events>





**Roger Bacon OFM, c. 1220 - 1292**  
A Franciscan Scholar at Oxford and author of an influential early work on experimental science.



All Souls College  
University of Oxford

# ALL SOULS SEMINAR IN MEDIIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN SCIENCE

**All Souls College – Trinity Term 2024**

## WHEN

Weeks 1–3, 6–8 / Thursdays, 14:00 to 15:30

## WHERE

Hovenden Room, All Souls College

## CONVENOR

Nuno Castel-Branco, All Souls College

## PROGRAMME

### Week 1 (25 April 2024)

Michael Hunter, Birbeck, University of London  
*Robert Boyle's Strange Reports: From the Outlandish to the Supernatural*

### Week 2 (2 May 2024)

Jeremy Schneider, Trinity College, University of Cambridge  
*Authenticating Nature: Fossils and Fakes, 1590–1620*

### Week 3 (9 May 2024)

Henrique Leitão, ERC Rutter Project, University of Lisbon  
*Global Lines and Nautical Cartography in the Iberian Oceanic Expansion*

### Week 6 (30 May 2024)

Lawrence Principe, Johns Hopkins University  
*Franciscan Spirituality, Transmutation, and the Antichrist: John of Rupescissa's Alchemical Thought and Practices*

### Week 7 (6 June 2024)

Laure Miolo, Lincoln College, University of Oxford  
*Eclipse Prediction in Late Fifteenth-Century England: The Case of Lewis Caerleon*

### Week 8 (13 June 2024)

Zoe Screti, Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford  
*Alchemy during the English Reformation: The Troubled Times of Thomas Charnock*

With the support of:



## Reading Groups and Societies

### Medieval Latin Manuscript Reading Group

The Medieval Latin manuscript reading group is back, Mondays weeks 2-5 only, 1-2pm on Teams. A friendly venue to practice your Latin and palaeography on a range of texts and scripts over the year. We will read a very entertaining account of the legendary foundation of Cambridge University by the Carmelite friar Nicholas Cantlow. Sign up to the mailing list to receive weekly updates and Teams invites. <https://web.maillist.ox.ac.uk/ox/info/medieval-latin-ms-reading>

### Anglo-Norman Reading Group



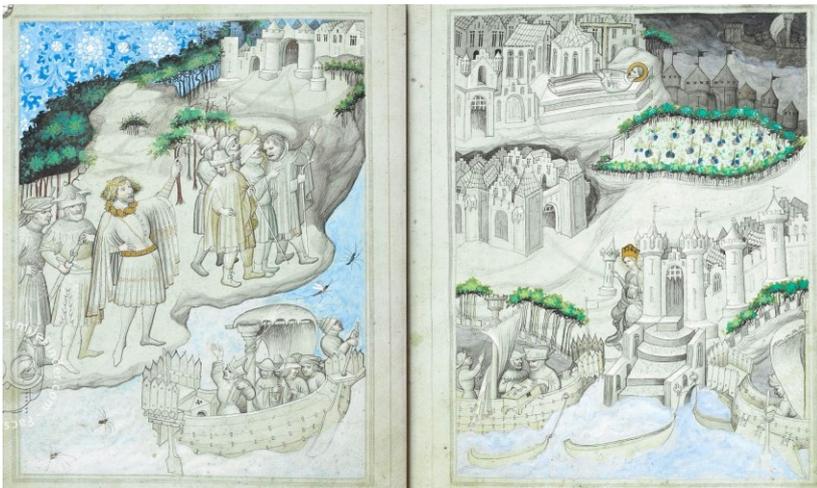
The Anglo-Norman Reading Group will meet on Fridays of odd weeks: April 26th, 10th and 24th May, 7th June, at the Julia Mann Room in St Hilda's College. We start at 5pm, finishing at 6.30. The meeting is on Zoom and in person.

We read, translate, and discuss a chosen text every term. All are warmly welcomed, whatever your level of Old (or Modern) French; help and support is available from around the group and we love seeing new faces.

Those attending in person please be at the Lodge BY 5.00, where I will meet you and take you to the room in South Building.

We shall read extracts from Mandeville's Travels, illustrated below, as we started on this last term. The texts, together with supplementary material, can be found on [TT Padlet](#) Please ensure you print the text (or bring it electronically), as we do not provide paper copies.

Wine and soft drinks are available as usual, thanks to Helen Swift and in association with Oxford Medieval Studies, sponsored by The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities.



If you would like to attend, please contact Jane Bliss

<[jane.bliss@lmh.oxon.org](mailto:jane.bliss@lmh.oxon.org)> or

Stephanie Hathaway

<[stephanie.hathaway@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie.hathaway@gmail.com)> and we will send you the zoom link and any further details necessary.

## Medieval Women's Writing Reading Group



The Medieval Women's Writing Research Group meets to discuss everything to do with women's writing in the medieval period. We hold both a reading group as well as a research seminar series in odd weeks (see: Medieval Women's Writing Research Seminar). All welcome!

The reading group will meet in **Lincoln College, Lower Lecture Room** on **Thursdays 5pm-6:30pm**, weeks 2 and 4.

Stay up to date with events by [joining our mailing list](#) or following us on X [@MedievalWomenOx](#). Texts for the reading group are shared on the mailing list.

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**Week 2**      **Chinese Medieval Women's Writers**  
**2 May**

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**Week 4**      **Arabic and Hebrew Women's Writers**  
**16 May**

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Convenors: Katherine Smith, Marlene Schilling, Carolin Gluchowski and Santhia Velasco Kittlaus  
Funded by the "TORCH Critical-Thinking Communities" fund.



THE OXFORD RESEARCH CENTRE IN THE HUMANITIES

## Germanic Reading Group

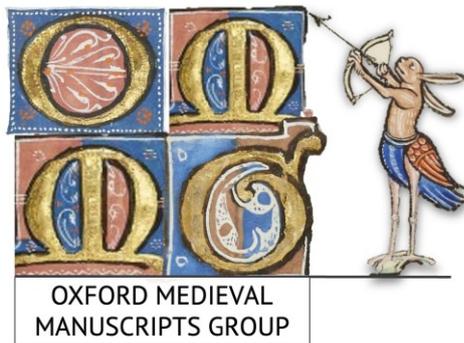
We'll be holding four online meetings of the Germanic Reading Group, Thursdays even weeks at 4:00. Please contact Howard Jones [Howard.Jones@sbs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Howard.Jones@sbs.ox.ac.uk) to request the handouts and to be added to the list.

Thursday, May 2, 4:00–5:00. Old English charms/remedies (Morgan leading)

Thursday, May 16, 4:00–5:00. Gothic Bible (Ryan leading)

Thursday, May 30, 4:00–5:00. Old Norwegian (Nelson leading)

Thursday, June 13, 4:00–5:00. Old Saxon *Héliand* (Bradley leading)



Trinity Term 2024

Fridays 5 pm (the V&A visit is at 3.15 pm)  
Merton College, Weston Library, and V&A

- Week 1**                    **Martin Kauffmann, Bodleian Library**  
**26 April**                *A. C. (Tilly) de la Mare and the Formation of a Palaeographer*  
**Weston Library**        *Limited places, write to the email below by 24/04/2024*
- Week 3**                    **Sara Charles, School of Advanced Study, University of London**  
**10 May**                 **Pigments and Illumination in the Middle Ages (practice-based)**  
**Hawkins Room**        *All materials are provided. £5 fee (the price is subsidised by the OMS grant)*  
*Limited places. To register, write to the email below by 1/05/2024*
- Week 4**                    *Illuminated Manuscript Cuttings at the V&A, London*  
**17 May**                 **Conversation with Catherine Yvard, National Art Library**  
**V & A**                    **Special Collections Curator**  
*Limited places. To join the trip, write to the email below by 10/05/2024*
- Week 7**                    **Work in Progress Meeting**  
**7 June**                    **Antonia Della Fratte, University of Padua**  
**Sir Howard**             *Gustav F. Waagen Tours of Britain: Describing*  
**Stringer Room**        *Illuminated MSS in Oxford*

*We are still accepting applications. If you would like to present your work in progress and receive our feedback, write to the email below by 31/05/2024. All welcome.*

**Organisers: Irina Boeru, Fergus Bovill, Ana Dias, Charly Driscoll, 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](mailto:elena.lichmanova@merton.ox.ac.uk)**

## Medieval Latin Document Reading Group

The Medieval Latin Document Reading Group continues to meet on Teams at 4-5pm. We read and translate 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. A document is sent out in advance but homework is not expected. Please contact Michael Stansfield ([michael.stansfield@new.ox.ac.uk](mailto:michael.stansfield@new.ox.ac.uk)) for further details and the Teams link.

## Old Norse Reading Group

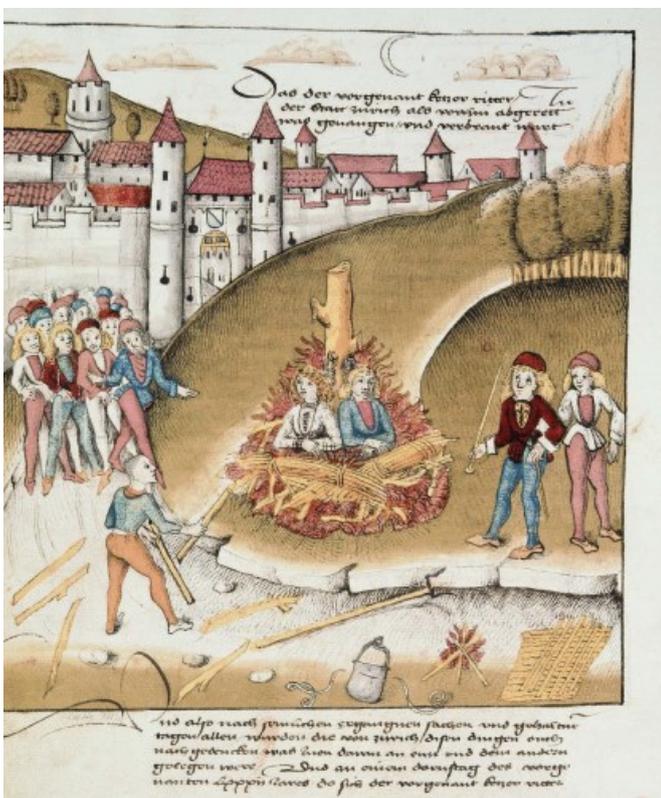
The Old Norse Reading Group will take place from 5:30-7pm on certain Mondays, starting April 29. We'll be translating some ridiculously fun Old Norse texts, often accompanied by baked goods... Dates are communicated via the mailing list each week - to be added, email [ashley.castelino@lincoln.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ashley.castelino@lincoln.ox.ac.uk).

## Dante Reading Group

**17:30-19:00 on Wednesdays in Seminar Room 11 of St. Anne's College (meet outside the lodge)**

Whether you are a dedicated Dante scholar or someone who has never gotten round to picking up the *Comedy*, the new Dante Reading Group is for you! Each week, we will be reading through and discussing a canto of the *Divine Comedy* in a relaxed and informal setting, delving into Dante's language and imagination in manageable chunks. It is open to those with or without a knowledge of Italian, the reading being sent out in the original and in translation. Refreshments, both alcoholic and otherwise, will be provided! To register or ask any any questions, please email [charles.west@regents.ox.ac.uk](mailto:charles.west@regents.ox.ac.uk) (Sponsored by TORCH)

## Queer and Trans Medievalisms



**Trinity:** Mondays at 3pm, weeks 2, 4, 6, and 8, Univ

*This informal reading group will explore queer and trans themes in medieval texts. In Trinity, we'll be thinking about queerness and transness on trial in the Middle Ages.*

**Week 2:** The questioning of Eleanor Rykener (London, 1394/5)

**Week 4:** The trial of Rolandina Ronchaia (Venice, 1355)

**Week 6:** The trial of Katherina Hetzeldorfer (Speyer, 1477)

**Week 8:** The trial of a 'false Jesus' and 'false Mary' (Oxford, 1222)

All extremely welcome, both in-person and online! To join the mailing list and get texts in advance, or if you have any questions, email [rowan.wilson@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:rowan.wilson@univ.ox.ac.uk)



# ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY WORKING GROUP



We are a group which runs informal meetings for those interested in studying the past in ways that recognize the interactions and interconnectedness of animals, plants, humans, other beings, and the environment. We make space to talk about exciting developments in our fields, interdisciplinary conversations, and new ideas and approaches. We try to keep discussions informal, and we encourage anyone at all interested in these kinds of approaches to join our meetings, regardless of research specialism or presumed existing knowledge.

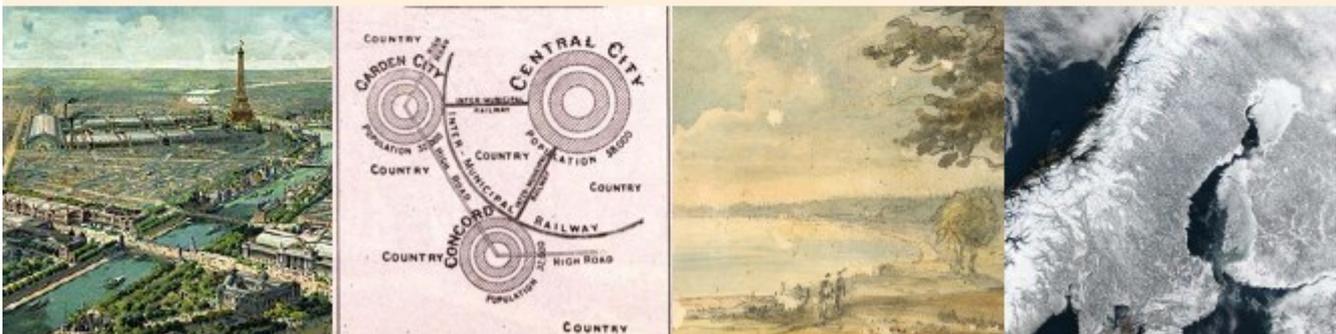
**12.30pm - 2.00pm**

**Thursday, Weeks 2, 4, and 6**

**History Faculty Building**

To join the mailing list, contact Ryan or Ruka at:

**[environmentalhistoryworkinggroup-owner@maillist.ox.ac.uk](mailto:environmentalhistoryworkinggroup-owner@maillist.ox.ac.uk)**



## Medieval Poetry Reading Group

Tuesdays, even weeks, at 4 p.m. in the Colin Matthew Room, Radcliffe Humanities Building.

The Medieval Poetry Reading Group explores 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.

This term, we will be focusing on Japanese Literature. The schedule is the following:

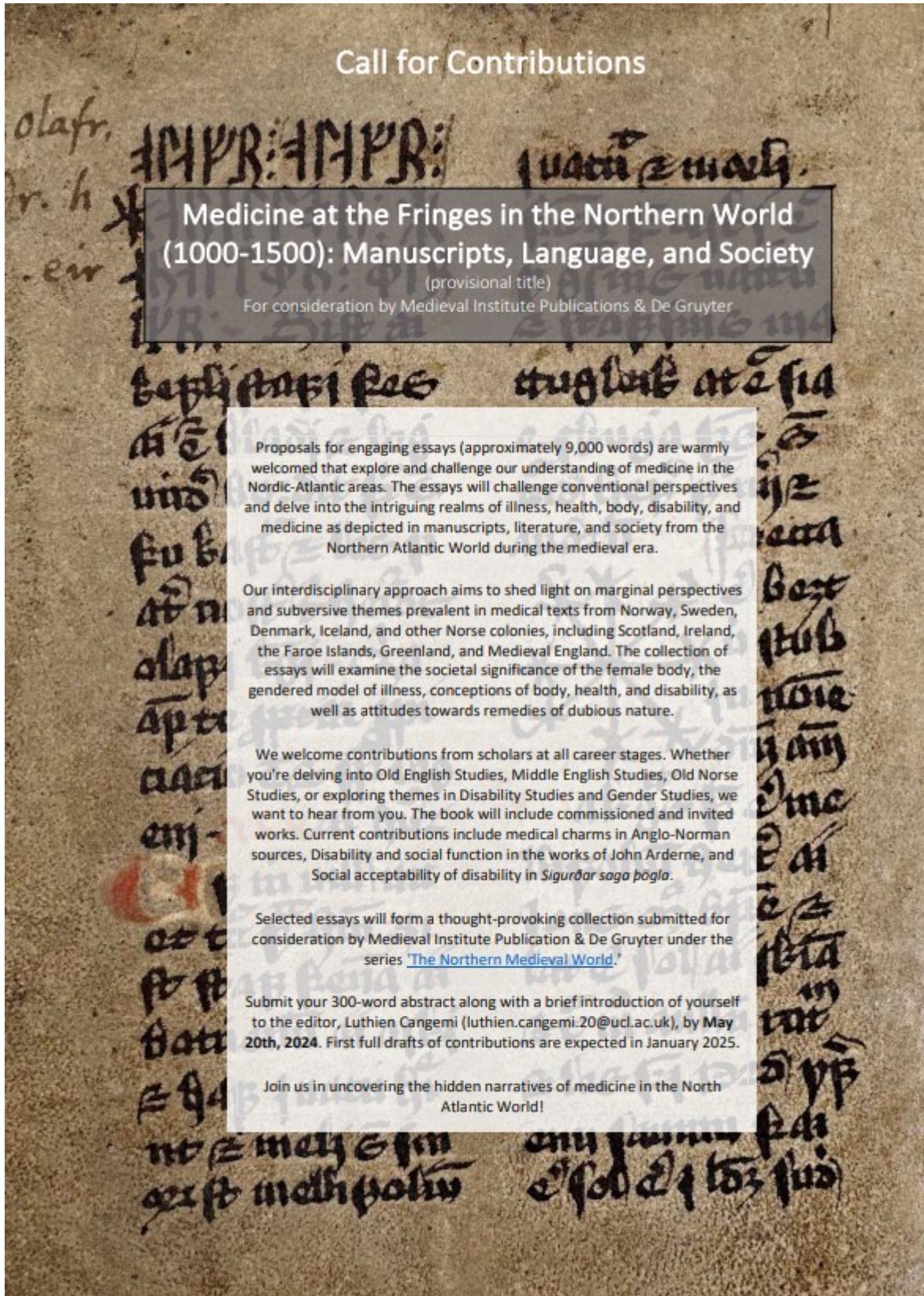
Week 2: Introducing Medieval Japanese Poetic Forms: Sugawara no Michizane's Poetry

Week 4: The *Wakan Rōeishū* (*Japanese and Chinese-Style Chanting Collection*, c. 1000): Sound and Manuscript

Week 6: TBA

This is an activity of the TORCH Network Poetry in the Medieval World. For more information, you can refer to our website <https://torch.ox.ac.uk/poetry-in-the-medieval-world>; you can also contact Ugo Mondini at [ugo.mondini@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ugo.mondini@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk).

Call For Book Contributions: Medicine at the Fringes in the Northern World



**Call for Contributions**

**Medicine at the Fringes in the Northern World  
(1000-1500): Manuscripts, Language, and Society**  
(provisional title)  
For consideration by Medieval Institute Publications & De Gruyter

Proposals for engaging essays (approximately 9,000 words) are warmly welcomed that explore and challenge our understanding of medicine in the Nordic-Atlantic areas. The essays will challenge conventional perspectives and delve into the intriguing realms of illness, health, body, disability, and medicine as depicted in manuscripts, literature, and society from the Northern Atlantic World during the medieval era.

Our interdisciplinary approach aims to shed light on marginal perspectives and subversive themes prevalent in medical texts from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, and other Norse colonies, including Scotland, Ireland, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Medieval England. The collection of essays will examine the societal significance of the female body, the gendered model of illness, conceptions of body, health, and disability, as well as attitudes towards remedies of dubious nature.

We welcome contributions from scholars at all career stages. Whether you're delving into Old English Studies, Middle English Studies, Old Norse Studies, or exploring themes in Disability Studies and Gender Studies, we want to hear from you. The book will include commissioned and invited works. Current contributions include medical charms in Anglo-Norman sources, Disability and social function in the works of John Arderne, and Social acceptability of disability in *Sigurðar saga þögla*.

Selected essays will form a thought-provoking collection submitted for consideration by Medieval Institute Publication & De Gruyter under the series '[The Northern Medieval World](#).'

Submit your 300-word abstract along with a brief introduction of yourself to the editor, Luthien Cangemi ([luthien.cangemi.20@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:luthien.cangemi.20@ucl.ac.uk)), by **May 20th, 2024**. First full drafts of contributions are expected in January 2025.

Join us in uncovering the hidden narratives of medicine in the North Atlantic World!

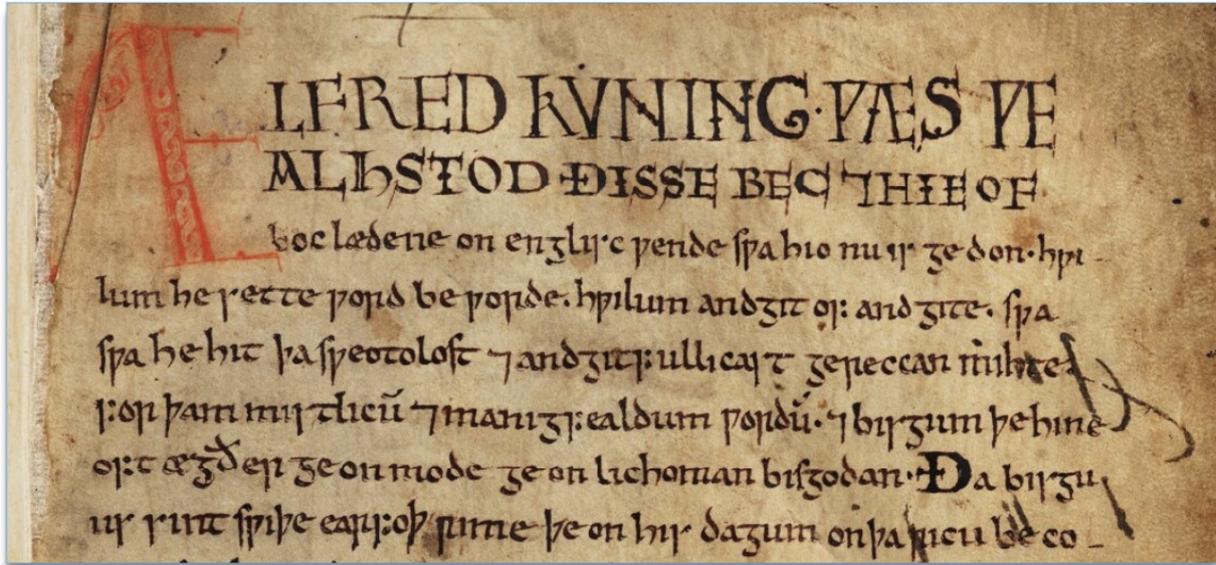
## Call for Papers for Three Early Career Workshops on Old English Prose

Paper proposals are invited from graduate students and early career researchers working on or interested in Old English prose. Each workshop will be led by an expert who will talk about their own research and lead discussion on a particular aspect of Old English prose. These events will provide an opportunity for graduate students and early career researchers to discuss their research projects with other scholars and to develop new skills.

**Workshop 1, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025: 'Mercian Prose' with Dr Christine Rauer (University of St Andrew's)**

**Workshop 2, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025: 'Alfredian Prefaces and Epilogues', with Dr Amy Faulkner (UCL)**

**Workshop 3, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025: 'The Old English *Boethius*', with Prof. Susan Irvine (UCL)**



Bodleian Library MS. Bodl. 180, fol. 1<sup>r</sup>, Prose Preface to the Old English *Boethius*

The workshops will take place at the University of Oxford.

This project is funded by Francis Leneghan's AHRC Research, Development and Engagement Fellowship on *Writing Pre-Conquest England: A New Literary History of Old English Prose*.

Registration and attendance will be free, but numbers will be limited.

Please send abstracts of no more than 200 words to [francis.leneghan@ell.ox.ac.uk](mailto:francis.leneghan@ell.ox.ac.uk) by 1st July 2024. Enquiries about the workshops can also be directed to this email address.



## Call For Social Media Contributions

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. Get in touch with [ashley.castelino@lincoln.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ashley.castelino@lincoln.ox.ac.uk) for more details.

## Accessibility and Updates

Inside is the full programme of medieval events taking place in Oxford in Trinity 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 Luisa Ostacchini at [luisa.ostacchini@ell.ox.ac.uk](mailto:luisa.ostacchini@ell.ox.ac.uk). 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](mailto:medieval@torch.ox.ac.uk)

What is happening:

- A shared calendar on the website on <https://medieval.ox.ac.uk/> and [torch.ox.ac.uk/medievalstudies](https://torch.ox.ac.uk/medievalstudies)
- Regular email updates via the mailing list [medieval-news@maillist.ox.ac.uk](mailto: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](https://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](https://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.



**OxMedievalStudies**

@OxMedStud Folge die

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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[torch.ox.ac.uk/medievalstudies](https://torch.ox.ac.uk/medievalstudies)

**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!**