



Trends and Turning-Points:

Constructing the Late Antique and Byzantine World (c. 300 - c. 1500)

Spanning more than a millennium in time, ranging from the Atlantic to Iran, and including a vast array of polities, social groups, and cultural moments, the Late Antique and Byzantine world is, if nothing else, complicated and varied. Despite Gibbon's famous attempt to reduce it to a single trend, the Late Antique and Byzantine world refuses to be simplified.

This conference aims to provide a platform to identify, discuss and debate the major trends and turning-points in the Late Antique and Byzantine world. Postgraduate scholars might choose to examine trends and turning-points on their own terms or to reflect critically on the limitations and blind-spots of our discipline, questioning the ways in which medieval Romans, their contemporaries and modern scholars have gone about constructing this past. We are calling for papers which explore all types of trends and turning-points in all fields of Late Antique and Byzantine studies. Papers might address problems such as:

- Trends in numismatic production and design
- From Late Antiquity to Byzantium, turning-point or trend?
- Complexity and new approaches to constructing the past
- Archaeological trends in conflict with historical narratives
- Economics with or without trends?
- Religious discourse as turning-point or trend
- Paradigmatic 'trends' of growth and decline
- 'Great' battles or the deaths of emperors as turning-points
- Constructing turning-points and trends in modern academic writing

Please send an abstract of no more than 250 words, along with a short academic biography in the third person, to the Oxford University Byzantine Society at byzantine.society@gmail.com by Friday, 27th November 2015. Papers should be 20 minutes in length, and should be delivered in English or French.

As with our previous conferences, there will be a publication of selected on-theme and inter-related papers, chosen and reviewed by specialist readers from the University of Oxford's Late Antique and Byzantine Studies research centres. Any speakers wishing to have their papers considered for publication should try to be as on-theme as possible in their abstract and paper. Nevertheless, all submissions are warmly invited.