

# TRENDS AND TURNING-POINTS: CONSTRUCTING THE LATE ANTIQUE AND BYZANTINE WORLD (C. 300 - C. 1500)



## THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY BYZANTINE SOCIETY'S 18TH INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE CONFERENCE

26TH - 27TH FEBRUARY 2015

ERTEGUN HOUSE, OXFORD





# Trends and Turning-Points: Constructing the Late Antique and Byzantine World (c. 300 - c. 1500)

The Oxford University Byzantine  
Society's  
18<sup>th</sup> International Graduate Conference  
26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2015  
Ertegun House, Oxford

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Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015

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09:00

Registration & Coffee

09:30

Matthew Kinloch

(OUBS President)

Opening Address

10:00

1a. Material Turning-Points?

Chair: Kristina Terpoy

Agnes Kriza

(Newnham College, Cambridge)

*Was not the Schism 1054 a Real Turning  
Point? – An Art Historical Perspective*

Hugh Jeffrey

(Lincoln College, Oxford)

*Eight Hundred Years of the Cult of the  
Archangels at Aphrodisias/Stauropolis*

Sebnem Donbekci

(Koç University)

*The Fresco Cycle of Saint Francis in  
Constantinople*

1b. Trends in Byzantine Scholarship

Chair: Nicholas Evans

Francesco Lovino

(Institute of Art History, Academy of  
Science of the Czech Republic)

*Constructing the Past through the Present. The  
Eurasian View of Byzantium through the Pages  
of Seminarium Kondakovianum (1927-1938)*

Anna Kelley

(University of Birmingham)

*Re-excavating the Archaeological Textile: 19<sup>th</sup>  
Century Practice and Modern Scholarship*

Sukanya Rai Sharma

(St John's College, Oxford)

*The Place of North Italy in the Sixth Century*

11:30

Coffee Break

12:00

2a. Monastic Trajectories

Chair: Lucy Parker

Matteo Antoniazzi

(University of Pavia)

*The Monastic Revolution: The Case of  
Sozomen's Church History*

Jeannie Sellick

(University of Virginia)

*Foul and Holy Love: Reshaping the Family in  
the Age of Asceticism*

Elif Demirtiken

(Central European University)

*From the Komnenoi to the Palaiologoi,  
Changing Trends of Monastic Patronage in  
Constantinople*

2b. Genre, Narrative & Discourse

Chair: Mirela Ivanova

Hana Coufalová Bohrnová

(Masaryk University)

*Mirrors for Princes: Genuine Byzantine Genre  
or Academic Construct?*

Laura Borghetti

(University of Rome III)

*The Power of the Cross: The Role of the Helper  
in Cassia's Hymns' Narratological Structure  
and its Doctrinal Implications*

Maria Rukavichnikova

(King's College, London)

*Laughing up the Sleeve: The Ironic Discourse  
in George Pachymeres' Historia*

13:30

Lunch

14:30

3a. Thirteenth Century as Turning Point

Chair: Matthew Kinloch

Adam Simmons

(Lancaster University)

*The Nubian King in Constantinople (1204):  
Trend or Turning Point?*

Lilyana Yordanova

(Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Paris)

*Patronage and Imperial Ideology during the  
Second Bulgarian Tsardom*

Milan Vukasinovic

(University of Belgrade & EHESS, Paris)

*Doing and Telling: Diplomacy and  
Administration in the 13th Century*

3b. Renewal, Reinvention and Empire

Chair: Joseph Dawson

Sihong Lin

(University of Manchester)

*The Man and the Hour: Imperial Renewal  
under Constans II (641-668)*

Theresia Raum

(University of Tübingen)

*οὐκ ἔξὸν βασιλεῖ ἔφασκε καταλιμπάνειν  
βασίλεια καὶ ταῖς πόρρω ἐπιχωριάζειν  
δυνάμεσιν (Niceph. brev. 2), The Reinvention  
of the Soldier-Emperor under Heraclius*

Lauren Wainwright

(University of Birmingham)

*A Cut Above the Rest: Turning-Points in  
Imperial Imagery in Late Antiquity*

16:00

Coffee Break

16:30

4a. Trends in the Built Environment

Chair: Hugh Jeffrey

Audrey Scardina

(University of Edinburgh)

*Churches through Time: An Analysis of the  
Patterns and Trends of Ecclesiastical*

*Architecture from Late Antiquity to the Middle  
Ages*

Panayiotis Panayides

(Ustinov College, Durham)

*The Life History of Statues in the Public Baths  
at Salamis, Cyprus: Changes and Continuities  
from 300 AD to 700 AD*

Stephen Humphreys

(University College, Durham)

*Ecclesiastical Influence on Water Systems in  
Byzantine Palestine*

4b. Constructing Barbarians & Romans

Chair: Michael Stawpert

Joseph Dawson

(Oriental College, Oxford)

*The End of Imperium Sine Fine: River Borders  
in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century*

Ulriika Vihervalli

(Cardiff University)

*What we Talk About When we Talk About  
War: A Re-examination of Clerical 'Reactions'  
to Barbarians*

Aleksander Paradziński

(Kellogg College, Oxford)

*From Warlords and Roman Officials to Kings*

18:00

Wine Reception

20:00

Speakers' Dinner

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Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2015

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09:00

Registration & Coffee

10:00

5a. Rethinking Byzantine Italy: Sources and Approaches

Chair: Nicholas Matheou

Maria Vrij

(University of Birmingham)

*From a Numismatic Turning Point to a Historical One: The Mint of Syracuse in the Ninth Century*

Panagiotis Theodoropoulos

(King’s College, London)

*The Last Eparch of Italy: An Interpretation of the Sigillographic Evidence*

Andrew Small

(Kellogg College, Oxford)

*A Maniac, the Weasel and the Meaning of Empire: Byzantine Italy c.1020-40*

5b. Urban Trends and Visible Turning-Points

Chair: Sukanya Rai-Sharma

Shih-Cong Fan Chiang

(King’s College, London)

*From Provincial Cities to Capitals: The Changing Patterns of the Sasanids’ Resettlement of Roman Captives in Late Antiquity*

Mirela Ivanova

(Balliol College, Oxford)

*The Madara Horseman and the Culture of Writing in Early Bulgarian Inscriptions, (c.700-850)*

Elie de Rosen

(University of Birmingham)

*The Fate of Urban Settlements in Middle Byzantine Greece*

11:30

Coffee Break

12:00

6a. Reception and Debate

Chair: Lynton Boshoff

Adrian Pirtea

(Free University of Berlin)

*Feeling the Difference: Is the Syriac Reception of Evagrius a Turning Point in the History of Late Antique Mysticism?*

Peter Bara

(University of Szeged)

*The Komnenian Iconoclast Debate: Turning Point in a Byzantine Religious Trend?*

Francesco Monticini

(University of Rome III & EHESS, Paris)

*The Mythical and the Mystical: A Re-reading of Synesius’ On Dreams in the Light of Gregoras’ Commentary*

6b. Trends in Thought and Identity

Chair: David Barritt

Alasdair Grant

(Corpus Christi College, Oxford)

*Byzantium’s Ashes and the Bones of St Nicholas: Two Translations as Turning Points, 1087-1100*

Grigory Vorobyev

(Sapienza University of Rome)

*The Place of Humanism in the Byzantine Identity Evolution: Theodore Gaza’s Case*

Gunay Heyderli

(Baku State University)

*Indulgences and the Crusade against the Turks*

13:30

Lunch

14:30

7a. Empire, Heretics and the Eastern Fringe

Chair: Alex MacFarlane

Jonas Nilsson

(Exeter College, Oxford)

*The Emperor is for Turning: Alexios Komnenos, John the Oxite and the Persecution of Heretics*

Nicholas Matheou

(Pembroke College, Oxford)

*Heresy and Society in Eleventh-Century Ccaucasia: Re-Thinking “Paulicanism” and “the T’ondrakian Movement”*

Kosuke Nakada

(University of Tokyo)

*Omens of Expansionism? A Reconsideration of the Caucasian Chapters of De Administrando Imperio*

7b. Sailing to (Late) Byzantium

Chair: Wiktor Ostasz

Max Lau

(Oriel College, Oxford)

*“Prince of Sicily, the Triremes Lie in Wait for you...” Re-evaluating the Naval Reform of John II Komnenos*

Daniele Tinterri

(University of Turin & EHESS)

*The Decline of the Byzantine Fleet: An Infrastructural Trend*

Robin Shields

(Royal Holloway, London)

*The ‘Tocco Civil War’ a Turning Point?*

16:00

Coffee Break

16:30

8a. Constructing Texts

Chair: Kirsty Stewart

Petros Tsagkaropoulos

(King’s College, London)

*John of Damascus’ Hagiographic Homilies: An Insight into the Text, the Preacher and his Sources*

Nikolas Churik

(University of Notre Dame)

*Greek Explicating Greek: A Study of Metaphrase Language and Style*

Valeria Flavia Lovato

(Universities of Turin & Lausanne)

*The ‘City-Sacker’ Epeius*

8b. A Late Antique Transformation?

Chair: Nicholas Ttofis

Josh Miller

(Duke University)

*A Formula for Christian Ecumenism: ‘Pope’ + ‘Eastern Majority’ = ‘Ecumenical Council’*

David Barritt

(St Cross College, Oxford)

*Leo I and the Transformation of the Papacy*

Alison John

(University of Edinburgh)

*Cultural Trends and Political Turning-Points: The Case of Teaching Greek in Fifth-Century Gaul*

18:00

Professor Eizabeth Jeffreys

(Emeritus Bywater and Sotheby Professor of Byzantine and Modern Greek Language and Literature, University of Oxford)

Closing Remarks

18:30

Wine Reception

20:30

Conference Dinner (all welcome)