

**Friday 5 February 2021**

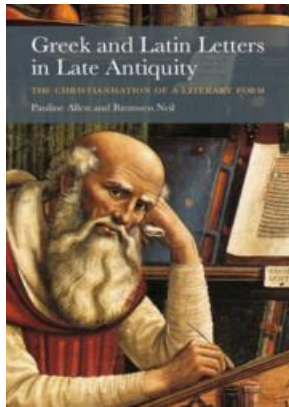
**UK Time (GMT +00:00)**

**9:50** Introduction

Petros Bouras-Vallianatos, *University of Edinburgh*

**10:00 – 10:30**

Greek and Latin Letters in Late  
Antiquity  
The Christianisation of a Literary Form



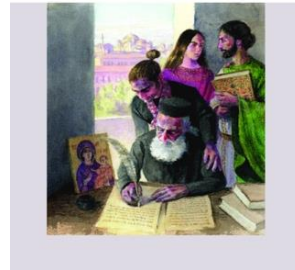
Cambridge University Press, 2020

Pauline Allen, *University of Pretoria* &  
Bronwen Neil, *Macquarie University*,  
*Sydney*  
Chair: Floris Bernard, *Ghent University*

**10:30 – 11:00**

Literary Circles in Byzantine  
Iconoclasm  
Patrons, Politics and Saints

**Literary Circles in  
Byzantine Iconoclasm**  
Patrons, Politics and Saints  
Óscar Prieto Domínguez



Cambridge University Press, 2021

Óscar Prieto Domínguez, *University  
of Salamanca*  
Chair: Niels Gaul, *University of  
Edinburgh*

**11:00 – 11:30**

Le Livre des cérémonies  
Constantin VII Porphyrogénète



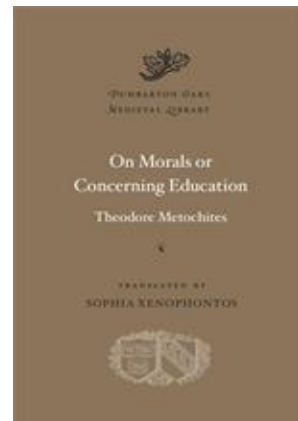
Association des Amis du Centre d'Histoire et  
Civilisation de Byzance, 2020

†Gilbert Dagron, *Académie des  
Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, Collège de  
France* &

Bernard Flusin, *Paris-Sorbonne  
University (Paris IV)/EPHE*  
with the collaboration of  
C. Zuckerman, *EPHE*  
D. Feissel, *CNRS, EPHE*  
M. Stavrou, *Panthéon-Sorbonne  
University (Paris 1)*  
R. Bondoux & J.-P. Gréolois

**11:40 – 12:10**

On Morals or Concerning Education  
Theodore Metochites



Harvard University Press, 2020

Sophia Xenophontos, *University of  
Glasgow*  
Chair: Michele Trizio, *University of  
Bari Aldo Moro*

Friday 5 February

**12:10 – 12:40**

Die enkomiastische Dichtung des Manuel Philes

Form und Funktion des literarischen Lobes in der frühen Palaiologenzeit



Walter de Gruyter, 2020

Krystina Kubina, *Austrian Academy of Sciences*

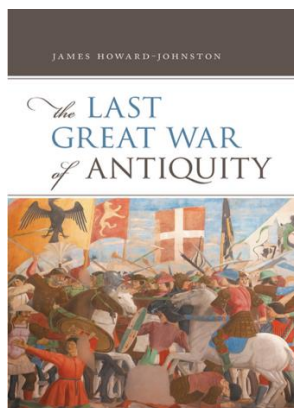
Chair: Stratis Papaioannou, *University of Crete*

**12:40 – 13:30**

**Break**

**13:30 – 14:00**

The Last Great War of Antiquity



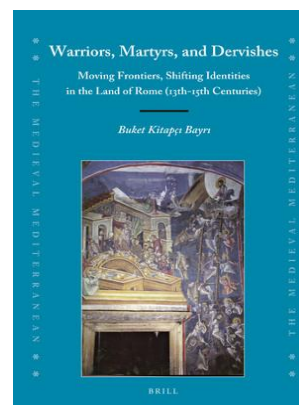
Oxford University Press, 2021

James Howard-Johnston, *University of Oxford*

Chair: Yannis Stouraitis, *University of Edinburgh*

**14:00 – 14:30**

Warriors, Martyrs, and Dervishes  
Moving Frontiers, Shifting Identities in the  
Land of Rome (13th-15th Centuries)



BRILL, 2019

Buket Kitapçı Bayrı, *Koç University*  
– *Stavros Niarchos Foundation,*  
*Center for Late Antique and*  
*Byzantine Studies*

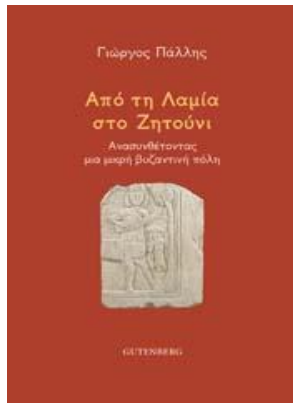
Chair: Koray Durak, *Boğaziçi University*

1st ONLINE EDINBURGH BYZANTINE BOOK FESTIVAL 2021

Friday 5 February

**14:30 – 15:00**

Από τη Λαμία στο Ζητούνι  
Ανασυνθέτοντας μια μικρή βυζαντινή πόλη  
(From Lamia to Zitouni  
Reconstructing a Small Byzantine City)

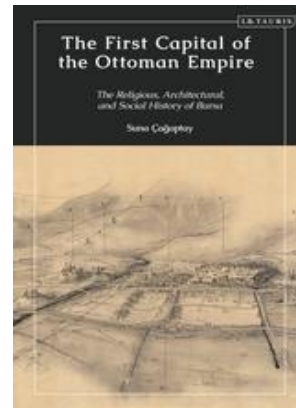


Gutenberg, 2020

Georgios Pallis, *University of Athens*  
Chair: Claudia Sode, *University of Cologne*

**15:10 – 15:40**

The First Capital of the Ottoman  
Empire  
The Religious, Architectural, and Social  
History of Bursa

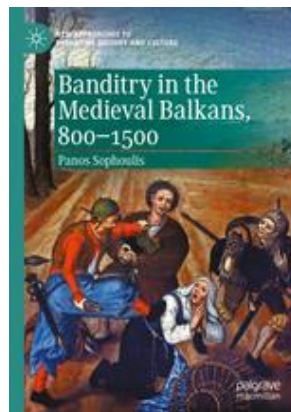


I.B. Tauris Bloomsbury, 2020

Suna Cagaptay, *University of Cambridge and Bahçeşehir University*  
Chair: Tassos Papacostas, *King's College London*

**15:40 – 16:10**

Banditry in the Medieval Balkans, 800-1500



Palgrave Macmillan, 2020

Panos Sophoulis, *University of Athens*  
Chair: Vlada Stanković, *University of Belgrade*

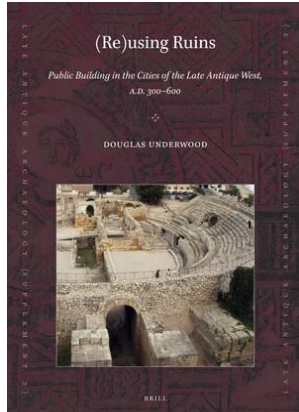
**16:10 – 16:40**

**Break**

**16:40 – 17:10**

**(Re)using Ruins**

Public Building in the Cities of the Late  
Antique West, A.D. 300-600

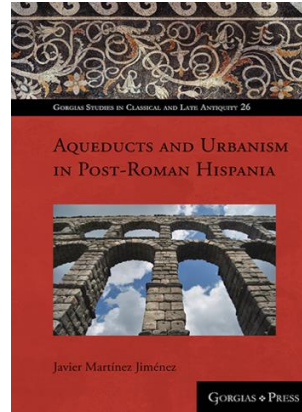


BRILL, 2019

Douglas R. Underwood, *Independent  
Scholar*  
Chair: Lucy Grig, *University of  
Edinburgh*

**17:10 – 17:40**

**Aqueducts and Urbanism in post-  
Roman Hispania**

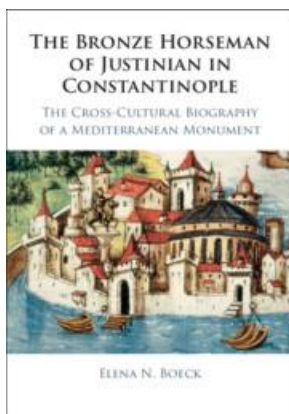


Gorgias Press, 2020

Javier Martínez Jiménez, *University  
of Cambridge*  
Chair: Louise Blanke, *University of  
Edinburgh*

**17:40 – 18:10**

**The Bronze Horseman of Justinian in  
Constantinople**  
The Cross-Cultural Biography of a  
Mediterranean Monument

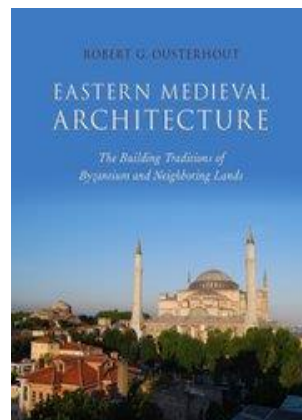


Cambridge University Press, 2021

Elena N. Boeck, *DePaul University*  
Chair: Brigitte Pitarakis, *Centre  
National de la Recherche Scientifique,  
Paris*

**18:10 – 18:40**

**Eastern Medieval Architecture**  
The Building Traditions of Byzantium and  
Neighboring Lands



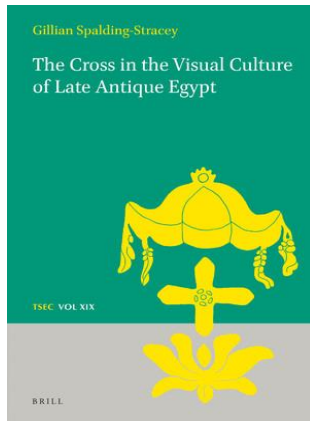
Oxford University Press, 2020

Robert G. Ousterhout, *University of  
Pennsylvania*  
Chair: Jim Crow, *University of  
Edinburgh*

**Saturday 6 February 2021**

**10:00 – 10:30**

**The Cross in the Visual Culture of Late  
Antique Egypt**

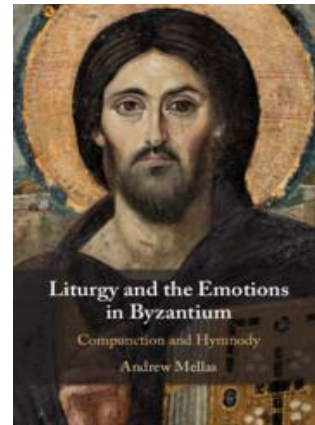


BRILL, 2020

Gillian Spalding-Stracey, *Macquarie University, Sydney*  
Chair: Arietta Papaconstantinou, *University of Reading*

**10:30 – 11:00**

**Liturgy and the Emotions in  
Byzantium**  
Compunction and Hymnody

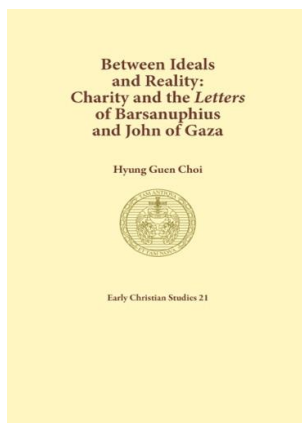


Cambridge University Press, 2020

Andrew Mellas, *St Andrew's Theological College and University of Sydney*  
Chair: Olivier Delouis, *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris*

**11:00 – 11:30**

**Between Ideals and Reality: Charity  
and the Letters of Barsanuphius and  
John of Gaza**

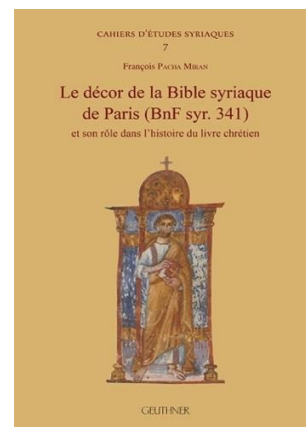


SCD Press, 2020

Hyung Guen Choi, *Anyang University*  
Chair: Paul McKechnie, *Macquarie University, Sydney*

**11:40 – 12:10**

**Le décor de la Bible syriaque de  
Paris (BnF syr. 341)**  
et son rôle dans l'histoire du livre chrétien



Éditions Geuthner, 2020

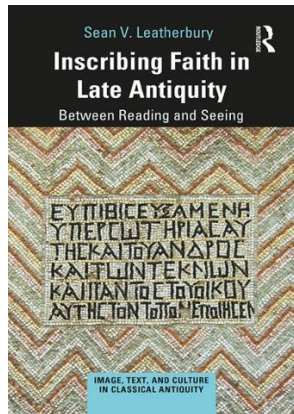
François Pacha Miran, *École Pratique des Hautes Études*  
Chair: Georgi Parpulov, *University of Birmingham*



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12:10 – 12:40

Inscribing Faith in Late Antiquity  
Between Reading and Seeing

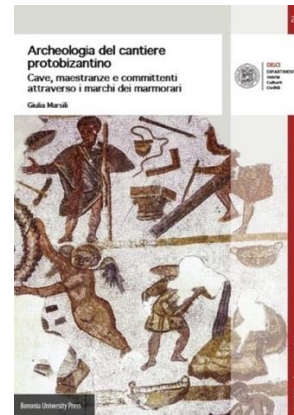


Routledge, 2019

Sean V. Leatherbury, *University  
College Dublin*  
Chair: Ida Toth, *University of Oxford*

12:40 – 13:10

L'archeologia del cantiere  
protobizantino  
Cave, maestranze e committenti attraverso  
marchi dei marmorari



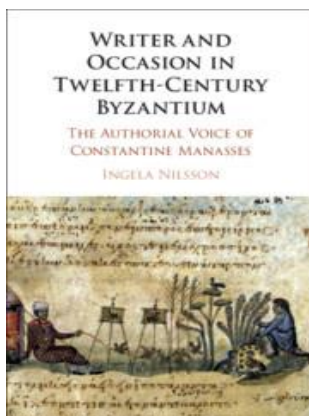
Bononia University Press, 2019

Giulia Marsili, *University of Bologna*  
Chair: Efthymios Rizos, *Hellenic  
Ministry of Culture & Sports,  
Ephorate of Antiquities of Serres*

13:10 – 14:00 Break

14:00 – 14:30

Writer and Occasion in Twelfth-  
Century Byzantium  
The Authorial Voice of Constantine Manasses



Cambridge University Press, 2020

Ingela Nilsson, *Uppsala University /  
Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul*  
Chair: Stavroula Constantinou,  
*University of Cyprus*

14:30 – 15:00

Innovation in Byzantine Medicine  
The Writings of John Zacharias Aktouarios  
(c.1275-c.1330)



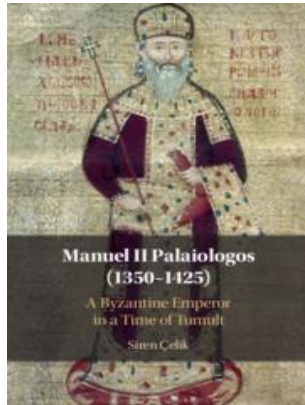
Oxford University Press, 2020

Petros Bouras-Vallianatos,  
*University of Edinburgh*  
Chair: Dionysios Stathakopoulos,  
*University of Cyprus*

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**15:00 – 15:30**

Manuel II Palaiologos (1350–1425)  
A Byzantine Emperor in a Time of Tumult



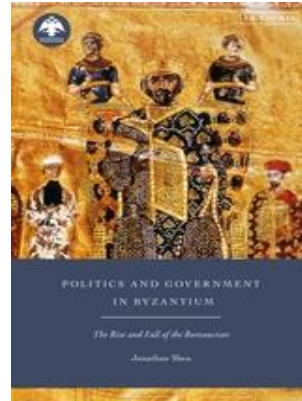
Cambridge University Press, 2021

Siren Çelik, *Marmara University, Istanbul*

Chair: Nevra Necipoğlu, *Boğaziçi University*

**15:40 – 16:10**

Politics and Government in  
Byzantium  
The Rise and Fall of the Bureaucrats



I.B. Tauris Bloomsbury, 2020

Jonathan Shea, *Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection / George Washington University*

Chair: Kostis Smyrlis, *National Hellenic Research Foundation, Athens*

**SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTATION: Graphic Novel**

**16:10 – 16:40**

Theophano  
A Byzantine tale



[www.byzantinetales.com](http://www.byzantinetales.com), 2020

Spyros Theocharis (author)  
Chrysa Sakel (illustrator)

Chair: Przemysław Marciniak, *University of Silesia in Katowice*

**16:40 – 17:10 Break**

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Saturday 6 February

17:10 – 18:10 (Combined session)

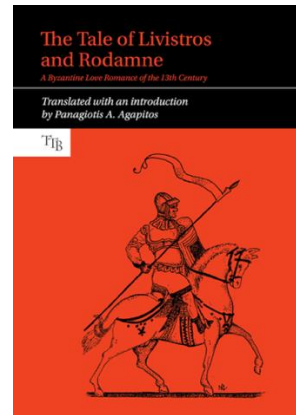
The Byzantine Hellene  
The Life of Emperor Theodore Laskaris and  
Byzantium in the Thirteenth Century



Cambridge University Press, 2019

Dimiter Angelov, *Harvard University*  
Chair: Panagiotis Agapitos, *University  
of Cyprus*

The Tale of Livistros and Rodamne  
A Byzantine Love Romance of the 13th  
Century

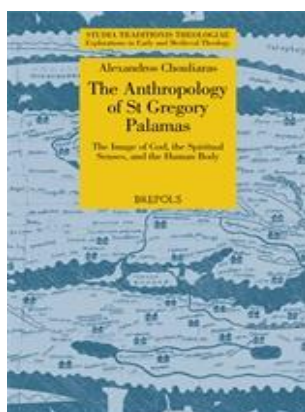


Liverpool University Press, 2021

Panagiotis Agapitos, *University of  
Cyprus*  
Chair: Dimiter Angelov, *Harvard  
University*

18:20 – 18:50

The Anthropology of St Gregory  
Palamas  
The Image of God, the Spiritual Senses, and the  
Human Body

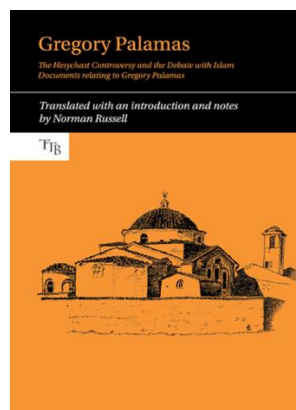


BREPOLS, 2020

Alexandros Chouliaras, *University of  
Athens*  
Chair: Alessandra Bucossi, *Ca' Foscari  
University of Venice*

18:50 – 19:20

Gregory Palamas  
The Hesychast Controversy and the Debate  
with Islam



Liverpool University Press, 2020

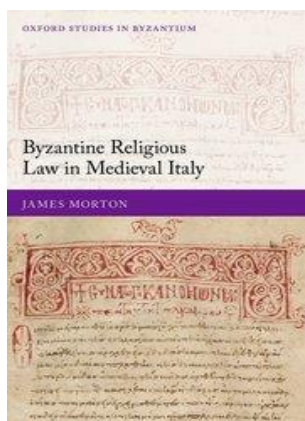
Norman Russell, *University of  
Oxford*  
Chair: Alexis Torrance, *University of  
Notre Dame*



**Sunday 7 February 2021**

**10:00 – 10:30**

Byzantine Religious Law in Medieval  
Italy



Oxford University Press, 2021

James Morton, *Chinese University of  
Hong Kong*

Chair: Daphne Penna, *University of  
Groningen*

**10:30 – 11:00**

Les Grâces à Athènes  
Éloge d'un gouverneur byzantin par  
Nikolaos Kataphlôron



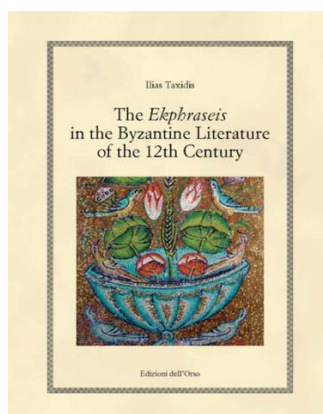
Walter de Gruyter, 2020

Marina Loukaki, *University of  
Athens*

Chair: Michael Grünbart, *University  
of Münster*

**11:00 – 11:30**

The *Ekphraseis* in the Byzantine  
Literature of the 12th Century



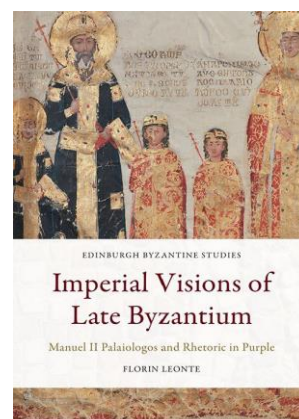
Edizioni dell'Orso, 2021

Ilias Taxidis, *Aristotle University of  
Thessaloniki*

Chair: Foteini Spingou, *University of  
Edinburgh*

**11:40 – 12:10**

Imperial Visions of Late Byzantium  
Manuel II Palaiologos and Rhetoric in  
Purple



Edinburgh University Press, 2020

Florin Leonte, *University of Olomouc*

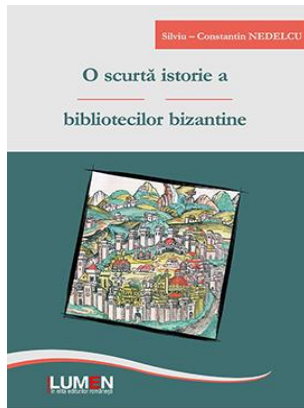
Chair: Margaret Mullett, *University  
of Edinburgh*

# 1st ONLINE EDINBURGH BYZANTINE BOOK FESTIVAL 2021

Sunday 7 February

**12:10 – 12:40**

O scurtă istorie a bibliotecilor bizantine  
(A brief history of the Byzantine  
libraries)



Editura Lumen, 2020

Silviu-Constantin Nedelcu, *Romanian  
Academy Library*  
Chair: Dimitrios Skrekas, *University of  
Oxford*

**12:40 – 13:10**

Textile from Georgia  
(Headwear of the Georgians)



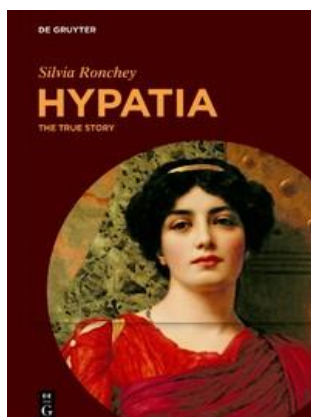
Georgian Art Palace, 2019

George Kalandia, *Georgian Art  
Palace-Museum of Cultural History*  
Chair: Ioanna Rapti, *École Pratique  
des Hautes Études*

**13:10 – 14:00 Break**

**14:00 – 14:30**

Hypatia  
The True Story

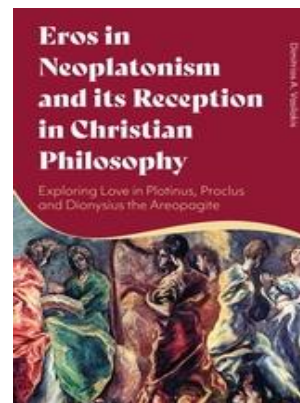


Walter de Gruyter, 2021

Silvia Ronchey, *Roma Tre University*  
Chair: Peter Schreiner, *University of  
Cologne*

**14:30 – 15:00**

Eros in Neoplatonism and its  
Reception in Christian Philosophy  
Exploring Love in Plotinus, Proclus and  
Dionysius the Areopagite



Bloomsbury Academic, 2020

Dimitrios A. Vasilakis, *University of  
Athens*  
Chair: Sara Ahbel-Rappe, *University  
of Michigan*

1st ONLINE EDINBURGH BYZANTINE BOOK FESTIVAL 2021

Sunday 7 February

**15:00 – 15:30**

Medizinische Lehrwerke aus dem  
spätantiken Alexandria  
Die "Tabulae Vindobonenses" und "Summaria  
Alexandrinorum" zu Galens "De sectis"



Walter de Gruyter, 2019

Oliver Overwien, *Humboldt University  
of Berlin*

Chair: Nadine Metzger, *Friedrich–  
Alexander University Erlangen–  
Nürnberg*

**15:30 – 16:00**

Untersuchungen zur Iatromagie in  
der byzantinischen Zeit  
Zur Tradierung gräkoägyptischer und  
spätantiker iatromagischer Motive



Walter de Gruyter, 2020

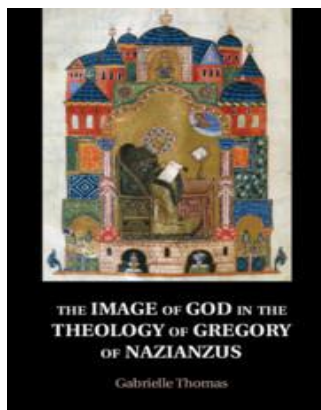
Isabel Grimm-Stadelmann,  
*Bavarian Academy of Sciences*

Chair: Alain Touwaide, *Institute for  
the Preservation of Medical  
Traditions, Washington, DC*

**16:00 – 16:30 Break**

**16:30 – 17:00**

The Image of God in the Theology of  
Gregory of Nazianzus

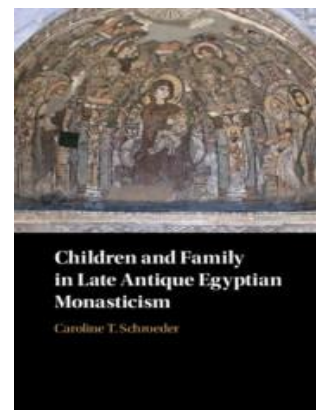


Cambridge University Press, 2019

Gabrielle Thomas, *Yale University*  
Chair: Christos Simelidis, *Aristotle  
University of Thessaloniki*

**17:00 – 17:30**

Children and Family in Late  
Antique Egyptian Monasticism



Cambridge University Press, 2020

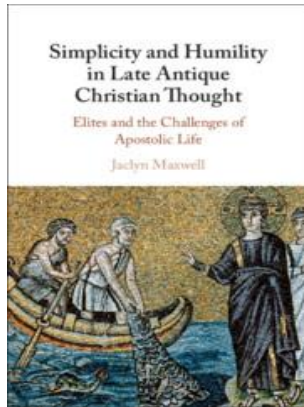
Caroline T. Schroeder, *University of  
Oklahoma*  
Chair: Béatrice Caseau, *Paris-  
Sorbonne University (Paris IV)*

# 1st ONLINE EDINBURGH BYZANTINE BOOK FESTIVAL 2021

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**17:30 – 18:00**

**Simplicity and Humility in Late  
Antique Christian Thought**  
Elites and the Challenges of Apostolic Life

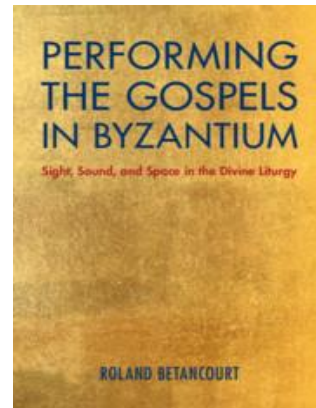


Cambridge University Press, 2021

Jaclyn Maxwell, *Ohio University*  
Chair: Edward Watts, *University of  
California San Diego*

**18:10 – 18:40**

**Performing the Gospels in  
Byzantium**  
Sight, Sound, and Space in the Divine  
Liturgy

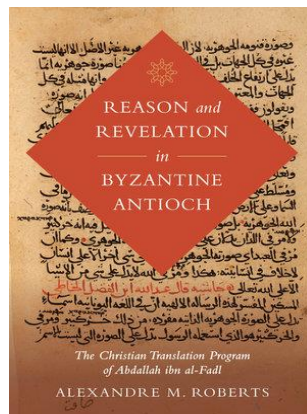


Cambridge University Press, 2021

Roland Betancourt, *University of  
California, Irvine*  
Chair: Claudia Rapp, *University of  
Vienna / Austrian Academy of  
Sciences*

**18:40 – 19:10**

**Reason and Revelation in Byzantine Antioch**  
The Christian Translation Program of Abdallah ibn al-Fadl



University of California Press, 2020

Alexandre M. Roberts, *University of Southern California*  
Chair: Petros Bouras-Vallianatos, *University of Edinburgh*

**END OF FESTIVAL**

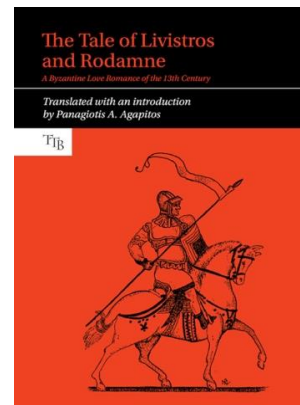


## BOOK ABSTRACTS

[The Tale of Livistros and Rodamne](#)  
[A Byzantine Love Romance of the 13th Century](#)

Panagiotis Agapitos, *University of Cyprus*

Liverpool University Press, 2021

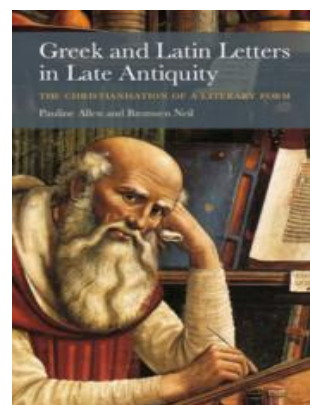


The volume offers the first fully scholarly translation into English of the *Tale of Livistros and Rodamne*, a love romance written around the middle of 13th century at the imperial court of Nicaea, at the time when Constantinople was still under Latin dominion. With its approximately 4700 verses, *Livistros and Rodamne* is the longest and most artfully composed of the surviving Byzantine vernacular love romances. It was composed to be recited in front of an aristocratic audience by an educated poet experienced in the Greek tradition of erotic fiction, yet at the same time knowledgeable of the Medieval French and Persian romances of love and adventure. The poet has created a very modern narrative filled with attractive episodes, including the only scene of demonic incantation in Byzantine fiction. The language of the romance is of a high poetic quality, challenging the translator at every step. Finally, *Livistros and Rodamne* is the only Byzantine romance that consistently constructs the Latin world of chivalry as an exotic setting, a type of *occidentalism* aiming to tame and to incorporate the Frankish Other in the social norms of the Byzantine Self after the Fall of Constantinople to the Latins in 1204.

[Greek and Latin Letters in Late Antiquity](#)  
[The Christianisation of a Literary Form](#)

Pauline Allen, *University of Pretoria*  
&  
Bronwen Neil, *Macquarie University, Sydney*

Cambridge University Press, 2020



This is the first general book on Greek and Latin letter-writing in Late Antiquity (300–600 CE). Allen and Neil examine early Christian Greek and Latin literary letters, their nature and function and the mechanics of their production and dissemination. They examine the exchange of Episcopal, monastic and imperial letters between men, and the gifts that accompanied them, and the rarer phenomenon of letter exchanges with imperial and aristocratic women. They also

look at the transmission of letter-collections and what they can tell us about friendships and other social networks between the powerful elites who were the literary letter-writers of the fourth to sixth centuries. The volume gives a broad context to late-antique literary letter-writing in Greek and Latin in its various manifestations: political, ecclesiastical, practical and social. In the process, the differences between “pagan” and Christian letter-writing are shown to be not as great as has previously been supposed.

[The Byzantine Hellene](#)  
[The Life of Emperor Theodore Laskaris](#)  
[and Byzantium in the Thirteenth](#)  
[Century](#)

Dimiter Angelov, *Harvard University*

Cambridge University Press, 2019

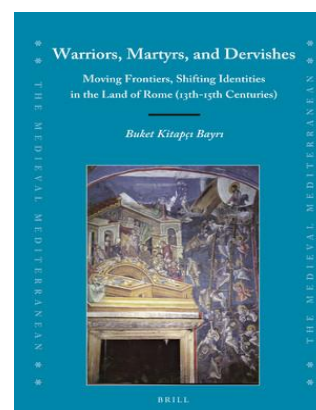


This book tells the extraordinary story of Theodore II Laskaris, an emperor who ruled over the Byzantine state of Nicaea established in Asia Minor after the fall of Constantinople to the crusaders in 1204. Theodore Laskaris was a man of literary talent and keen intellect. His action-filled life, youthful mentality, anxiety about communal identity (Anatolian, Roman, and Hellenic), ambitious reforms cut short by an early death, and thoughts and feelings are all reconstructed on the basis of his rich and varied writings. His original philosophy, also explored here, led him to a critique of scholasticism in the West, a mathematically inspired theology, and a political vision of Hellenism. A personal biography, a ruler's biography, and an intellectual biography, this highly illustrated book opens a vista onto the eastern Mediterranean, Anatolia, and the Balkans in the thirteenth century, as seen from the vantage point of a key political actor and commentator.

[Warriors, Martyrs, and Dervishes](#)  
[Moving Frontiers, Shifting Identities in](#)  
[the Land of Rome \(13th-15th Centuries\)](#)

Buket Kitapçı Bayrı, *Koç University –  
Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Center  
for Late Antique and Byzantine  
Studies*

BRILL, 2019



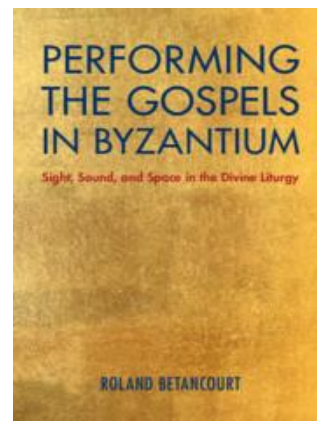
*Warriors, Martyrs, and Dervishes: Moving Frontiers, Shifting Identities in the Land of Rome (13th-15th Centuries)* focuses on the perceptions of geopolitical and cultural change, which was triggered by the arrival of Turkish Muslim groups into the territories of the Byzantine Empire at the end of the eleventh century, through

intersecting stories transmitted in Turkish Muslim warrior epics and dervish *vitas*, and late Byzantine martyrria. It examines the Byzantines' encounters with the newcomers in a shared story- world, here called "land of Rome", as well as its perception, changing geopolitical and cultural frontiers, and in relation to these changes, the shifts in identity of the people inhabiting this space. The study highlights the complex relationship between the character of specific places and the cultural identities of the people who inhabited them.

**Performing the Gospels in  
Byzantium  
Sight, Sound, and Space in the Divine  
Liturgy**

Roland Betancourt, *University of  
California, Irvine*

Cambridge University Press, 2021

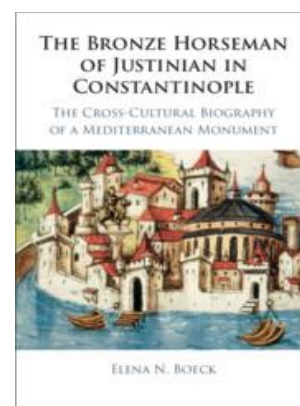


Tracing the Gospel text from script to illustration to recitation, this study looks at how illuminated manuscripts operated within ritual and architecture. Focusing on a group of richly illuminated lectionaries from the late eleventh century, the book articulates how the process of textual recitation produced marginalia and miniatures that reflected and subverted the manner in which the Gospel was read and simultaneously imagined by readers and listeners alike. This unique approach to manuscript illumination points to images that slowly unfolded in the mind of its listeners as they imagined the text being recited, as meaning carefully changed and built as the text proceeded. By examining this process within specific acoustic architectural spaces and the sonic conditions of medieval chant, the volume brings together the concerns of sound studies, liturgical studies, and art history to demonstrate how images, texts, and recitations played with the environment of the Middle Byzantine church.

**The Bronze Horseman of  
Justinian in Constantinople  
The Cross-Cultural Biography of a  
Mediterranean Monument**

Elena N. Boeck, *DePaul University*

Cambridge University Press, 2021



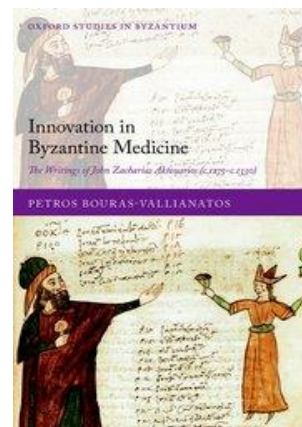
This is the first interdisciplinary, international biography of the medieval Mediterranean's most cross-culturally significant sculptural monument. Justinian's triumphal column was the tallest, free- standing column of the pre-

modern world was crowned by the largest metal, equestrian sculpture created anywhere in the world before 1699. The Byzantine empire's bronze horseman towered over the heart of Constantinople, assumed new identities, spawned conflicting narratives, and acquired widespread international acclaim. Because all traces of Justinian's column were erased from the urban fabric of Istanbul in the sixteenth century, scholars have undervalued its astonishing agency and remarkable longevity. Its impact in visual and verbal culture was arguably among the most extensive of any Mediterranean monument. The book analyzes Byzantine, Islamic, Slavic, Crusader, and Renaissance historical accounts, medieval pilgrimages, geographic, apocalyptic and apocryphal narratives, vernacular poetry, Byzantine, Bulgarian, Italian, French, Latin, and Ottoman illustrated manuscripts, Florentine wedding chests, Venetian paintings, and Russian icons.

**Innovation in Byzantine Medicine**  
**The Writings of John Zacharias**  
**Aktouarios (c.1275-c.1330)**

Petros Bouras-Vallianatos, *University  
of Edinburgh*

Oxford University Press, 2020



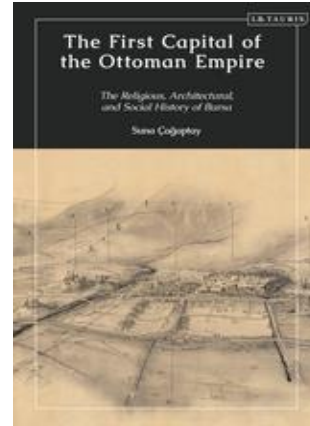
This volume presents the first comprehensive examination of the medical corpus of, arguably, the most important Late Byzantine physician: John Zacharias Aktouarios (c.1275-c.1330). Its main thesis is that John's medical works show an astonishing degree of openness to knowledge from outside Byzantium combined with a significant degree of originality, in particular, in the fields of uroscopy and human physiology. The analysis of John's edited (*On Urines* and *On Psychic Pneuma*) and unedited (*Medical Epitome*) treatises is supported for the first time by the consultation of a large number of manuscripts, and is also informed by evidence from a wide range of medical sources, including those previously unpublished, and texts from other genres, such as epistolography and merchants' accounts. The contextualization of John's corpus sheds new light on the development of Byzantine medical thought and practice, and enhances our understanding of the Late Byzantine social and intellectual landscape. Through examination of his medical observations in the light of examples from the medieval Latin and Islamic worlds, his theories are also placed within the wider Mediterranean milieu, highlighting the cultural exchange between Byzantium and its neighbours.



**The First Capital of the Ottoman  
Empire**  
**The Religious, Architectural, and Social  
History of Bursa**

Suna Cagaptay, *University of  
Cambridge and Bahçeşehir University*

I.B. Tauris Bloomsbury, 2020

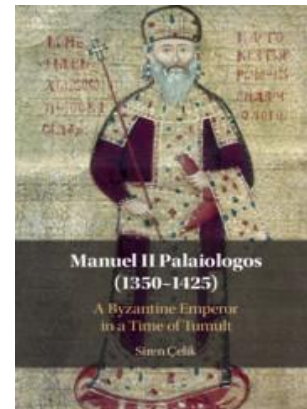


Conquered in 1326, Bursa, known to the Byzantines as Prousa, served as the first capital of the Ottoman Empire. It retained its spiritual and commercial importance even after Edirne (Adrianople) in Thrace, and later Constantinople (Istanbul), functioned as Ottoman capitals. Yet, to date, no comprehensive study has been published on the city's role as the inaugural center of a great empire. In works by art and architectural historians, the city has often been portrayed as having a small or insignificant pre-Ottoman past, as if the Ottomans created the city from scratch. This couldn't be farther from the truth. This book tells the story of the transition from a Byzantine city to an Ottoman one, by discussing the encounter between local and incoming forms. Indeed, when one looks more closely and recognizes that the contributions of the past do not threaten the authenticity of the present, a richer and more accurate narrative of the city and its Ottoman accommodation emerges.

**Manuel II Palaiologos (1350–1425)**  
**A Byzantine Emperor in a Time of  
Tumult**

Siren Çelik, *Marmara University,  
Istanbul*

Cambridge University Press, 2021



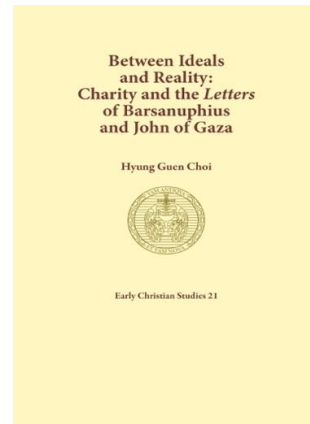
Few Byzantine emperors had a life as rich and as turbulent as Manuel II Palaiologos. A fascinating figure at the crossroads of Byzantine, Western European and Ottoman history, he endured political turmoil, witnessed no less than three sieges by the Ottomans and travelled as far as France and England. He was a prolific writer, producing a vast corpus of literary, theological and philosophical works. This biography constructs an in-depth picture of him of as a ruler, author and personality, as well as providing insight into his world and times. It offers the first analysis of the emperor's complete oeuvre, focusing on his literary style, self-representation and select aspects of his philosophical/theological thought. Other topics of key discussion include Manuel's governance, relationships with family, friends and foes, his travels and pastimes.

By focusing not only on political events, but also on the personality, personal life and literary output of Manuel, this biography paints a new portrait of a multifaceted emperor.

**Between Ideals and Reality:  
Charity and the Letters of  
Barsanuphius and John of Gaza**

Hyung Guen Choi, *Anyang University*

SCD Press, 2020

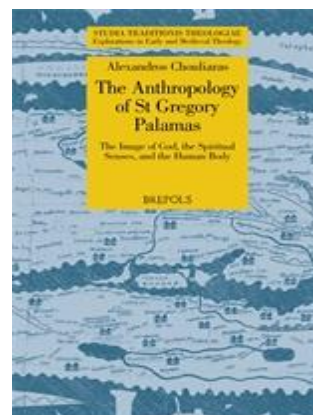


This book examines the compiled letters of Barsanuphius and John called as holy men in late antique Gaza to analyze their view of charity (giving gifts, welcoming strangers and caring for the sick), as well as the relationship between social inferiors, wealth and benefactors. In order to lay foundation for the study, we explore geographical, socioeconomic, intellectual and religious background of the city of Gaza during Late Antiquity. Then a history of Gazan monasticism, and the correspondence of the Barsanuphius and John are provided.

**The Anthropology of St Gregory  
Palamas  
The Image of God, the Spiritual Senses,  
and the Human Body**

Alexandros Chouliaras, *University of Athens*

BREPOLS, 2020



This monograph argues that the anthropology of the fourteenth-century monk, theologian, and bishop Gregory Palamas has a great deal to offer to Christian life and theology today. Amongst the contributions the book makes are the following. First, according to Palamas, the image of God is inherent in humanity, but our final goal is to attain likeness to God. Moreover, the human is superior to the angels in terms of the image of God for specific reasons, all linked to his corporeality. Secondly, the spiritual senses refer not only to the soul, but also to the body; St Gregory ascribes an extremely high value to the human body. Finally, absolutely central to Palamas' theology is the strong emphasis he places on the human potentiality—embracing both soul and body—for union with God, *theosis*: that is, the passage from *image* to *likeness*. And herein lies, perhaps, his most important gift to the anthropological concerns of our epoch.

**Le Livre des cérémonies**  
**Constantin VII Porphyrogénète**

†Gilbert Dagron, *Académie des  
Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, Collège  
de France &*  
Bernard Flusin, *Sorbonne Université  
and École Pratique des Hautes Études*  
with the collaboration of  
C. Zuckerman, *EPHE*  
D. Feissel, *CNRS, EPHE*  
M. Stavrou, *Université Paris 1-  
Panthéon-Sorbonne*  
R. Bondoux & J.-P. Grégois



Association des Amis du Centre d'Histoire et  
Civilisation de Byzance, 2020

The *Book of Ceremonies* was conceived as an undertaking to inventory and restore Byzantine ritual by a learned ruler, Constantine VII (913-959). The collection includes the ceremonies of the liturgical year in Constantinople, from Saint Sophia to the Holy Apostles, civil ceremonies such as the promotions of civil servants or chariot races at the Hippodrome, receptions of Arab ambassadors or the Russian Princess Olga, chapters on recent military expeditions to Syria, Italy and Crete, but also excerpts from an older author, Peter the Patrician (sixth c.). The *Book of Ceremonies* had long been calling for a new edition. It took more than 30 years for this scientific project, launched by Gilbert Dagron (1932-2015) at the Collège de France, to be completed under the direction of Bernard Flusin. This imposing edifice of nearly 3,000 pages includes the Greek text, a French translation and abundant commentaries, indexes, maps and lexica.

**Untersuchungen zur Iatromagie**  
**in der byzantinischen Zeit**  
**Zur Tradierung gräkoägyptischer und**  
**spätantiker iatromagischer Motive**

Isabel Grimm-Stadelmann, *Bavarian  
Academy of Sciences*

Walter de Gruyter, 2020

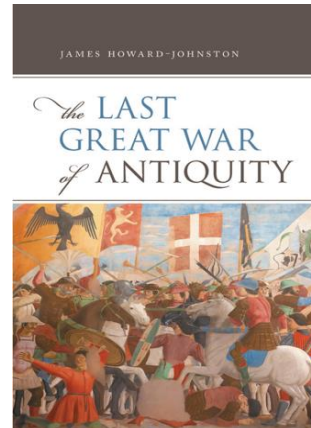


The book is an analysis of the reception and contextualization of Graeco-Egyptian iatromagical motifs in Byzantine medical literature. Before this background, unconventional therapeutical concepts like amulets and rituals are less to be understood as superstition but rather as concepts of medical ethics and manifestations of patient-related health-care.

### The Last Great War of Antiquity

James Howard-Johnston, *University of Oxford*

Oxford University Press, 2021



The first book-length study of the last and longest war of classical antiquity, fought in the early seventh century between Persians and Romans. The author draws together complex and disparate source material, in languages including Arabic, Armenian, Greek, Latin, and Syriac, to provide a comprehensive account of this conflict which is important as the final episode in classical history, and the prelude to the rise of Islam.

### Textile from Georgia (Headwear of the Georgians)

George Kalandia, *Georgian Art Palace-Museum of Cultural History*

Georgian Art Palace, 2019



The royal crown has always been a prominent part of the vestments of Georgian kings. And the theme of headwear has been of interest to many Georgian scholars. The main goal of this work is to provide a comprehensive study of the topic as well as to fully define the stages of development, genesis and significance of Georgian headwear and crowns. As with the previous project “Textile from Georgia”, in this project, we have used an original method to thoroughly study the subject: members of the creative team sketched both crowns and other types of headwear shown in the frescoes of almost all important Georgian churches and monasteries; after which these drawings were compared with other types of visual materials (miniatures, engravings, sketches, etc.) they were chronologically sorted and prepared for publication. This peculiar encyclopedia, with proper explanations and scholarly texts, illustrates how in Georgia the forms of headwear developed and changed according to the influence of different civilizations, but still kept their originality. From medieval Georgian written sources, as well as from coins, patterns of goldsmithing and especially fresco paintings, it has been possible to restore both the crowns of the Georgian kings and queens and other headgear



worn in Georgia. As in other monarchical states, the king's crown was a symbol of power and often carried distinctive symbolic meaning in Georgia.

**Die enkomiastische Dichtung des  
Manuel Philes  
Form und Funktion des literarischen  
Lobes in der frühen Palaiologenzeit**

Krystina Kubina, *Austrian Academy  
of Sciences*

Walter de Gruyter, 2020

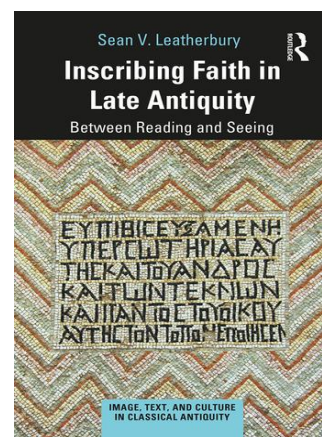


This book presents the first detailed investigation of the encomiastic poetry by Manuel Philes (c. 1270–after 1332), the most important poet of the Palaiologan period, a corpus of verse letters, epitaphs, monodies, and epigrams (c. 17,000 verses) that comprises more than half of his transmitted poems. It argues that Philes used his remarkable literary skills as an essential means of social positioning for both himself and his patrons. The first part offers a philological analysis of the poems with respect to their genres, motifs, and rhetorical devices. The second part focuses on their social, intellectual, and literary contexts. It analyses the different functions—literary-aesthetic, referential, expressive, social, and persuasive—of Philes' poems and investigates their production and reception through his motivation for writing laudations, their oral performance and written display, and their later recontextualization. Philes, as the monograph shows, used his versified praise with ingenuity to navigate fourteenth-century Palaiologan society.

**Inscribing Faith in Late Antiquity  
Between Reading and Seeing**

Sean V. Leatherbury, *University  
College Dublin*

Routledge, 2019



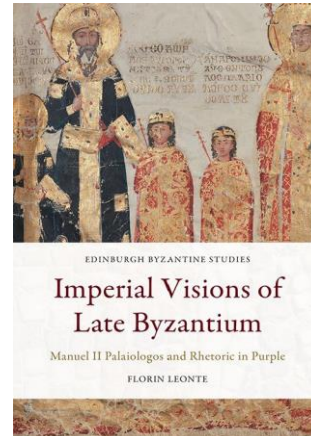
*Inscribing Faith in Late Antiquity* considers the Greek and Latin texts inscribed in churches and chapels in the late antique Mediterranean (c. 300–800 CE). These texts not only recorded the names and prayers of the faithful, but were powerful verbal and visual statements of cultural values and religious beliefs, conveying meaning through their words as well as through their appearances. In fact, the two were intimately connected. All of these texts – Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and

pagan – acted visually, embracing their own materiality as mosaic, paint, or carved stone. Colourful and artfully arranged, the inscriptions framed human relationships with the divine, encouraged responses from readers, and made prayers material. In the first in-depth examination of the inscriptions as words and as images, the author reimagines the range of aesthetic, cultural, and religious experiences that were possible in spaces of worship.

[Imperial Visions of Late  
Byzantium  
Manuel II Palaiologos and Rhetoric in  
Purple](#)

Florin Leonte, *University of Olomouc*

Edinburgh University Press, 2020



Manuel II Palaiologos was not only a Byzantine emperor but also a remarkably prolific rhetorician and theologian. His oeuvre included letters, treatises, dialogues, short poems and orations. Florin Leonte deals with several of his texts shaped by a didactic intention to educate the emperor's son and successor, John VIII Palaiologos. He argues that the emperor constructed a rhetorical persona which he used in an attempt to compete with other contemporary power-brokers. While Manuel Palaiologos adhered to many rhetorical conventions of his day, he also reasserted the civic role of rhetoric. With a special focus on the first two decades of Manuel II Palaiologos' rule, 1391–1417, Leonte offers a new understanding of the imperial ethos in Byzantium by combining rhetorical analysis with investigation of social and political phenomena.

[Les Grâces à Athènes  
Éloge d'un gouverneur byzantin par  
Nikolaos Kataphlôron](#)

Marina Loukaki, *University of Athens*

Walter de Gruyter, 2020



This is the first commented critical edition translated into French of the only known work of Nikolaos Kataphlôron, an orator and teacher in 12th century Constantinople. The author, through the praise of a Byzantine aristocrat governor residing in Athens, without deviating from the regulatory framework of the genre, raises issues of rhetoric and political theory, social behavior, literary and self-

criticism. Moreover, he composes and integrates various rhetorical genres, exemplary laudatory pieces for different types of men, women and circumstances, in a high and elaborate style, with a multitude of quotes or indirect references to texts of Christian and pagan literature. In the Introduction and the footnotes, in addition to the Nikolaos Kataphloron biography, the questions about the recipient's prosopography, the historical context in which the text was composed and its date, they are discussed issues related to the education, the rhetoric and more generally the literature of Comnenian era.

[L'archeologia del cantiere  
protobizantino  
Cave, maestranze e committenti  
attraverso marchi dei marmorari](#)

Giulia Marsili, *University of Bologna*

Bononia University Press, 2019

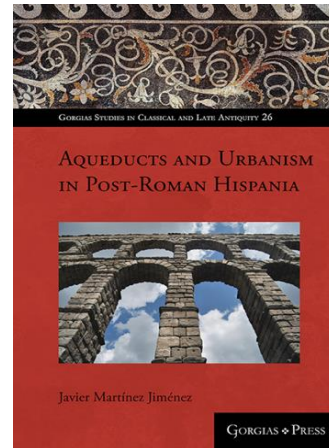


The book deals with the study of the ancient building site, with peculiar focus on the marble manufacturing cycle. This segment of the labour market is analysed under the administrative, social and artisanal point of view. Despite the diachronic and comparative perspective of the study, the main effort is devoted to the early Byzantine period. Different kind of sources are brought together to shed light on the human and professional contribution of the craftsmen to the logistics of the building site, in terms of variety, management and mobility, in order to enrich the knowledge of the construction industry as a whole, with specific focus on the operational systems existing between the planning and the actual implementation of the construction process. Among epigraphical and archaeological sources, the masons' marks represent a valuable index-fossil, which contributes to reconstruct wide-ranging professional skills at stake and a remarkable transfer of technical knowhow across geographical borders. In this work, more than 3300 epigraphic signs are collected: they are carved on about 2950 marble items (some of which inscribed more than once) from different archaeological contexts all over the Mediterranean. These epigraphic documents are a unique repository of information about the administrative organization of quarry districts, technical procedures for carving and assembling marble items, as well as about the operational arrangement of the workshops. Coming from all over the Mediterranean, they show the existence of a shared knowledge across regional borders and throw light on a category of workers who traditionally used to disappear behind their own work, without leaving memory of themselves and their individuality. In the last section of the book, a wide range of written sources are investigated in order to place the phenomenon of marble in a broader socio-economic context, with particular reference to the social status of the various professional figures involved and the role actively carry out by patrons.

**Aqueducts and Urbanism in post-Roman Hispania**

Javier Martínez Jiménez, *University of Cambridge*

Gorgias Press, 2020

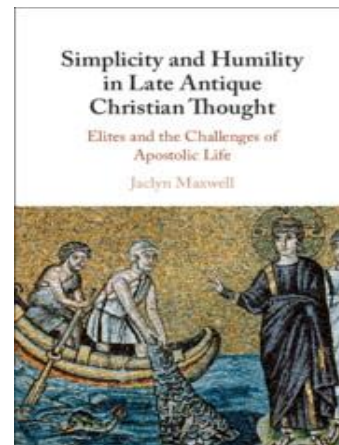


Our current knowledge of Roman aqueducts across the Empire is patchy and uneven. Even if the development of “aqueduct studies” (where engineering, archaeology, architecture, hydraulics, and other disciplines converge) in recent years has improved this situation, one of the aspects which has been generally left aside is the chronology of their late antique phases and of their abandonment. In the Iberian peninsula, there is to date, no general overview of the Roman aqueducts, and all the available information is distributed across various publications, which as expected, hardly mention the late phases. This publication tackles this issue by analysing and reassessing the available evidence for the late phases of the Hispanic aqueducts by looking at a wide range of sources of information, many times derived from the recent interest shown by archaeologists and researchers on late antique urbanism.

**Simplicity and Humility in Late Antique Christian Thought**  
**Elites and the Challenges of Apostolic Life**

Jaclyn Maxwell, *Ohio University*

Cambridge University Press, 2021



The social values of upper-class Christians in Late Antiquity often contrasted with the modest backgrounds of their religion’s founders—the apostles—and the virtues they exemplified. Drawing on examples from the Cappadocian Fathers, John Chrysostom, and other late antique authors, this book examines attitudes toward the apostles’ status as manual workers and their virtues of simplicity and humility. Due to the strong connection between these traits and low socioeconomic status, late antique bishops often allowed their own high standing to influence how they understood these matters. The virtues of simplicity and humility had been a natural fit for tentmakers and fishermen but posed a significant challenge to Christians born to elite and trained in prestigious schools. This book examines the socioeconomic implications of Christianity in the Roman Empire by

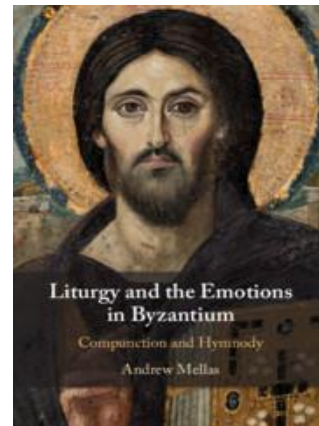


considering how the first wave of powerful, upper-class church leaders interpreted the socially radical elements of their religion.

[Liturgy and the Emotions in  
Byzantium  
Compunction and Hymnody](#)

Andrew Mellas, *St Andrew's  
Theological College and University of  
Sydney*

Cambridge University Press, 2020

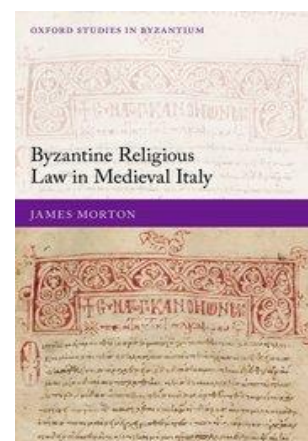


This book explores the liturgical experience of emotions in Byzantium through the hymns of Romanos the Melodist, Andrew of Crete and Kassia. It reimagines the performance of their hymns during Great Lent and Holy Week in Constantinople. In doing so, it understands compunction as a liturgical emotion, intertwined with paradisaical nostalgia, a desire for repentance and a wellspring of tears. For the faithful, liturgical emotions were embodied experiences that were enacted through sacred song and mystagogy. The three hymnographers chosen for this study span a period of nearly four centuries and had an important connection to Constantinople, which forms the topographical and liturgical nexus of the study. Their work also covers three distinct genres of hymnography: kontakion, kanon and sticheron idiomelon. Through these lenses of period, place and gender this study examines the affective performativity hymns and the Byzantine experience of compunction.

[Byzantine Religious Law in  
Medieval Italy](#)

James Morton, *Chinese University of  
Hong Kong*

Oxford University Press, 2021



*Byzantine Religious Law in Medieval Italy* offers the first historical study of a group of thirty-six manuscripts of Byzantine canon law produced by Greek Christians in southern Italy between the tenth and fourteenth centuries. Drawing on the insights of legal anthropology and the methods of material philology, it approaches the manuscripts as witnesses to the region's changing legal culture during its transition from Byzantine to Western (Norman, Hohenstaufen, and Angevin) rule. Its most important insight is that the Italo-Greeks continued to

observe Byzantine canon law as an operative legal system in the legally pluralistic atmosphere of the twelfth-century Norman Kingdom of Sicily. From the thirteenth century, however, the Roman papacy began to assert its own jurisdictional authority more effectively, eroding the legal status of the Byzantine canons. Nonetheless, the Italo-Greeks continued to draw on their Byzantine legal heritage to explain and justify their distinctive religious rites to their Latin neighbours.

**O scurtă istorie a bibliotecilor  
bizantine**

(A brief history of the Byzantine  
libraries)

Silviu-Constantin Nedelcu, *Romanian  
Academy Library*

Editura Lumen, 2020

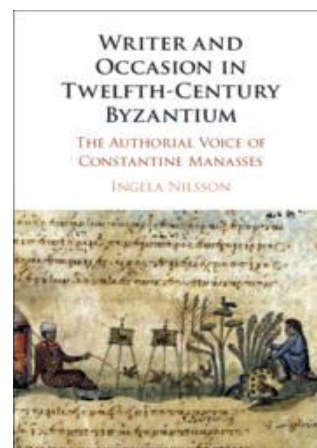


The foundation of the imperial library represented the starting point for other types of libraries present there until the Ottomans' conquest of the Byzantine Empire in 1453. At that time, the most important libraries in the Byzantium were: imperial, patriarchal monastic and private library. To these four types of libraries, the author adds the university library which is stated to have existed at the University of Constantinople. This particular university library, founded by Emperor Theodosius II (408-450 BC) in 425BC, and is referred to as the legal library or the library of the law school. These five types of libraries have undergone an interesting evolution over the 11 centuries of Byzantine history, but were abolished with the fall under the Ottoman Empire, on the 29th of May 1453.

**Writer and Occasion in Twelfth-  
Century Byzantium**  
**The Authorial Voice of Constantine  
Manasses**

Ingela Nilsson, *Uppsala University /  
Swedish Research Institute in  
Istanbul*

Cambridge University Press, 2020



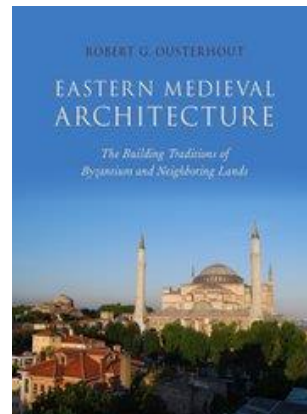
In twelfth-century Constantinople, writers worked on commission for the imperial family or aristocratic patrons. Texts were occasioned by specific events, representing both a link between writer and patron and between literary imagination and empirical reality. This is a study of how one such writer, Constantine Manasses, achieved that aim. Manasses depicted and praised the present by drawing from the rich sources of the Graeco-Roman and Biblical

tradition, thus earning commissions from wealthy “friends” during a career that spanned more than three decades. While the occasional literature of writers like Manasses has sometimes been seen as “empty rhetoric”, devoid of literary ambition, this study assumes that writing on command privileges originality and encourages the challenging of conventions. A society like twelfth-century Byzantium, in which occasional writing was central, called for a strong and individual authorial presence, since voice was the primary instrument for a successful career.

**Eastern Medieval Architecture**  
**The Building Traditions of Byzantium**  
**and Neighboring Lands**

Robert G. Ousterhout, *University of Pennsylvania*

Oxford University Press, 2020



The focus of the book is the Byzantine (or East Roman) Empire (324-1453 CE), with its capital in Constantinople, although the framework expands chronologically to include the foundations of Christian architecture in Late Antiquity and the legacy of Byzantine culture after the fall of Constantinople in 1453. Geographically broad as well, this study includes architectural developments in areas of Italy, the Caucasus, the Near East, the Balkans, and Russia, as well as related developments in early Islamic architecture. Alternating chapters that address chronological or regionally-based developments with thematic studies that focus on the larger cultural concerns, the book presents the architectural developments in a way that makes them accessible, interesting, and intellectually stimulating. In doing so, it also explains why medieval architecture in the East followed such a different trajectory from that of the West.

**Medizinische Lehrwerke aus dem**  
**spätantiken Alexandria**  
**Die "Tabulae Vindobonenses" und**  
**"Summaria Alexandrinorum" zu Galens**  
**"De sectis"**

Oliver Overwien, *Humboldt University of Berlin*

Walter de Gruyter, 2019



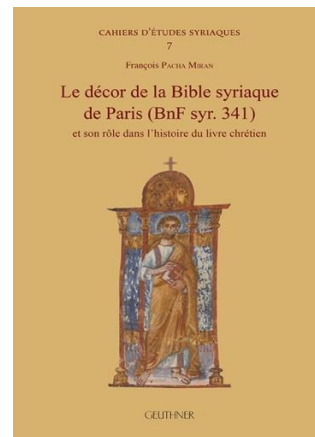
The so-called *Tabulae Vindobonenses* and *Summaria Alexandrinorum* are teaching works that were created in late antique Alexandria (5th-7th centuries AD). These works were intended to complement the lectures given by Alexandrian

medicine teachers (iatrosophists). They contain central content from the writings of the curriculum author Galen of Pergamon in the form of subdivisions of terms (dihairesis). The subject of this study is the sections dealing with Galen's *De sectis* (*On Medical Sects*). They are edited, translated into German and embedded in the teaching context. The study not only explores texts that have so far received virtually no attention in modern research, but also achieves completely new insights into the structure and didactics of Alexandrian medicine lessons. Furthermore, it can be shown that textbooks of this kind influenced medical teaching for many centuries, in the Latin West, in Byzantium and, last but not least, in the Syriac-Arabic-speaking tradition.

**Le décor de la Bible syriaque de  
Paris (BnF syr. 341)  
et son rôle dans l'histoire du livre  
chrétien**

François Pacha Miran, *École Pratique  
des Hautes Études*

Éditions Geuthner, 2020



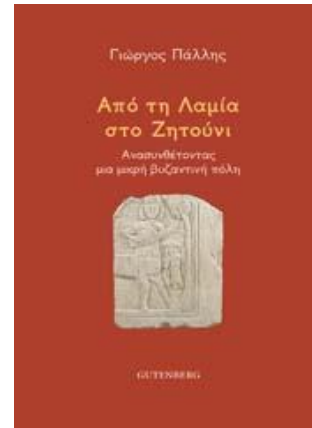
Amongst the few biblical illustrated manuscripts that were produced in the Christian East during Late Antiquity, the Paris Syriac Bible (BnF syr. 341) holds a remarkable place. Today, a century after its acquisition by the French National Library at the height of the Assyrian- Chaldean-Syriac slaughter, the current publication intends to summarize a century of research dedicated to the somewhat unknown manuscript. On paleographic and stylistic grounds, we can assume that the Paris Syriac Bible was written and adorned in Northern Mesopotamia in the sixth century. The examination of the manuscript's material features (codicology, paleography, pigments), as well as the analysis of its textual contents and liturgical functions, contribute to a new understanding of its illumination. The twenty-four preserved miniatures, depicting figures and feats of the Old Testament, constitute a sophisticated iconographic cycle that shares many common features with other early Byzantine illustrated manuscripts, underlining the specificities of the Syriac spiritual tradition.

Από τη Λαμία στο Ζητούνι  
Ανασυνθέτοντας μια μικρή βυζαντινή  
πόλη

(From Lamia to Zitouni  
Reconstructing a Small Byzantine City)

Georgios Pallis, *University of Athens*

Gutenberg, 2020

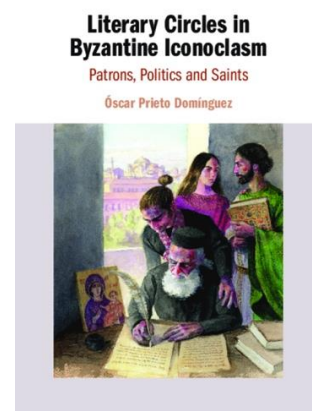


Located on a key position on the pass from north to southern Greece, Lamia (renamed Zitouni after 9th c. AD) was a typical small, but significant byzantine provincial center. As guard of the pass, it hosted local administrative and ecclesiastical authorities under Byzantine, Latin and Catalan rule. Unfortunately, apart from a castle, very few traces of the city structure and buildings survive today. The book combines various written sources, archaeological evidence, works of art, sigillography, coins circulation and modern literature, in order to reconstruct the historical evolution and the appearance of the city from the 4th c. till the end of the Middle Ages, giving in the meantime an example of interdisciplinary approach on byzantine settlements.

Literary Circles in Byzantine  
Iconoclasm  
Patrons, Politics and Saints

Óscar Prieto Domínguez, *University of Salamanca*

Cambridge University Press, 2021



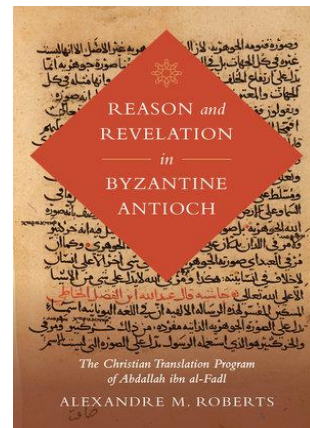
Iconoclasm was the name given to the stance of that portion of Eastern Christianity that rejected worshipping God through images (*eikones*) representing Christ, the Virgin or the saints and was the official doctrine of the Byzantine Empire for most of the period between 726 and 843. It was a period marked by violent passions on either side. This is the first comprehensive account of the extant contemporary texts relating to this phenomenon and their impact on society, politics and identity. By examining the literary circles emerging both during the time of persecution and immediately after the restoration of icons in 843, the volume casts new light on the striking (re)construction of Byzantine society, whose iconophile identity was biasedly redefined by the political parties led by Theodoros Stoudites, Gregorios Dekapolites and Empress Theodora or the patriarchs Methodios, Ignatios and Photios. It thereby offers an innovative paradigm for approaching Byzantine literature.



**Reason and Revelation in  
Byzantine Antioch  
The Christian Translation Program of  
Abdallah ibn al-Fadl**

Alexandre M. Roberts, *University of  
Southern California*

University of California Press, 2020

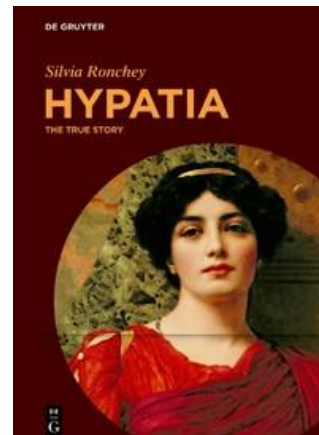


What happened to ancient Greek thought after Antiquity? What impact did Abrahamic religions have on medieval Byzantine and Islamic scholars who adapted and reinvigorated this ancient philosophical heritage? *Reason and Revelation in Byzantine Antioch* tackles these questions by examining the work of the eleventh-century Christian theologian Abdallah ibn al-Fadl, who undertook an ambitious program of translating Greek texts, ancient and contemporary, into Arabic. Poised between the Byzantine Empire that controlled his home city of Antioch and the Arabic-speaking cultural universe of Syria-Palestine, Egypt, Aleppo, and Iraq, Ibn al-Fadl engaged intensely with both Greek and Arabic philosophy, science, and literary culture. Challenging the common narrative that treats Christian and Muslim scholars in almost total isolation from each other in the Middle Ages, Alexandre M. Roberts reveals a shared culture of robust intellectual curiosity in the service of tradition that has had a lasting role in Eurasian intellectual history.

**Hypatia  
The True Story**

Silvia Ronchey, *Roma Tre University*

Walter de Gruyter, 2021



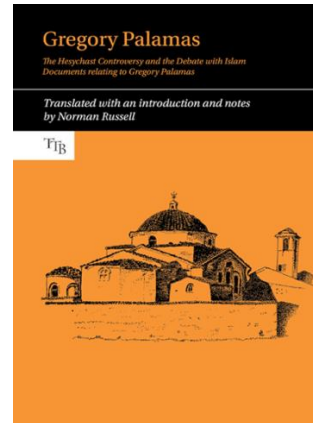
This study reconstructs Hypatia's existential and intellectual life and her modern Nachleben through a reception-oriented and interdisciplinary approach. It explores all available ancient and medieval sources as well as the history of the reception of the figure of Hypatia in later history, literature, and arts in order to illuminate the ideological transformations/deformations of her story throughout the centuries and recover "the true story". The intentionally provocative title relates to the contemporary historiographical notion of "false" or "fake history", as does the overall conceptual and methodological treatment. Through this reception-oriented approach, this study suggests a new reading of the ancient sources that

demonstrates the intrinsically political nature of the murder of Hypatia, caused by the *phthonos* (violent envy) of the Christian bishop Cyril of Alexandria. This is the first comprehensive treatment of the figure of Hypatia addressed to both academic readers and a learned, non-specialist readership.

**Gregory Palamas**  
**The Hesychast Controversy and the**  
**Debate with Islam**

Norman Russell, *University of Oxford*

Liverpool University Press, 2020

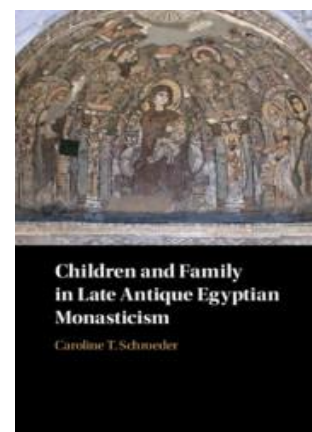


This book contains the first translation into English of the *Life* of Gregory Palamas by Philotheos Kokkinos, which is our principal source of biographical information on him. Also translated into English for the first time are the Synodal *Tomoi* from 1341 to 1368, which chart the progress of the hesychast controversy from the viewpoint of the victors, together with the corpus of material relating to Palamas' year of captivity among the Turks, which offers a unique insight into conditions for Christians and Muslims in the early Ottoman emirate. The translations, which are all based on critical texts, are accompanied by full introductions and notes that set Palamas in his historical context.

**Children and Family in Late**  
**Antique Egyptian Monasticism**

Caroline T. Schroeder, *University of Oklahoma*

Cambridge University Press, 2020

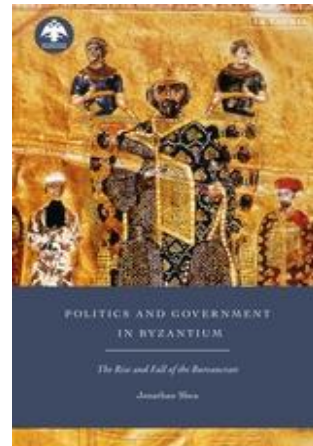


This book presents a study of children in one of the birthplaces of early Christian monasticism, Egypt. Although comprised of men and women who had renounced sex and family, the monasteries of late antiquity raised children, educated them, and expected them to carry on their monastic lineage and legacies into the future. Children within monasteries existed in a liminal space, simultaneously vulnerable to the whims and abuses of adults and also cherished as potential future monastic prodigies. The book examines diverse sources - letters, rules, saints' lives, art, and documentary evidence - to probe these paradoxes. Egyptian monasteries provided an intergenerational continuity of social, cultural, and economic capital while also contesting the traditional family's claims to these forms of social continuity.

**Politics and Government in  
Byzantium  
The Rise and Fall of the Bureaucrats**

Jonathan Shea, *Dumbarton Oaks  
Research Library and  
Collection/George Washington  
University*

I.B. Tauris Bloomsbury, 2020

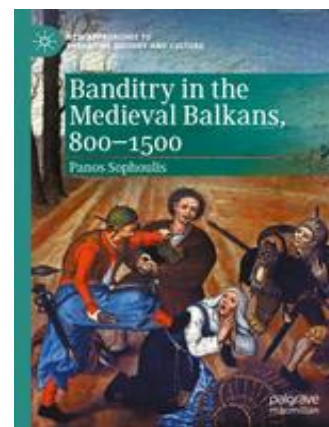


In contemporary accounts of the eleventh century, the central government of the Byzantine Empire is rarely described in flattering terms. The emperors were weak, bureaucrats corrupt, and the whole administration bloated. Yet, few concrete examples of how the emperors chose to run their empire, what their priorities were, or who they employed to administer their realm can be found in the pages of historians like Psellos and Attaleiates, or in other textual sources. To circumvent this dearth of archival material, I utilized the data from over 2,000 seals to uncover exactly whom the emperors were favouring and promoting, which departments and positions were valued at different points in the century, and what this can tell us about the policies and priorities of the imperial government. The sigillographic evidence is measured against the written material to give a fresh account of this key transitional century and an insight into Byzantine politics.

**Banditry in the Medieval Balkans,  
800-1500**

Panos Sophoulis, *University of Athens*

Palgrave Macmillan, 2020



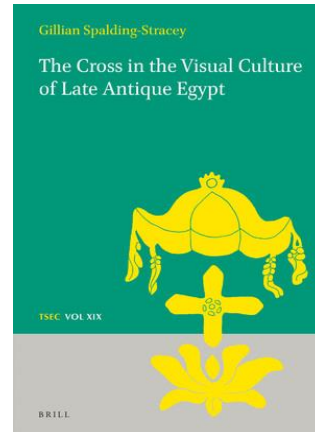
This book, the first of its kind on the subject, explores the history of banditry in the medieval Balkans between the ninth and fifteenth centuries. While several scholars have recognized the problems which various outlaw groups caused in the region during the Middle Ages, few have given much attention to the bandits themselves, their origins, their reasons for taking up brigandage, and the steps taken by the central authorities to control their activity. Among other things, the analysis undertaken here identifies three main sources of banditry: shepherds, soldiers and peasants. Far from being “lone wolves”, these men operated within well defined social networks. Poverty played a decisive role in driving them to a life of crime, but there is strong evidence to suggest that the growing economic

prosperity in parts of the Balkans from the ninth century onwards may have also contributed to the rise of the phenomenon.

**The Cross in the Visual Culture of  
Late Antique Egypt**

Gillian Spalding-Stracey, *Macquarie  
University, Sydney*

BRILL, 2020

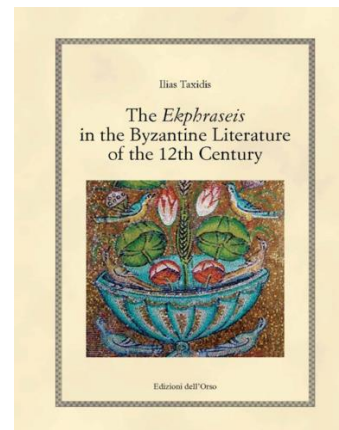


Visual representations of the cross are so ubiquitous in Christian art that they are often overlooked as artistic devices themselves. In *The Cross in the Visual Culture of Late Antique Egypt* the design of crosses in monastic and ecclesiastical settings, many of which drew on Byzantine influences, is brought to the fore in an exploration of material culture. The book offers a study of the variety of designs by which the cross was expressed and provides the reader with an art-historical perspective of the socio- cultural climate in late antique Egypt, where Byzantine themes and motifs were modified to fit a more provincial and less affluent society, while still retaining some flavour of the prototypes. Such Byzantine-influenced expressions extended well beyond the arrival of Islam.

**The Ekphraseis in the Byzantine  
Literature of the 12th Century**

Ilias Taxidis, *Aristotle University of  
Thessaloniki*

Edizioni dell'Orso, 2021



The literary production of the 12th century constitutes what is undoubtedly one of the most important chapters in the history of Byzantine literature. Authors from this period, influenced largely by the literary aspirations of the scholars of the previous century, have bequeathed works, in which a shift to antiquity is evident alongside other characteristics. Specific genres had been revived, while rhetoric was widely used as a means of achieving literary objectives. Another significant aspect of this new aesthetic perception is the distinction and wide dissemination of the *progymnasmata*, and especially of the *ekphraseis*, i.e. prose or verse works attempting a detailed and explicit description of various topics. These are actually rhetorical texts of different content and context written in particularly fine language, representative products of the literary spirit of the 12th century. The



main objective of the book is the detailed study of these texts and their intensive commentary.

[Theophano](#)  
[A Byzantine tale](#)

Spyros Theocharis (author)  
Chrysa Sakel (illustrator)

www.byzantinetales.com, 2020

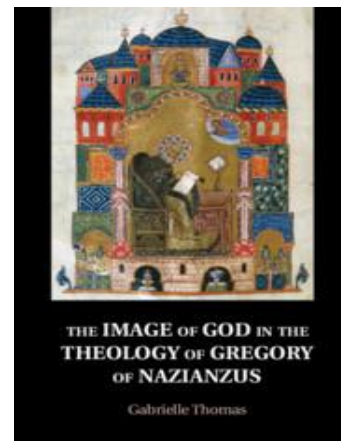


A fairytale marriage that goes terribly wrong, a ruling dynasty struggling to keep everything together by having overly ambitious palace officials do the dirty work, and prominent Roman generals who dream of taking the throne for themselves. This explosive mixture of occurrences takes place in the 10th century Medieval Roman Empire. An era of territorial resurgence and Imperial extravagance, but also an era of dynastic intrigue and endless plotting for the ultimate prize. The Byzantine throne. In this historical context, Anastasia, a common girl from Sparta, becomes Theophano, a ruthless Empress whose deeds pave the way for the continuation of the Macedonian dynasty. Based on real historical events, this epic graphic novel offers an immersion into a forgotten world. The world of the medieval Romans who survived up until the Middle Ages with their capital, Constantinople “the Queen of all cities” serving as a second Rome.

[The Image of God in the Theology](#)  
[of Gregory of Nazianzus](#)

Gabrielle Thomas, *Yale University*

Cambridge University Press, 2019



Gregory of Nazianzus, known best for his Christology and Trinitarian doctrine, presents an incomparable vision of the image of God. In this book, Gabrielle Thomas offers a close analysis of his writings and demonstrates how Nazianzen depicts both the nature and experience of the image of God throughout his corpus. She argues that Nazianzen’s vision of the human person as an image of God is best understood in light of biblical and extra-biblical themes. To establish the breadth of his approach, Thomas analyzes the image of God against the backdrop of Nazianzen’s beliefs about Christology, Pneumatology, creation, sin, spiritual

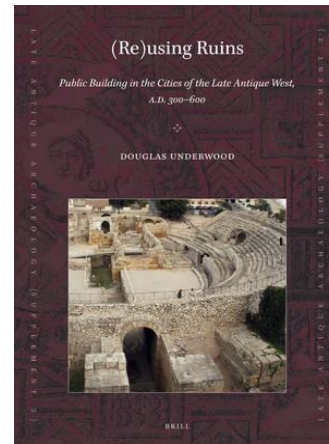


warfare, ethics, and theosis. Interpreted accordingly, Nazianzen offers a dynamic and multifaceted account of the image of God, which has serious implications both for Cappadocian studies and contemporary theological anthropology.

**(Re)using Ruins**  
**Public Building in the Cities of the Late**  
**Antique West, A.D. 300-600**

Douglas R. Underwood, *Independent*  
*Scholar*

BRILL, 2019

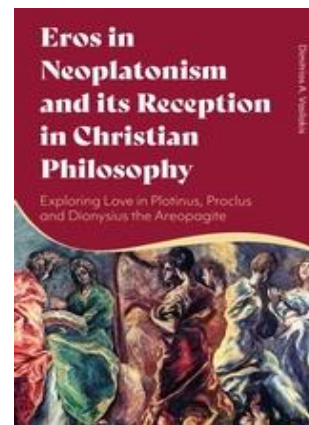


This book presents a new account of the use and reuse of Roman urban public monuments in a crucial period of transition, A.D. 300-600. Commonly seen as a period of uniform decline for public building, especially in the western half of the Mediterranean, (Re)using Ruins shows a vibrant, yet variable, history for these structures. This book also establishes a broad catalogue of archaeological evidence (supplemented with epigraphic and literary testimony) for the construction, maintenance, abandonment and reuses of baths, aqueducts, theatres, amphitheatres and circuses in Italy, southern Gaul, Spain, and North Africa, demonstrating that the driving force behind the changes to public buildings was largely a combined shift in urban ideologies and euergetistic practices in Late Antique cities.

**Eros in Neoplatonism and its**  
**Reception in Christian**  
**Philosophy**  
**Exploring Love in Plotinus, Proclus and**  
**Dionysius the Areopagite**

Dimitrios A. Vasilakis, *University of*  
*Athens*

Bloomsbury Academic, 2020



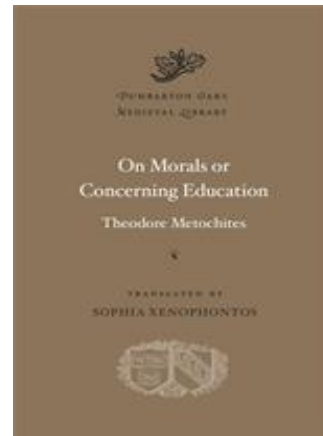
This book is about Love (Eros) in key-texts of Plotinus, Proclus and Dionysius the Areopagite. Ch.1 discusses Plotinus' treatise on Love (*Enneads*, III.5) attempting to show Eros' ontological importance within the Plotinian system. Love implies deficiency and takes place in a vertical scheme, where an inferior entity has eros for its higher progenitor. Proclus apparently diverges, because in the *Commentary on the First Alcibiades* he states that inferior entities have reversive eros for their superiors, whereas the latter have providential eros for their inferiors. Actually, in Ch.2 I show that Proclus does not diverge from Plotinus, but explicates

something implicit in the latter. Ch.3 examines Dionysius' treatment of God as Eros in the *Divine Names* and is characteristic for singling out Dionysius' similarities and divergences from Proclus. Dionysius uses more of a Proclean language, rather than Proclean positions, owing to ontological presuppositions that differentiate the Neoplatonist from the Church Father.

[On Morals or Concerning  
Education  
Theodore Metochites](#)

Sophia Xenophontos, *University of  
Glasgow*

Harvard University Press, 2020



*On Morals or Concerning Education* is an exhortation on the importance of education by the prolific late-Byzantine author and statesman Theodore Metochites (1270–1332), who rose to the aristocracy from a middle-class background but fell from favor late in life and died as a monk. As a manual of proper living and ethical guidance, the treatise offers unique insights into the heightened roles of philosophy and rhetoric at a time when the elite engaged intensely with their Hellenic heritage, part of a larger imperial attempt to restore Byzantium to its former glories. *On Morals* probes hotly disputed issues in fourteenth-century Byzantine society, such as the distinction between the active and contemplative life and the social position of scholars. Metochites's focus on the character and function of Christian faith also reflects ongoing debates regarding the philosophy of religion. Occasional autobiographical digressions offer fascinating glimpses of Metochites's distinctive personality. This volume provides the full Byzantine Greek text alongside the first English translation of one of Metochites's longest works.