



***SHIFTING PARADIGMS:  
WOMEN, RHETORIC, AND POWER, C.700–C.1300 CE***

**22–23 FEBRUARY 2024**

**LONDON GLOBAL GATEWAY  
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME IN ENGLAND (LONDON, UK)**



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casa del auallo pueco. i comam el  
rey pero el auallo blanco que esta  
en la terea casa del alfi pueco. **E**l  
quinto mego dar la raque con el re  
on blanco en la quarta casa del rey  
pueco. i entiam el rey pueco en la  
quarta casa de so alfi. **E**l. **ii**

Images (clockwise from top left): London, BL, MS 27210; Solidus of Empress Irene, 797–802, The Art Institute of Chicago; Madrid, El Escorial, MS T.1.6; Paris, BnF, Lat. 7900A.

# Shifting Paradigms: Women, Rhetoric, and Power, c. 700–c. 1300 CE Conference Programme

Thursday 22nd – Friday 23rd February 2024  
London Global Gateway, University of Notre Dame in England  
(1–4 Suffolk Street, SW1Y 4HG, London, UK)

## Thursday 22nd February

- 9am *Welcome*
- 9.15am - 10.45am *Panel 1: Comparing Power and Courty Cultures*  
Chair: Prof. Julia Smith
- Prof. Nadia El Cheikh (Professor of History, American University of Beirut, Lebanon)  
‘The Court of Women in Baghdad and Constantinople’
- Dr. Lucas McMahon (SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Ottawa, Canada)  
‘Anna Komnene’s Family Politics and the Norman-Byzantine Wars of 1107-08 and 1147-48’
- Dr. Charles Insley (Senior Lecturer in Medieval History, The University of Manchester, UK)  
‘Queenship and the Dynamics of Power in the Irish Sea World: A Comparative Perspective, 880-1050’
- 10.45am - 11.15am Morning Break
- 11.15am - 12.15pm *Panel 2: Legal Models in Times of Change*  
Chair: Dr. Anna Siebach-Larsen
- Sarah Wagner-Wassen (Ph.D. Candidate, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany)  
‘*Presbyterissa*, Concubine, or Whore: The Legal Place of the Clerical Partner Before and After the Gregorian Reforms’
- Rabbi Dr. Tali Artman Partock (Senior Lecturer, Leo Baeck College; Research Associate, Universities of Leicester, UK)  
‘Can We Call This Rape? On Consent, Coercion and Personhood’
- 12.15pm - 2.30pm Lunch
- 2.30pm - 4pm *Panel 3: Possibilities of Power and Exemplarity*  
Chair: Prof. Grzegorz Pac
- Fróði Markan-Jones (Ph.D. Candidate, University of Cambridge, UK)

‘Double Marriages and Wicked Stepmothers: The Case of the Mévouillon Sisters’

Dr. Anna Siebach-Larsen (Director, Rossell Hope Robbins Library and Koller-Collins Center for English Studies, University of Rochester, USA)  
‘Of Eels and Nuns: Networks of Evidence and Sites of Power’

Dr. Megan Welton (Ad Astra Fellow and Assistant Professor, University College Dublin, Ireland)  
“‘Listen, and Perhaps You Will Believe by this Example’”: Creating Exemplarity in the Early Middle Ages’

4pm - 4.30pm

Afternoon Break

4.30pm - 5.30pm

*Conference Keynote*

Chair: Dr. Emily Joan Ward

Dr. Christina Laffin (Associate Professor, University of British Columbia, Canada)

‘Motherly Advice for Courtly Success in Thirteenth-Century Japan: Abutsu’s Letter as Career Guide’

### **Friday 23rd February**

9am - 10.30am

*Panel 4: Crafting Arguments, Crafting Power*

Chair: Dr. Christina Laffin

Alevtina Matveeva (Ph.D. Candidate, Russia)

[Paper to be delivered online]

‘The Art of Letter Writing as a Form of Women’s Public Representation in Late Byzantium: The Case of Theodora Raoulaina’

Andra Alexiu (Ph.D. Candidate, University of Münster, Germany)

‘Rhetoric of Power and the Power of Rhetoric: Hildegard of Bingen and the Use of *Admonitio* by Religious Women in the Twelfth-Century Holy Roman Empire’

Prof. Grzegorz Pac (Professor in Medieval History, University of Warsaw, Poland)

‘Empress Adelheid and the Cult of Saint Ulrich: Ideology and Practice of Power in the Late Tenth-Century Empire’

10.30- 11am

Morning Break

11am - 12.30pm

*Panel 5: Economies and Domesticities of Power and Rhetoric*

Chair: Dr. Charles Insley

Katrina Rosie (Ph.D. Candidate, Queen’s University, Canada)

‘Ritual Development Between the *Domus* and the *Ekklesia*’

Dr. Anna Kelley (Lecturer in Ancient History, University of St Andrews, UK)  
[Paper to be delivered online]  
'Women Helping Women: The Curious Case of a Coptic Moneylender in Early Islamic Egypt'

Dr. Claire Kennan (Medieval Historian, Public Engagement and Research Impact Specialist, King's College London, UK)  
'Power in the Parish? The Role of Women in England's Parish Guilds'

12.30pm - 1.30pm Lunch

1.30pm - 3pm *Panel 6: Narrating Bodies and Lives*  
Chair: Prof. Nadia El Cheikh

Dr. Ani Honarchian (Assistant Professor of Early Christianity and Late Antiquity, Saint Louis University, Missouri, USA)  
[Paper to be delivered online]  
'Embodied Honor, Shame, and Self-Mastery: Women in the Armenian Epic in the Arab Borderlands'

Dr. Emily Joan Ward (Lecturer in Medieval Scottish History, The University of Edinburgh, UK)  
''Pray to God for Him, as a Mother Ought'': Noble Women, Adolescent Sons and the Rhetoric of Exemplary Parenthood in the Twelfth Century'

Dr. Anna Chrysostomides (Lecturer in Islamic History, Queen Mary University London, UK)  
'Tent Pole Wielding Women and Narratives of Female Conversion to Islam: The Stories of Umm Faḍl and Umm Hakīm'

3pm - 3.30pm Afternoon Break

3.30pm - 4.30pm *Concluding Remarks and Plenary Session*  
Prof. Julia Smith (Professor of Medieval History, All Souls College, Oxford, UK)

4.30pm - 6pm Conference Reception

This conference is generously supported by the following:



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