



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Historical Inertia: Continuity in the Face of Change 500–1500 CE

3rd Annual Edinburgh International Graduate Conference in
Late Antique, Islamic and Byzantine Studies

22nd-23rd November 2019

Supported by:

The University of Edinburgh

School of History, Classics and Archaeology

Late Antique Byzantine Studies Research Group

Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies

The Alwaleed Centre

School of Divinity

Christian-Muslim Studies Network

Alumni and Friends of the University of Edinburgh through the
Student Experience Grants scheme

The Institute for Academic Development



Conference Committee: Philip Harrison, Aristotelis Nayfa, Sam Nwokoro,
Leone Pecorini Goodall and Anna Stockhammer.



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Student Experience Grants

Conference Programme

Friday, 22nd November 2019

Location: Lecture Theatre 3, Appleton Tower

- 10:00-10:30 Registration with Coffee and Tea (register online now:
<https://www.ed.ac.uk/history-classics-archaeology/news-events/events/3rd-annual-edinburgh-laibs-conference>)
- 10:30-11:00 Opening Remarks: Dr Lucy Grig (University of Edinburgh)
- 11:00-13:00 Panel 1: Frontiers (and beyond): Military, diplomatic or cultural interactions across linguistic and political delimitations**
Moderator: Leone Pecorini Goodall
- 11:00-11:20 Panel Chair: Prof. Eberhard Wolfram Sauer (University of Edinburgh)
From the High Caucasus to the Steppes of Eurasia: Frontiers in the Late Antique and Early Medieval World
- 11:20-11:40 Tonicha Mae Upham (Aarhus University)
"Don't all Rus' burn their women?" Mediating the Rus' conversion to Christianity in Arabic geographical accounts
- 11:40-12:00 Coffee Break
- 12:00-12:20 Kyle B. Brunner (New York University)
Get off My Lawn! Dispute and Maintenance of Physical Boundaries in Syriac Hagiography during Early Islam
- 12:20-12:40 Fraser Reed (University of Edinburgh)
Urban Continuity in Late Antique Thracia: An Archaeological Perspective of the 6th and Early 7th Centuries in Southeastern Europe
- 12:40-13:00 Discussion
- 13:00-14:20 Lunch
- 14:20-16:40 Panel 2: Forms of Expression and Transmission: Listening through language, art and ideas.**
Moderator: Anna Stockhammer
- 14:20-14:40 Panel Chair: Dr Louise Blanke (University of Edinburgh)
(Re)constructing Jerash: History, historiography and the making of the ancient city

14:40-15:00 Elodie Powell (Independent Scholar)
Inertia of the lived experience: touch, wear, and the physicality of Middle Byzantine faith

15:00-15:20 Mathilde Sauquet (University of Oxford)
*Islamic Influences in Norman-Sicilian Art after Roger II:
The Deterioration of a Precious Heritage or a Natural Cultural Evolution?*

15:20-15:40 Coffee Break

15:40-16:00 Christine Roughan (New York University)
An Astronomical Curriculum between Byzantine and Islamicate Worlds

16:00-16:20 Aslisho Qurboniev (University of Cambridge)
*Continuity of Sunnī Mālikī Knowledge Transmission under
the Shīʿī Fāṭimid Caliphate in Ifrīqiya (909-974)*

16:20-16:40 Discussion

16:40-17:10 Coffee Break

17:10-18:40 **Keynote Lecture, in association with the Byzantine Seminar Series:
Prof. Dame Averil Cameron—*Byzantium: empire, commonwealth
or nation-state?***

18:40-19:40 Wine Reception

20:00- Late Dinner for Speakers

Saturday, 23rd November 2019
Location: Lecture Theatre 3, Appleton Tower

10:00-12:00

Panel 3: Dynastic and Political Changes: Patterns of continuity across ruling classes, court-life and dynastic succession

Moderator: Aristotelis Nayfa

10:00-10:20

Panel Chair: Dr Yannis Stouraitis (University of Edinburgh)
Imperial Power and Inertia: Some Thoughts on Dynastic Continuity in Byzantium

10:20-10:40

Ewan Short (University of Cardiff)
The emotional challenges of imperial daughterhood in the Komnenian dynasty (1081-1185)

10:40-11:00

Maggie Freeman (University of Copenhagen)
Continuity in Nomad-State Interactions in Bilad al-Sham, from the Roman to Umayyad Periods

11:00-11:20

Coffee Break

11:20-11:40

George Luff (University of York)
Becoming 'Byzantine': Identity on the Frontiers of Byzantine Territorial Expansion

11:40-12:00

Discussion

12:00-13:00

Poster Session

Vincenzo Castaldo (University of Edinburgh)
Productions and trade of clay lamps in Late Antiquity: New data from inland Campania.

Laura Clark (University of Birmingham)
Byzantine Funerary Ritual before the 10th century

Emma Huig (University of Amsterdam)
Recovering the audiences of Byzantine novels in Komnenian Constantinople (1130-1156)

Sukanya Raisharma (University of Oxford)
Between Household, Piety and Monasticism: Sulpicius Severus to Jonas of Bobbio

Joaquín Serrano (University of Edinburgh)
The Legend of Emperor Heraclius: Byzantine roots and origins

13:00-14:00

Lunch

14:00-15:40

**Panel 4: Patterns of Trade and Economic Infrastructure:
'domestic or foreign'.**

Moderator: Philip Harrison

14:00-14:20

Panel Chair: Dr. Anna Kelley (University of St. Andrews)
Seas of Sand: Desert Trade in Ocean Economies of Late Antiquity

14:20-14:40

Matteo Randazzo (University of Edinburgh)
Did changing everything change nothing (or little)? Some considerations on material culture and settlement patterns of Crete in the transitional period between Byzantium and Islam (8th-mid-10th Century)

14:40-15:00

Stefano Nicastro (University of Edinburgh)
The Islamic perception of Genoa in the fourteenth century. Domenichino Doria: a transcultural border-runner

15:00-15:20

Alasdair Grant (University of Edinburgh)
Legal Inertia Despite Social Change? Framing Late Byzantine Slavery

15:20-15:40

Discussion

15:40-16:00 Break

16:00-18:50

Panel 5: A View from Below – Story of the Common Masses

Moderator: Sam Nwokoro

16:00-16:20

Georgii Obatnin (Independent Scholar)
Periodization and study of women in Early Medieval Egypt

16:20-16:40

Tim Penn (University of Edinburgh)
Burying the dead inside earlier buildings in the Late Roman and Early Medieval West: The view from northern Italy

16:40-17:00

Alice Van Den Bosch (University of Exeter)
Goddesses, Lions and the construction of the female martyr in Late Antiquity

17:00-17:15

Discussion

17:15-17:30 Break

17:30-18:50

Keynote Lecture, in association with the Christian-Muslim Studies Network (School of Divinity): Prof. Jack Tannous (Princeton University) —
The View from Above, the View from Below, and the View from Books