

Shifting Fortunes

in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages

Conference Programme

6th International Graduate Conference in Late Antique, Islamic and Byzantine Studies
University of Edinburgh

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Day One (22/04/25)

Location: Teviot Lecture Theatre (Doorway 5), Teviot Place, EH8 9AG

Registration (8:45)

Welcome (9:15)

Panel 1 (9:30-11:30) (Shifting fortunes of Roman authors) **Chair: Professor Niels Gaul**

Ethan Chilcott, (University of Oxford), *Forced conversio?: Re-thinking Cassiodorus' Career Change*

Daiki Sano (University of Edinburgh), *Tyche, Dike, and Telchines: Shifting Fortunes in George Pachymeres' History*

Rupert Rainer (University of Graz), *The Megaira's Grace. Panegyric Re-Reading of Misfortunes in the Ekphrasis of Hagia Sophia by Paulus Silentarius*

Daniil Pleshak (University of Tübingen, *delivered online*), *Others Envy Your Crowns: Alliances at the Universal Council of 869-870*

Coffee Break (11:30-12:00)

Panel 2 (12:00-13:00) (Churches and community patronage) **Chair: Professor Charles West**

Paul Aste (Brown University), *Infidels and Pagans: Changing rhetorical fortunes in the high Pyrenees?*

Nicolette Vollero Levy (The Cyprus Institute), *Communal Salvation? A Case Study of Community Patronage in Latin Cyprus*

Lunch (13:00-14:00)

Panel 3 (14:00-15:30) (Politics and the Byzantine court) **Chair: Dr Anais Lamesa**

Ruisen Zheng (King's College London), *Political Fortune, Providence, and Imperial Destiny in Macedonian Official Historiographical Project Biography*

Lucas Butler (University of Edinburgh), *Symbols of imperial fortune: recontextualising the Strategoi at the 10th century Constantinopolitan court*

Marcus Wells (University of Oxford), *Shifting Fortunes at the Court of Michael VII: the Testimony of Kekaumenos' Consilia et Narrationes*

Coffee Break (15:30-16:00)

Panel 4 (15:45-16:45) (Literature in the Islamic world) **Chair: Professor Andrew Newman**

Mathew Madain (Princeton University), *De Anima in Arabic: Qusṭā b. Lūqā and the beginnings of the Aristotelian Philosophical Tradition in Arabic*

Liam Walk (Harvard University), *Nāṣir's Doggerel: Reappraising the Fortunes of the Early Mamluk Jewry through Popular Verse*

Break (16:45-17:15)

Keynote Lecture (17:30-18:15)

Dr Krystina Kubina (Austrian Academy of Sciences), *Political Turmoil and Creative Freedom: Managing Personal Experiences in Late Medieval Greek Poetry*

Reception, McMillan room (18:30-19.15)

Dinner (19:30) at [Pizza Posto](#), 5 min walk from the University.

Day Two (23/04/25)

Location: Lecture Theatre C, 40 George Square

Panel 1 (9:00-10:30) (Climate and the Economy) **Chair: Dr Nik Matheou**

Ian Ferreira Bonze (University of St Andrews), *Roman plebs and indebtedness: the "crisis of entitlement" of 384*

Rocío Suárez Vallejo (University of Málaga, *delivered online*), *Looking for fortune in post-Roman Iberian countryside (s. VII)*

Andrew McNey (University of Oxford, *delivered online*), *Shifting Fortunes in the Desert: The Resilient Farmers of the Late Antique Levant*

Coffee Break (10:30-11:15)

Panel 2 (11:15-12:15) (Reactions to conquest) **Chair: Dr Marie Legendre**

Sofia Thatharopoulou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, *delivered online*), *Shifting fortunes- shifting priorities. Non-elite Christians in the early Islamic caliphates*

Camila Palaio Martorelli (Federal University of São Paulo), *Faith and Power: the role of Pisan spolia in the republic's maritime ascension*

Lunch (12:30-13:30)

Panel 3 (13:30-14:30) (Fortunes of elites in Late Antiquity) **Chair: Professor Lucy Grig**

Silvia Lucchesi (University of Padua), *Zenobia of Palmyra: power and downfall in the Historia Augusta*

Arttu Alaranta (University of Helsinki), *Humble Aristocrats and Elite Nonconformists: Contrasting Models of Upper-Class Asceticism in Late Antiquity*

Coffee Break (14:30-15:15)

Panel 4 (15:15-16:45) (Byzantine literary discourse) **Chair: TBC**

Antonio Pio Di Cosmo (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia), *Fortune and Fate of Andronikos I Komnenos in Light of the Visual Program of the Liber ad honorem Augusti*

Dido Papikinou (University of Oxford), *Politics of Survival: The Representation of Roman-Mongol Interactions in the Historia of George Pachymeres*

Ada Kök (Central European University), *Competing Christian Eschatological Discourses in the Fourth-Century Mediterranean*

Closing statements (16.45-17.00)

Optional Seminar (17:15)

Dr Krisztina Ilko (University of Cambridge), *Beyond the Lewis Chessmen: Chess and Race in the Global Middle Ages* (Scottish History Seminar and Edinburgh Centre for Global History)

Optional Pub and Food