

Forty-Ninth Annual
Byzantine Studies Conference

October 26–29, 2023

Wosk Centre for Dialogue at Simon Fraser University
Vancouver, BC



FINAL PROGRAM



DUMBARTON OAKS

ART • NATURE • SCHOLARSHIP

The Byzantine Studies Association of North America acknowledges the generous financial contributions of the Mary Jaharis Center, Hellenic College Holy Cross, and the Byzantine Studies Program, Dumbarton Oaks, which support graduate student and early career and contingent scholar programming, travel stipends, and awards.

The recipients of the Dumbarton Oaks travel grants to support the participation of Early Career and Contingent Scholars for the 2023 Byzantine Studies Conference are Lucas McMahon (University of Ottawa) and Gregory Tucker (University of Regensburg).



Byzantine Studies Association
of North America, Inc.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Registration

Belzberg Atrium

5:00 – 8:00 pm

Book Exhibit

ICBC Concourse

5:00 – 7:00 pm

Opening Reception

Belzberg Atrium

6:00 – 8:00 pm

BSANA Governing Board Meeting

WCC 480

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

7:00 am – 3:00 pm

Registration

Belzberg Atrium

7:00 am – 5:00 pm

Book Exhibit

ICBC Concourse

7:00 – 8:00 am

Coffee/Breakfast

ICBC Concourse

8:00 – 10:00 am

Session 1A: Writing and Ideology

Asia Pacific Hall

Chair: Colin Whiting, Dumbarton Oaks

The Martyrdom of Pagan Philosophers at Antioch in Ammianus
Marcellinus' *Res Gestae* 14 and 29
Sergio Carlos Tamez, Ohio State University

The Use of Language in Early Byzantine Missions: Instrument and
Ideology
Yuliya Minets, University of Alabama

Washing them White: "Ethiopians" in Byzantine Literature
Dane Smith, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The Prosperous, Holy Islandscape of Early Byzantine Cyprus
Young Richard Kim, University of Illinois at Chicago

8:00 – 10:00 am

Session 1B: Byzantine Things

WCC 320

Chair: Hallie Meredith, Washington State University

Received Materiality and the Kyrenia Girdle: The Weight of Adornment
Under the Reign of Maurice Tiberius
Serena D'Alessandro, Florida State University

Weaving Empire, Exchange, and Identity: The Microhistory of a Late
Antique Silk Roundel
Clara Pinchbeck, Case Western Reserve University

Constantine's Chi-rho: Visual Expression of Power in the Imperial
Roman Tradition
Sonia Dixon, Florida State University

The Greek Gospel Lectionaries in the Libraries of Sultan Mehmed II and
Malatesta Novello
Robert S. Nelson, Yale University emeritus

10:00 – 10:15 am

Break

ICBC Concourse

10:15 am – 12:15 pm

**Session 2A: Medieval Contact Zones: Literary Encounters around
the Greek-Speaking World**

Asia Pacific Hall

Session Organizer: Ugo Mondini

Chair: Ruma N. Salhi, Northern Virginia Community College

Education as Contact: Causes, Strategies, and Effects of New Teaching
Methods, 10th-11th Centuries
Ugo Mondini, University of Oxford

Love in the Contact Zone

Michael Cooperson, UCLA

Power and Legitimacy in Context: John Kantakouzenos' Rhetoric of
Power Addressed to the Pope, the People of Constantinople, and the
Mamluk Sultan

Andrea Cuomo, Ghent University

Byzantium in Muscovy: A Global Age of Absolutism

Alexandra Vukovich, King's College London

10:15 am – 12:15 pm

Session 2B: Studies in Iconography

WCC 320

Chair: Georgios Makris, University of British Columbia

From Monumental to Miniature: Networks of Meaning across Macro and
Micro Mosaic Icons of Christ in Late Byzantium

Lindsay Corbett, McGill University

What's In a Name: An Unlabeled Iconography on a Group of Middle
Byzantine Amulets

Caitlin Mims, Florida State University

Flowers in Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Art

Amy Gillette, The Barnes Foundation

Reassessing the Iconographies of Constantine and Helena

Lynn Jones, Florida State University

12:15 – 2:00 pm

Lunch Break

12:15 – 2:00 pm

**Graduate and Early Career Lunch Sponsored by the Mary Jaharis
Center for Byzantine Art and Culture**

WCC 420

Byzantium Beyond the Academy: Research, Careers and Public
Engagement

Tera Hedrick, Wichita Art Museum

Young Kim, University of Illinois at Chicago

Colin Whiting, Dumbarton Oaks

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Session 3A: New Approaches to Religion in Byzantium 1

Asia Pacific Hall

Session Organizers: Derek Krueger and Georgia Frank

Chair: Georgia Frank, Colgate University

Icon Theory, Icon Practice: A Ritual Studies Approach to Middle
Byzantine Worship with Images
Derek Krueger, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Idol/Icon
Alicia Walker, Bryn Mawr College

Being is out of Joint: Maximos' Unstable Ontology and its Significance for
Contemporary Essentialisms
Luis Josué Salés, Scripps College

Constructing Monastic Faith: How Archaeologists Misshaped the
Material Religion of Monasticism
Darlene L. Brooks Hedstrom, Brandeis University

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Session 3B: History, Memory, and Prophecy in the Twelfth Century
WCC 320

Chair: Elias Petrou, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Prophecy, Apocalypse and Salvation in the Margins of John Zonaras,
Niketas Choniates and George Akropolites
Julián Bértola, Princeton University

Ekphrasis, Narrative, and Memory in the *Chronike Diegesis* of Niketas
Choniates
Ethan Schmidt, Simon Fraser University

Seeing in the Mind's Eye: Theories of Consciousness from Aristotle to
Bachelard by Way of Byzantium
Christina Christoforidou, Baruch College, City University of New York

An Oath of Fidelity in Cyprus: The 1191 Conquest in Mediterranean
Political Cultures
Daniel Berardino, University of California, Berkeley

4:00 – 4:15 pm

Break

ICBC Concourse

4:15 – 6:15 pm

Session 4A: New Approaches to Religion in Byzantium 2

Asia Pacific Hall

Session Organizers: Derek Krueger and Georgia Frank

Chair: Derek Krueger, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Rethinking Imperial Religion in Byzantium

George E. Demacopoulos, Fordham University

“The Young Woman Neither Died nor Delivered”: Reading Difficult

Labor as Religious Punishment in Early Byzantine Literature

Candace L. Buckner, Virginia Tech

“Lived Religion” and Palm Sunday in Early Byzantium

Georgia Frank, Colgate University

General Discussion

4:15 – 6:15 pm

Session 4B: Technological Approaches

WCC 320

Chair: Brad Hostetler, Kenyon College

Byzantine Manuscripts in Illinois: The Photostatic Facsimiles of St.

Jerome’s Project at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Elias Petrou, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Does My Computer Read Greek? Recognition Software and its

Applications for Byzantine Greek Materials

Hannelore Segers, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Digital Byzantium: Three Case Studies for Teaching the Byzantine World
Joseph R. Kopta, Temple University

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

7:00 am – 3:00 pm

Registration

Belzberg Atrium

7:00 am – 5:00 pm

Book Exhibit

ICBC Concourse

7:00 – 8:00 am

Coffee/Breakfast

ICBC Concourse

8:00 – 10:00 am

Session 5A: Gender

Asia Pacific Hall

Chair: Marica Cassis, University of Calgary

Agents of Emasculation? Eunuchs and Women in Middle Byzantine
Manuscript Illumination

Lora Webb, Emory University, Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry

Towards a History of Women's Writing in Byzantium

Alexander Riehle, Harvard University

Between Laymen: An Unusual Byzantine Tale of Male Bonding

John Duffy, Harvard University

From Homosociality to Homoerotics: Interpreting the Rhetoric of Queer
Desire in the Lives of St. Barbara and St. Eugenia from the Menologion of
Symeon Metaphrastes
Larisa (Orlov) Vilimonovic, Belgrade University

8:00 – 10:00 am

Session 5B: Art, Reception, and Performance

WCC 320

Chair: Amy Gillette, The Barnes Foundation

Framing Initiation within the Dura-Europos Baptistery: A Ritual
Interpretation of the Painting of the ‘Woman at the Well’
Michelle Keefe, Yale University

Artificial Light and Monumental Art in the New Church at Tokalı Kilise
Evan Freeman, Simon Fraser University

The Spatial Impact of Cyril of Jerusalem’s Cross of Light
A.L. McMichael, Michigan State University

Drama Queens (and Kings): Visualizing Theater in Middle Byzantine
Luxury Objects
Elena Gittleman, Bryn Mawr College

10:00 – 10:15 am

Break

ICBC Concourse

10:15 am – 12:15 pm

**Session 6A: Graduate Student Session Sponsored by the Byzantine
Studies Program, Dumbarton Oaks**

Asia Pacific Hall

Chair: Özlem Eren, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The Priestly *Schema* of the Diaconate in the *Life of St. Domnika*
Laura Wilson, Antiochian House of Studies

The Koimesis in a Cappadocian Rock-Cut Church
Sarah Mathiesen, Florida State University

The Mediations of Byzantine Gold Embroideries
Catherine Volmensky, The University of British Columbia

Behind the *scheda*: The Social Life of Stenographers at the Fifth-century
Ecumenical Councils
Ella Kirsh, Brown University

10:15 am – 12:15 pm

Session 6B: Justice and Morality

WCC 320

Chair: Christina Christoforatu, Baruch College, City University of New
York

Slippery Fate: Circumstantial Justice and Morality in the Poetry and Prose
of Agathias
Jonas Tai, Stanford University

Gender and Persuasion in the Byzantine Greek *Book of Syntipas the*
Philosopher
Craig A. Gibson, University of Iowa

The People as Ejectorate in the Early Byzantine Empire
Kevin Feeney, New York University

Preacher and Audience Through Byzantine Eyes. John Chrysostom as
Rhetor in Hagiographical Narratives
Cosimo Paravano, University of Vienna and Dumbarton Oaks

12:15 – 2:15 pm

BSANA Lunch

ICBC Concourse

All registered attendees are welcome!

2:15 – 4:15 pm

**Session 7A: Intersecting Sexes: Byzantine, Sasanian and Eurasian
Masculinity, Sponsored by the Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine
Art and Culture**

Asia Pacific Hall

Session Organizers: Eve MacDonald and Shaun Tougher

Chair: Geoffrey Greatrex, University of Ottawa

‘What a Man, What a Man, What a Mighty Good Man’: Theophylact
Simocatta on the Masculinity of Military Men in the Late Roman and
Sasanian World

Sean Strong, Cardiff University

Ferdowsi’s *Rum* and the Middle Persian Characterisation of Roman
Masculinity

Eve MacDonald, Cardiff University

Of Men, Beasts, and Martyrs in Armenian Texts

Alison M. Vacca, Columbia University

Military Masculinity in Tenth-Century Byzantium: The *History* of Leo
the Deacon

Shaun Tougher, Cardiff University

2:15 – 4:15 pm

Session 7B: Space and Identity

WCC 320

Chair: Anne McClanan, Portland State University

Reconstructing the Naves of Late Antique Basilicas: The Quarry-Church
at Deir al-Ganadla (Asyut, Middle Egypt) as Architectural Cipher
Mikael Muehlbauer, Islamic Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art

Anicia Juliana's Other Church: St. Euphemia *en Olybriou*
*Geoffrey Nathan, University of New South Wales and San Diego State
University*

Byzantine, Romanesque or Rus' Architecture? 12th Century
Galicia-Volhynia
Özlem Eren, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Supersession, Conversion, and Race in the Baptistry Mosaics of San
Marco
Thomas Dale, University of Wisconsin-Madison

2:15 – 4:15 pm

Session 7C: Law and Authority

WCC 420

Chair: Dimitris Krallis, Simon Fraser University

Three Faces of the Notion of Confiscation in Byzantium: Evidences from
the *Peira* and the *History* of Michael Attaleiates
Ziyao Zhu, King's College London

Eunuchs, Intersectionality, and Queer Families in Byzantine Legal
Corpora
Tiffany Van Winkoop, University of Wisconsin-Madison

What Was The Supreme Ecclesiastical Authority (*Magisterium*)
According To St. Theodore Of Studios?
Andrei Psarev, Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary, Jordanville, NY

Religion and Senatorial Service in the Later Roman Empire
Leonora Neville, University of Wisconsin-Madison

4:15 – 4:30 pm

Break

ICBC Concourse

4:30 – 6:30 pm

Session 8A: Texts and Contexts

Asia Pacific Hall

Chair: George E. Demacopoulos, Fordham University

Gädlä Gäräma: A Six Century Textual Witness for Ethiopian Mythology
and Monastic Ties between Axumite and Roman Empire

Teweldeberhan Mezgebe, Mekelle University

The Use of the Bible in the *Chronicle* of John of Nikiu

Daria Elagina, Universität Hamburg

Felege-Selam Solomon Yirga, University of Tennessee

The Jerusalem Liturgy, the Earliest *Life of the Virgin*, and the Origins of
Passion Piety in Late Ancient Palestine

Stephen J. Shoemaker, University of Oregon

The Holy Friday Idiomelon Σήμερον κρεμάται ἐπὶ ξύλου: Liturgical
History & Theology Between Jerusalem & Constantinople

Gregory Tucker, University of Regensburg

4:30 – 6:30 pm

Session 8B: Imperial Matters

WCC 320

Chair: Lynn Jones, Florida State University

The Daughters of Valentinian I: Grief, Piety, Virginity and Imperial
Womanhood at the End of the Fourth Century

Euan Croman, Queen's University Belfast

The Agency of Art in an Age of Dynastic Reproduction
Cecily J. Hilsdale, McGill University

A Byzantine Gift Box
Kriszta Kotsis, University of Puget Sound

The “Duty of Sovereigns”: An Alternative to the “Mirror of Princes” in
Byzantium
Marion Kruse, University of Cincinnati

7:00 – 8:00 pm
BSANA Governing Board Meeting
WCC 480

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

8:00 am – 11:30 am
Book Exhibit
ICBC Concourse

8:00 – 9:30 am
Coffee/Breakfast
ICBC Concourse

8:00 – 9:30 am
Graduate and Early Career Breakfast Sponsored by the Mary Jaharis
Center for Byzantine Art and Culture
WCC 420

Digital Byzantium: Building a Professional Portfolio on Humanities
Commons. Bring your own computer!
A.L. McMichael, Michigan State University

9:30 – 11:30 am

**Session 9A: Imagining, Experiencing, and Participating in
Governance in Byzantium**

Asia Pacific Hall

Session Organizers: Dimitris Krallis, Jake Ransohoff, Aleksandar
Jovanović

Chair: Leonora Neville, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Personalized Efficiency: Taxation and Dialogue in Byzantine State
Finances

Dimitris Krallis, Simon Fraser University

All Too Human? Political Punishment and the Rhetoric of Imperial
Impotence in Byzantium

Jake Ransohoff, Princeton University

Imperial Bureaucratic Practices in the Provincial Society of Ioannes
Apokaukos

Aleksandar Jovanović, University of the Fraser Valley

General Discussion

9:30 – 11:30 am

Session 9B: Archaeology, Place, and Space

WCC 320

Chair: Nathanael Aschenbrenner, Bard College

Claiming Antiquity, Claiming Global Empire: The
Loulon-Constantinople Optical Telegraph as an Instrument of
Competition

Lucas McMahon, University of Ottawa

Objects and People at a Medieval Harbor: An Archaeological Perspective

Georgios Makris, University of British Columbia

Transforming Commerce into Charity at San Nicola in Carcere, Rome
Gregor Kalas, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Kourion in Crisis and Catastrophe: Byzantine Resilience and Responses
to Disaster on the South Coast of Cyprus
Ian Randall, University of British Columbia