

Fiftieth Annual  
Byzantine Studies Conference

October 24–27, 2024

Italian Academy, Columbia University  
Graduate Center of the City University of New York  
(CUNY)

Lincoln Center Campus, Fordham University  
New York, NY



DRAFT PROGRAM

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Chair: Nathanael Aschenbrenner, Bard College

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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 2024 Byzantine Studies Conference are Shannon Steiner (Independent Scholar) and Jessica Plant (University of Cambridge).



Byzantine Studies Association  
of North America, Inc.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24**  
**Italian Academy, Columbia University**  
1161 Amsterdam Ave, New York, NY

**4:00 – 6:00 pm**

**Registration**

Italian Academy, Columbia University

**6:00 – 7:30 pm**

***Keynote Address***

**Henry Maguire**

**“The Politics of Imperial Dress in Byzantium, Sicily, Venice, and Rome”**

Teatro, Italian Academy, Columbia University

**7:30 – 9:00 pm**

**Opening Reception**

Italian Academy, Columbia University

**8:00 – 9:30 pm**

**BSANA Governing Board Meeting**

TBD

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25**  
**Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY)**  
365 5th Ave, New York, NY

**8:30 am – 5:00 pm**  
**Registration**  
TBD

**8:30 am – 5:00 pm**  
**Book Exhibit**  
TBD

**8:30 am – 9:30 am**  
**Coffee/Breakfast**  
TBD

**8:30 am – 10:15 am**  
**Session 1A: Visual and Verbal Expressions in the Menologion of Basil II**  
**(Part I)**

Session Organizer: Alicia Walker and Charles Kuper  
Chair: Alicia Walker, Bryn Mawr College

Discontinuity between Text and Image in the Menologion of Basil II: How  
(Mis)communication Can Illuminate Aspects of Production  
*Charles Kuper, University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

Idols and Icons in the Menologion of Basil II  
*Nava Streiter, Bryn Mawr College*

Gender Fluidity in Byzantine Painting: Heroic Nudity and Female Holiness in the  
Menologion of Basil II  
*Valentina Cantone, Università degli Studi di Padova*

**Session 1B: Sex, Gender, and Power**  
Chair: XXX

The Sexuality of a Eunuch  
*Noel Lenski, Yale University*

Queer Phenomenology, Liminal Spaces, and the Erotic Cave in the Life of St.  
Makarios the Roman  
*Tiffany Van Winkoop, University of Wisconsin-Madison*

Legacies of the Fall of Man: The Surprising Connection between Marriage and Slavery  
in Byzantine Thought  
*Nathan Leidholm, Bilkent University*

**Session 1C: Digital tools and Projects for Medieval and Byzantine Art: Value,  
Impact, and Challenges**

Session Organizer: Maria Alessia Rossi and Alice Isabella Sullivan  
Chair: Alice Isabella Sullivan, Tufts University

Smarthistory and Byzantine Art: Writing an Accessible Digital Art History  
*Ariel Fein, Institute for Advance Study*

Mapping Eastern Europe: Connecting Students and Scholars  
*Maria Alessia Rossi, Princeton University*

Fifty Ways of Seeing Islamic Art: Khamseen and Islamic Art History Online  
*Michelle Al-Ferzly, Yale University*

**10:15 am – 10:30 am**  
**Break**

**10:30 am – 12:15 pm**  
**Session 2A: Visual and Verbal Expressions in the Menologion of Basil II**  
**(Part II)**

Session Organizer: Alicia Walker and Charles Kuper  
Chair: Alicia Walker, Bryn Mawr College

Devotional Durations: Liturgical Processions and Timescapes in the Menologion of Basil II

*Peter Boudreau, McGill University*

Performative Reenactment in the Martyrdoms of the Menologion of Basil II (Vat. gr. 1613)

*Elena Gittleman, Byrn Mawr College*

Blood and Empathy: The Military Affect of the Menologion of Basil II

*Roland Betancourt, University of California, Irvine*

**Session 2B: Winged Words from a Different Time: Homer and Komnenian Literature**

Session Organizer: Alberto Ravani

Chair: Vessela Valiavitcharska, University of Maryland

Tzetzes Will Give you a Thousand of Achilles

*Alberto Ravani, Princeton University*

The Hidden Homer. Form and Sound in Byzantine Learned Poetry

*Ugo Mondini, University of Oxford*

Myth, Memory, and Resistance in Anna Komnene's *Alexiad*

*Marina Bazžani, University of Oxford*

**Session 2C: Martial Matters**

Chair: XXX

From Taurus to Constantinople: Analyzing the Geographic and Spatial Dynamics of the Byzantine Fire Beacon System in Central Anatolia

*Annalise Whalen, University of Central Florida*

Know Your Enemy: Climate and Difference in the *Taktika* of Leo the Wise

*Dane Smith, University of Wisconsin-Madison*

Reasons for Abandonment of the Byzantine Navy in the 13th Century: A Hypothesis from an Ethnic Identity Perspective

*Ziyao Zhu, King's College, London*

**12:15 pm – 1:30 pm**  
**Lunch Break**

**12:15 pm – 1:30 pm**  
**Graduate and Early Career Lunch Sponsored by the Mary Jaharis Center for  
Byzantine Art and Culture**

TBD

Publishing in Byzantine Studies

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

*Darlene Brooks Hedstrom, Brandeis University*

*Peter Constantine, University of Connecticut*

*Michael Sharp, Cambridge University Press*

**1:30 pm – 3:45 pm**

**Session 3A: Desperately Seeking Doxapatres: Middle Byzantine Culture and  
the Corpus of Hermogenes**

Session Organizers: Aglae Pizzone and Byron MacDougall

Chair: Alexander Riehle, Harvard University

Joy of Division: John Doxapatres' Commentary on Hermogenes' *On Issues* and  
Porphyry's *Isagoge*

*Byron MacDougall, University of Southern Denmark*

'Every (Exegetical) Move You Make': Tzetzes' References to Doxapatres in the  
Commentary on *On Forms*

*Elisabetta Barili, University of Southern Denmark*

Counting Down the Line: Doxapatres and Tzetzes in Dialogue over Aphthonios

*Aglae Pizzone, University of Southern Denmark*

Classic (Better than Hermogenes Has Ever Been): Christian Rhetoric and *Logos*

*Panegyrikos* from John of Sardis to John Doxapatres

*Daria Resh, University of Southern Denmark*

Rhetoric as a Rational Art in Doxapatres' *Prolegomena* to Aphthonios



*Vessela Valiavitcharska, University of Maryland*

**Session 3B: Materials in Cross-Cultural Context**

**Chair: XXX**

The Khakhuli Triptych and the Art of Repurposing  
*Sopio Gagoshidze, Rutgers University*

Imperial Imagery beyond the Borders of Byzantium: A Byzantine coin pendant found  
in Java, Indonesia  
*Arielle Winnik, Yale University*

“Qui dicitur Rendlæsham”: A Survey of Eight Byzantine folles from the Rendlesham  
Productive Site  
*Molly Johnson, Cardiff University*

The Joseph Textiles Reassessed  
*Andrea Olsen Lam, Independent Scholar*

Colors of the Black Sea: Polychrome Ceramics in Medieval Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi  
*Madeline Newquist, Case Western Reserve University*

**Session 3C: Anthony Cutler—A BSC Remembrance**

Session Organizers: Glenn Peers and Charles Barber

Chair: Charles Barber, Princeton University

Reflections from:

*Merih Danah, Wake Forest University*  
*Annemarie Carr, Emerita, Southern Methodist University*  
*John Cotsonis, Hellenic College*  
*Robert Nelson, Emeritus, Yale University*

**3:45 pm – 4:00 pm**  
**Break**

**4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**  
**Session 4A: Contemplating God in Space, Sound, and Image**

Chair: XXX

Shimmering at the Margins: Aporia and Anagoge in the Justinianic Mosaics of Hagia Sophia

*George Yfantidis, Indiana University*

Yearning to See Through the Cloud: The Theophany on Mount Sinai in the Late Byzantine Palatina Psalter

*Andrei Dumitrescu, Stanford University*

AudioVision in Byzantium: The Narthex Mosaics at Hosios Loukas and the Liturgy for Easter

*Bissera Pentcheva, Stanford University*

Iconic Subject: Looking with the Eyes of Faith in the Byzantine Church

*Rossitza Schroeder, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary*

#### **Session 4B: Imperial Propaganda and Image**

Chair: XXX

Theodosius II: From “Little Theodosius” to Legitimated Warrior Emperor

*Ralph Mathiesen, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

Manuel the Great? Alexander the Great and the Shaping of an Imperial Masculinity

*Luke Sturm, University of Wisconsin-Madison*

Visualizing and Legitimizing Imperial Piety: A Reexamination of the Early Byzantine Elephant

*Quentin Clark, Florida State University*

A Triumph to Dishonor: The Interplay between the Triumph and the Parade of Infamy

*Merve Savas, The Ohio State University*

#### **Session 4C: Music and Metamorphosis in Byzantine Religion**

Session Organizer: Georgia Frank

Chair: Susan Ashbrook Harvey

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Worship Among the Flames: The Babylonian Furnace in the Constantinopolitan  
Liturgy

*Jillian Marcantonio, Duke University*

The Charms of Horus in Byzantine Egypt: Incantations to Bind, to Seduce, to Heal

*David Frankfurter, Boston University*

Songs in the Key of Time: Non-Human Music in Early Byzantine Christianity

*Georgia Frank, Colgate University*

Apocrypha and Anthems: The Hymnography for the Dormition in Late Ancient  
Jerusalem

*Stephen Shoemaker, University of Oregon*

**6:30 pm – 8:30 pm**

**Self-Guided Tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art**

**8:00 pm – 10:00 pm**

**Graduate Student and Early Career Mixer**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26**  
**Lincoln Center Campus, Fordham University**  
113 W 60th St, New York, NY

**8:00 am – 5:00 pm**  
**Registration**

**8:00 am – 5:00 pm**  
**Book Exhibit**

**8:00 am – 9:00 am**  
**Coffee/Breakfast**

**8:30 am – 10:30 am**  
**Session 5A: “Misbehaving” Women**  
Chair: Ella Kirsh, University of Cambridge

The New Jezebel: Constructing a Biblical Queen in Byzantine Invective  
*Briana Grenert, Duke University*

“The Share of This Diaconate”: Recognizing Women’s Agency in the Vitae of St.  
Domnika  
*Laura Wilson, Antiochian House of Studies*

“And in Her Prayers, She Begged God, ‘...Take Away the Fruit of My Sin Which I  
Have Born....’ ”: Maternal Regret in Early Female Asceticism  
*Candace Buckner, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University*

Orthodox or Occult? The Material Culture of Reproduction in the Middle Byzantine  
Period  
*Caitlin Mims, Florida State University*

**Session 5B: Art and Nature in Byzantium**  
Session Organizers: Robert Nelson and Amy Gillette  
Chair: Nancy Patterson Ševčenko

Byzantine Birds  
*Robert Nelson, Yale University*

The Forest in Byzantine Landscape Painting  
*Benjamin Anderson, Cornell University*

The Identifying Traits of Birds and Beasts of Prey in Written Texts and Popular  
Images  
*Eunice and Henry Maguire, Johns Hopkins University*

Ways of Thinking about Flowers in Byzantine Sacred Art  
*Amy Gillette, The Barnes Foundation*

**Session 5C: Small Object, Big Picture: New Insights into Middle Byzantine  
Matters from Coins, Seals, and Textual Fragments**

Session Organizer: Niels Gaul

Chair:

Empire of Saints: Niketas David Paphlagon's "Secret History" Reconsidered  
*Bilal Adigüzel, University of Edinburgh*

Growing Up in his Father's Image. Constantine V's Changing Portrait on the Coinage  
of Leo III (720–741) as a Case Study of Promotion and Popularity  
*Ivan Maric, Dumbarton Oaks*

Rise of Second Names Rise of the Aristocracy?  
*Clément Adoir, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection and Université Paris 1  
Panthéon-Sorbonne*

Analogical Investigations from Constantinople to Kaifeng: Byzantium and Song  
China as Empires of Learning in the Long Eleventh Century  
*Niels Gaul, University of Edinburgh*

**10:30 am – 10:45 am**

**Break**

**10:45 am – 12:45 pm**

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

Chair: Nathanael Aschenbrenner, Bard College

Burial Ambitions in Kievan Rus': The Sarcophagus of Yaroslav the Wise  
*Luke Hester, Case Western Reserve University*

Portrait, Assemblage, Microhistory: Interpreting the Kratigos-Mytilene Hoard and the Family Who Buried It  
*Allison Grenda, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*

“This Beautiful Spot”: Armenian Monastic Landscape at Tat’ev  
*Whitney Kite, Columbia University*

Serving Tongue: Aesopica in Morgan MS. M. 397 and the role of Greek in medieval Italy  
*Nastasya Kosygina, University of California, Irvine*

**Session 6B: Byzantium Beyond Byzantium**

Chair: XXX

The Palma Passion Panel and Palaeologan Painting in the Age of Milutin  
*Amy Neff and Anne Derbes, University of Tennessee, Knoxville and Hood College*

Integrated Views in Post-Byzantine Church Designs: The Case of Pătrăuți Monastery  
*Alice Isabella Sullivan and Vladimir Ivanovici, Tufts University and University of Lugano*

1453 is not the End: Byzantine Traditions in Post-Byzantine Epigraphy.  
The Case of Metrical Inscriptions  
*Andreas Rhoby, Austrian Academy of Sciences*

Searching for the Origins of Zacharias Kalliergis’ Script: An Unknown Manual for Greek Scribes and Typographers (?)  
*Elias Petrou, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

**Session 6C: Icons and Iconography**

Chair: XXX

The Seat of Mary in Early Christian Iconography: Illuminating Marian Devotion  
*Michelle Keefe, Yale University*

Byzantine Icons, Liturgical Objects, and Veneration  
*Evan Freeman, Simon Fraser University*

Pilgrimage and Martyrial Multivalency along the Lycian Coast: An Iconographical  
Case Study of Two Sixth-Century Syrian Bracelets  
*Serena D'Alessandro, Florida State University*

Earthly Architecture in Heavenly Icons: Represented Architecture in Early Byzantine  
Icons and its Role in Veneration  
*Anna Carroll, The Graduate Center at City University of New York (CUNY)*

**12:45 pm – 2:30 pm**  
**BSANA Business Lunch**  
*All registered attendees are welcome!*

**2:30 pm – 4:30 pm**  
**Session 7A: Relief Art in Late Antiquity and Byzantium: Materiality and  
Meanings of Making Space (ca. 400–1400)**  
Session Organizers: Jessica Plant and Elisa Galardi  
Chair:

“Authentic” Images: The Byzantine & Byzantinizing Relief Icons of the Basilica di  
San Marco  
*Sarah Cohen, Columbia University*

Plaster “Incrustations” Between Sculptural and Imaginative Planes in Late Antiquity  
*Jessica Plant, University of Cambridge*

Between Ornament and Practicalities. Discussing the Role of Sculpture in Shaping  
Windows of Rural Churches of Greece  
*Flavia Vanni, Newcastle University*

Weaving the Exterior of Churches in Late Byzantine Thessalonike  
*Sofia Pitouli and Catherine Volmenschky,*  
*University of California, Los Angeles and University of British Columbia*

**Session 7B: Byzantium and Africa**

**Chair: XXX**

The Neglected Nubian Realms: A Byzantine-Nubian Syncretism Case Study

*Artur Obluski, University of Warsaw*

Aidesia of Alexandria and the Social Worlds of Late Antique Philosophy

*Colin Whiting, Dumbarton Oaks*

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

*Teweldeberhan Mezgebe, St. Yared Center for Ethiopian Philology and Manuscript Studies*

A Freudian Slip in the Chronicle of John of Nikiu?

*Daria Elagina, Universität Hamburg*

**Session 7C: Byzantium in Comparative Frameworks**

**Chair: XXX**

Through a Glass Darkly: Byzantine and Islamic Diversity Management after 950 CE

*Thomas A. Carlson, Oklahoma State University*

Early Byzantine Relic Veneration, East and West: A False Dichotomy

*Michelle Freeman, University of North Carolina*

Nomadic Bones, Network Building, and The Hellenistic Heritage of Relic Translation

*Sunil Persad, Stanford University*

Island Networks, Boundaries, and Transferability: The Elaphiti Archipelago and the  
Renegotiation of Islandness

*Franka Horvat, University of California, Los Angeles*

**4:30 pm – 4:45 pm**

**Break**

**4:45 pm – 6:45 pm**



**Session 8A: Reconfiguring the Past**

**Chair: XXX**

John Lydus and the Sibyls in Byzantium  
*Sviatoslav Dmitriev, Ball State University*

Living in an Old Politeia: The Ancient and Recent Past in Kekaumenos  
*Arie Neuhauser, University of Chicago*

Unraveling an Antiquity: The Role of “Origin” in the Obelisk of Theodosius in the  
Fourth Century  
*Madison Gilmore-Duffy, Florida State University*

Re-imagining Rome: Irene, Imperial Representation, and the Crossroads of Power  
*Julie Pace, The Westminster School*

**Session 8B: Saints and Sensibility in Byzantine Hagiography**

**Chair: XXX**

The Life of St. Nephon (BHG 1371z): a Most Underestimated Piece of Byzantine  
Hagiography  
*Sergey Ivanov (Northwestern University)*

The Ambiguity of the Mauroi in The Life of St. Paul the Younger  
*Tyler Wolford, Cornell University*

Divine Dust: The Martyrdom of Irene and the Ecological Imagination of Holy Bodies  
and the Earth in Late Antique and Byzantine Literature  
*Bailey Freeburn, Brown University*

The Life of Empress Eirene and St. Philaretos' Kin  
*Alexander Riehle, Harvard University*

**Session 8C: Byzantine Political Culture and Practices**

**Chair: XXX**

Civic Religion, Citizenship, and Exclusion in the Eastern Roman Empire  
*Leonora Neville, University of Wisconsin-Madison*

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Oaths in a Book vs. Oaths in the Books: The Peira of Eustathios Rhomaios and the  
Middle Byzantine Historians

*Daniel Berardino, University of California, Berkeley*

Clever with their Hands: Artistic Virtuosity and Skilled Labor as Instruments of  
Byzantine Imperial Power

*Shannon Steiner, Independent Scholar*

Late Byzantine Elites and Imperial Injustices in the Historical Works of Gregoras and  
Kantakouzenos

*James Cogbill, University of Oxford and Princeton University*

**8:00 pm – 9:30 pm**

**Guided Tour of St. Nicholas**

**Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center at**

**Ground Zero *with John Cotsonis***

130 Liberty Street, New York, NY

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29**  
**Lincoln Center Campus, Fordham University**  
113 W 60th St, New York, NY

**8:30 am – 12:00 pm**  
**Book Exhibit**

**8:30 am – 10:00 am**  
**Coffee/Breakfast**

**8:30 am – 10:00 am**  
**Graduate and Early Career Breakfast Sponsored by the Mary Jaharis Center for  
Byzantine Art and Culture**

Applying for Academic Jobs  
Moderator: Luke Hester, Case Western Reserve University  
*Marica Cassis, University of Calgary*  
*Christina Christoforou, Baruch College, City University of New York*  
*Georgia Frank, Colgate University*  
*Lynn Jones, Florida State University*

**BSANA Governing Board Meeting**  
TBD

**10:00 am – 12:00 pm**  
**Session 9A: Expressing the Inexpressible: The Language of Theology.**  
**Semiosis and Meaning-Making in Byzantium**

Session Organizer: Andrea Cuomo  
Chair: Elias Petrou, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

The Virgin Mary as *κωβερνήτης* in Photios's Theotokarion: The Semiotic Value of the  
Metaphor Between Tradition and Innovation  
*Alessia Rovina, University of Ghent*

Translating the Ineffable: Logic and Incarnation in Manuel Kalekas' Translation of St.  
Anselm's *Cur Deus homo*  
*Marthe Nemegeer, Royal Holloway, University of London*

'Proper Names' and Medieval Greek Linguistics: Semiotics and Meaning-Making in  
Byzantium  
*Andrea Cuomo, University of Ghent*

### **Session 9B: Confronting Byzantine Heritage in Modernity**

**Chair: XXX**

Byzantine Cultural Heritage in Turkey: Ideological and Practical Challenges in  
Conservation  
*Ufuk Serin, Middle Eastern Technical University*

'Appropriating' Syriac Orthodox Heritage Places as World Heritage in Turkey:  
Controversies, Receptions, and Expectations  
*Pinar Aykaç, Middle Eastern Technical University*

Rival English Byzantiums: Patrick Leigh Fermor and Robert Byron on Mount Athos  
*Geoffrey Benson, Colgate University*

### **Session 9C: Late Antique Transitions**

**Chair: XXX**

Clerics' Competitive Edges: Using Bishops' Known Ego-Networks to Simulate the  
Social Impact of Trinitarian Partisanship in the 370s and 380s  
*Adam Schor, University of South Carolina*

Building Byzantine Bureaucracy: The Rise of the Magister Officiorum after the Fourth  
Century CE  
*Alessandro Giovanni Battaglia, University of Cincinnati*

Recovering Justinianic Edessa: Chalcedonian Policies, Literary Production, Urban  
Elites, and Imperial Patronage  
*Yulia Minets, University of Alabama*

Monastic Transitions from Late Antiquity to Middle Byzantium: A Material Approach  
*Elizabeth Zanghi, Sorbonne Université*