

Maison Française d'Oxford (and online) • Monday 23rd February 2026

Beyond the Body of the Church

Formalisations of Social Ideas in Medieval Eastern Christianity



Programme

- 9:30–10:00 •

Welcome and Introduction

Carlo Emilio Biuzzi (Gent Universiteit - École Pratique des Hautes Études)

- 10:00–10:45 •

General Methodology: How do we write a social history of medieval Christianities using ancient categories?

Thinking Medieval Society with the Conceptual Tools of its Actors? Some Perspectives from the Latin West

Antoine Destemberg (University of Oxford - Université d'Artois)

Chair: David Taylor (University of Oxford)

- 10:45–11:15 • *tea time*

- 11:15–12:00 •

Short, Medium, and Longue Durée (I): The Dynamics between Centers and Peripheries

From Polis to Chora: Rusticated Bishops and Their Communities in Western Thebes (c. AD 600)

Phil Booth (University of Oxford)

Chair: Christian Sahner (University of Oxford)

- 12:00–13:30 • *lunch*

- 13:30–14:15 •

Short, Medium, and Longue Durée (II): Pre-Modern State Organisation

Christianisation from Below on the Northern Fringes of Byzantine Suzerainty

John Latham-Sprinkle (Gent Universiteit - Vrije Universiteit Brussel) [online]

Chair: Alex Sherborne (University of Oxford)

- 14:15–14:45 • *tea time*

- 14:45–15:30 •

Chair: Apolline Guy (École Pratique des Hautes Études – ULB)

Renewed Aspects of Social History: Gender and Christianity (I)

Liturgy as a Site for Revisiting Women's Social Histories

Ya'el Kremer (University of Oxford)

- 15.30–16:15 •

Renewed Aspects of Social History: Gender and Christianity (II)

Gender, Language and Sanctity: The Fluid Lives of Byzantine Trans Saints

Julie Van Pelt (Gent Universiteit)

- 16:15–17:00 •

Common conclusions

Chair: Carlo Emilio Biuzzi (Gent Universiteit - École Pratique des Hautes Études)

please send an email to participate in the event (or to receive the link): carloemilio.biuzzi@ugent.be

see more on the MFO website:

<https://www.mfo.ac.uk/event/workshop-beyond-body-church-formalisations-social-ideas-medieval-christianity>