



The Byzantine Commonwealth 50 years on: Empires and their afterlife

Programme

Thursday 27 September / Friday 28 September 2018
Linbury Building, Worcester College, Oxford

THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2018

9.00 Peter Frankopan (Oxford)
Welcome and Introduction – Obolensky's Commonwealth 50 years on

I. Afterlife and other empires (Chair: Peter Frankopan)

9.30–11.00 Hugh Kennedy (SOAS)
Sasanian afterlife: Iranian cosmology and political culture in the tenth-century dar al-Islam

David Morgan (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
The Mongols as agents of cultural exchange

Nicola Di Cosmo (IAS, Princeton)
From war to peace in medieval steppe empires

11.00–11.30 Coffee

II. A commonwealth of things? (Chair: Vivien Prigent)

11.30–1.00 Cecily Hilsdale (McGill)
The Byzantine visual commonwealth

Georgi Parpulov (Birmingham)
Languages of art

Peter Sarris (Cambridge)
Byzantium's empires of gold

1.00–2.00 Sandwich lunch

III. Elites on the fringe... (Chair: Marek Jankowiak)

2.00–3.30 Jean-Claude Cheynet (Paris-Sorbonne)
Les élites des provinces frontalières de l'Empire, adhésion ou trahison

Tim Greenwood (St Andrews)
The Byzantine commonwealth: a view from the east

Marie Favereau (Oxford)
Byzantium and the Golden Horde: war, trade, and diplomacy

3.30–4.00 Coffee

IV. ...and beyond the fringe (Chair: James Pettifer)

- 4.00–5.30 Monica White (Nottingham)
Late Byzantine views of Rus beyond the church
- Kirill Maximovich (Göttingen/Frankfurt am Main)
Political culture of early Rus' vs. the Byzantine law: two contradicting ideologies and means of their reconciliation
- Marcin Wołoszyn (Leipzig/Rzeszów)
Finding the frontiers of the commonwealth
- 7.00 Conference dinner

FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2018

V. Law and ideology (Chair: Averil Cameron)

- 9.00–10.30 Daphne Penna (University of Groningen)
Keeping up appearances: Byzantine perspectives of 'legality' and the Italians
- Michael Humphreys (Cambridge)
Identity, law and beards: judicial shaving in Byzantium, c. 600–900
- Johannes Pahlitzsch (Mainz)
Translations of Byzantine law books into Arabic
- 10.30–11.00 Coffee

VI. Inward and outward impulses (Chair: James Howard-Johnston)

- 11.00–12.30 Juan Signes Codoñer (Valladolid)
Identity through language in Byzantium and its neighbours
- Nicholas Evans (Cambridge)
Boundaries and bonds: Khazaria and the 'commonwealth'
- Sergei Ivanov (Moscow)
The reluctant empire
- 12.30–1.30 Sandwich lunch

VII. Magnetism, exclusivity and diplomacy (Chair: Jonathan Shepard)

- 1.30–3.00 Paul Magdalino (St Andrews)
Byzantine globalism: the power of attraction
- Shay Eshel (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
A commonwealth of elect nations: contradiction in terms?
- Jonathan Shepard (Oxford)
Conclusions – Commonwealth(s) without end?
- 3.00–3.30 Coffee