

CULTURE WARS

LAMS SYMPOSIUM III

in conjunction with the MEDITERRANEAN SEMINAR

February 17-18, 2017

Theme

In Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages, the Mediterranean was characterized by the dynamic intersection, interaction, and integration of competing ethnic, religious, political, cultural and national communities. One of the paradoxes of Mediterranean history lies in the tension generated by simultaneous dynamics of *convivencia*, collaboration, and conflict; it is precisely the similarities between these various groups that have forced them to articulate the differences in their identities and culture. "Culture Wars" should be seen as a collective effort to advance our understanding of such tensions and the processes, both destructive and creative, that come with them.

Format

"Culture Wars," the third in our biennial series of LAMS ("Late Antique-Medieval Studies") Symposia, has joined with the Mediterranean Seminar to create a two-day event. Friday, February 17, will feature a "work-in-progress" workshop hosted by Brian Catlos and Sharon Kinoshita of the Mediterranean Seminar. Three papers (which will have been precirculated among all the participants) have been selected to be the focus of discussion that morning and early afternoon. That evening the LAMS Symposium proper will begin with its first keynote address by Michael Bonner of the University of Michigan. On Saturday, participants will hear nine papers presented in a more conventional conference format, followed by the second keynote by Yitzhak Hen of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

Schedule

Friday, February 17

Smith Campus Center 201, Pomona College

- 9:00 am: Shuttle from hotel to Pomona College
- 9:00 – 10:00 am: Registration and breakfast
- 10:00-10:20 am: Introductory Remarks, Ken Wolf (Pomona), Brian Catlos (CU Boulder) and Sharon Kinoshita (UCSC)
- 10:20 – 11:30 am: Workshop Paper #1: "The Socio-Legal Construction of a Christian Empire," Victoria Ballmes (UCSB)
 - Respondent: Fred Astren (SFSU)
- 11:30 – 11:45 am: Coffee
- 11:45 – 12:55 pm: Workshop Paper #2: "Breaking Bad: Apostasy and Cultural Transgression in Medieval Anatolia," Sergio La Porta (Fresno)
 - Respondent: Daniel Gullo (Curator, Malta Center, Hill Museum and Monastic Library)
- 1:00 – 2:15 pm: Lunch (Smith Campus Center, 208)
- 2:20 – 3:30 pm: Workshop Paper #3: "The Eastern Chimera: Spanish Views of the Turks and Relations with the Ottomans (15th-early 16th centuries)," Andrew Devereux (LMU)
 - Respondent : Camilo Gómez-Rivas (UCSC)
- 3:30 – 3:50 pm: Concluding Remarks: Brian Catlos and Sharon Kinoshita
- 3:50 – 4:15 pm: Coffee
- 4:15 – 5:45 pm: Keynote Address: "The Medieval Islamic Economy as Contested Terrain," Michael Bonner (Michigan)
- 5:45 pm: Reception and Dinner
- 8:00 pm: shuttle to hotel

Saturday, February 18

Smith Campus Center 201, Pomona College

- 8:15 am: Shuttle from hotel to Pomona College
- 8:30 – 9:10 am: Breakfast (Smith Campus Center, 208)
- 9:10 am: Welcome, Ken Wolf (Pomona)
- 9:20 – 10:30 am: Session One:
 - Samuel Cohen (Sonoma State): "A War of Cultures? Jews, Christians, and Heretics in Sixth-Century Italy"
 - Benjamin Garceau (UCI), "Translation as a War against Heresy in Late Antique Italy"
- 10:30 – 10:50 am: Coffee
- 10:50-12:00 pm: Session Two:
 - Shane Bjornlie (CMC), "Monsters and Mead Hall: *Beowulf* at the Edge of Carolingian Empire"
 - Scott Bruce (CU Boulder) "At War with the Ancients: Reassessing the Reception of Greek and Roman Texts in Early Medieval Monasteries"
- 12:00 – 1:15 pm: Lunch (Smith Campus Center, 208)
- 1:15-3:00 pm: Session Three:
 - Glen Cooper (CMC): "Culture Wars from Baghdad to Barcelona: Power Asymmetries in the Transmission of the Greek and Arabic Sciences"
 - Nader El-Bizri (American University, Beirut) "Dialectical Syncretism and Intercultural Confluence: Overcoming Strife in the Epistles of the Brethren of Purity"
 - Ahmed Alwishah (Pitzer), "Aristotle vs Avicenna on Intellect and the Human Soul"
- 3:00 – 3:30 pm: Coffee
- 3:30-4:40 pm: Session Four:
 - Jamel Velji (CMC), "Contesting Origins: on Coffee, Myth, and Religion"
 - Patricia Blessing (Pomona), "Crusade and Conquest in Medieval Fabrics: Textiles from Anatolia and Spain, 1100-1300"
- 5:00 – 6:30 pm: Keynote Address: "The Creation of Arian Identity in Ostrogothic Italy," Yitzhak Hen (Ben-Gurion)
- 6:30 pm: Reception and Dinner (shuttle to hotel: 8:00 pm)

Sponsors

LAMS (Late Antique-Medieval Studies) as a community of scholars is made up of students and faculty from across the Claremont College. Its primary purpose is to provide a cohesive, inventive curriculum that embodies the goals of a liberal arts education. In the process we regularly communicate with one another and exchange ideas about our scholarly work. Each year, in February, we host a LAMS symposium. In even years, it is an intramural gathering, a chance to share work among ourselves. In odd years, we host a regional symposium on a specific topic of mutual interest. Our inaugural LAMS symposium in 2013 focused on the "Life and Legacy of Constantine," in commemoration of the 1,700th anniversary of the Edict of Milan, and featured a keynote address by Ray Van Dam. In 2015 we held another one on "Religious Boundary Maintenance"—with Brian Catlos as the keynote speaker—that highlighted the efforts on the part of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim communities to maintain their religious identities in the face of the social, political, and economic pressures that threatened to erode them.

The Mediterranean Seminar is dedicated to the study of Mediterranean societies and cultures and their role in World History and the History of "the West." Located at the intersection of three continents, the premodern Mediterranean was a shared environment characterized by tremendous ethnic and religious diversity and by the intensity of cultural, economic, and political exchange. Among Africans, Asians, and Europeans, Christians, Muslims, and Jews, and others, both conflict and peaceful communication encouraged acculturation and spurred innovations that transformed the societies of the Mediterranean and their continental neighbors. Though because of the dominance of modern national paradigms, the weight of teleological historical traditions, and assumptions about the rigidity of ecumenical divisions, the premodern Mediterranean is frequently regarded as an anomaly, it was central to the historical developments and cultural transformations that produced Modernity. Sponsoring a diverse range of scholarly activities, including a reading group, colloquia, seminars, and publications, The Mediterranean Seminar provides a forum for scholarly exchange and dialogue across the Humanities and Social Sciences, and for collaboration among Mediterranean Studies departments and research projects across the world. These exchanges are designed to facilitate investigation into the character of the Mediterranean as a region and its role in history and to promote the incorporation of Mediterranean Studies into university curricula.