



Illuminating the Eastern Christian World

30 June-1 July 2022,
Centre for the Study of
Manuscript Cultures,
University of Hamburg



ITIESE



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Illuminating the Eastern Christian World

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Organizers

Alessandro Bausi, Sophia Dege-Müller, Jacopo Gnisci, Jonas Karlsson,
Vitagrazia Pisani, Theo M. van Lint

The past decade has witnessed a steadily growing interest in the arts and manuscript cultures of the Eastern Christian traditions of Armenia, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia and Syria fostered, in part, by mounting calls for the social and historical sciences to broaden their focus to include objects, people, and regions that have been traditionally marginalized in academia or viewed as peripheral in discourses about the medieval West and Byzantium. Within this evolving context – which has seen shifts in political and scholarly parameters and a strong convergence towards the idea of globalizing the “Middle Ages” – recent research on the manuscript traditions of the Eastern Christian world has developed along two distinct but complementary lines. The first, aims to develop comparative approaches and perspectives to these manuscript traditions that consider instances of cross-Mediterranean exchange and continuity while also relativizing and resisting normative notions of centre-periphery. The second, uses manuscripts to destabilize notions of cultural uniformity and national or religious identity, by locating instances of heterodoxy, idiosyncrasy, cultural mixing and pluralism within the multifaceted groups that are today conveniently but problematically subsumed under categories such as “Oriental Orthodox.” By bringing together these two fields of inquiry, this conference sets out to explore the role that manuscripts, especially those bearing illustrations, can play in improving our understanding of the transmission, reception, adaptation and reinterpretation of texts, images, matter, material practices, and ideas, as well as the movement of book makers, owners, and readers across the Mediterranean world and beyond between late antiquity and the Middle Ages.

The participants to this workshop, which has the goal of allowing contributors to feedback into their respective papers before submitting them for publication, are all considered world-leading experts in their respective fields. The book sets out to overturn conventional Western-driven narratives of the history of book making and using in favour of an approach that centres on the traditions of Africa and Asia and that focuses in particular on the material and artistic traditions of the Oriental Christian world. Their papers will contribute to reframing the history of the codex and its illustration in more globalized terms, thus meeting the growing demand for publications on a more inclusive Middle Ages.

Thursday 30 June		
Time		Title/Speaker
9:00–9:30	Registration	
9:30–10:00	Opening	Bausi, Gnisci, van Lint
		Chair: Alessandro Bausi
10:00–10:30		Entangled Histories in the Egyptian Desert: The Pentaglot Psalter Vatican, Barberinianus orientalis 2 (Alin Suciu)
10:30–11:00	Coffee break	
		Chair: Christian Brockmann
11:00–11:30		The Miniatures of the Paris Dioscorides (BnF Grec 2179): Date, Style, Origin (Georgi Parpulov)
11:30–12:00		Medium Interactions: The Links between Medieval Manuscript Illustration and Monumental Church Art (Mat Immerzeel , <i>online</i>)
12:00–12:30		The Archangel Gabriel with a Sword in Rossi's Magical Tractate and Some Nubian Paintings (Magdalena Łaptaś)
12:30–14:00	Lunch (<i>in situ</i>)	
		Chair: Denis Nosnitsin
14:00–14:30		The People Behind the Book: Colophons, Scribal Notes and <i>Additiones</i> in Medieval Ethiopic Manuscripts (Sophia Dege-Müller and Vitagrazia Pisani)
14:30–15:00		Visualizing Holiness in Early Solomonic Ethiopia: The Iyäsus Mo'a Portrait in the Ḥayq Ḥstīfanos Gospels (Jacopo Gnisci)
15:00–15:30		Number, Text, and Image: Mystic Contemplation of the Eusebian Canon Tables from Lindisfarne to Armenia (Matthew Crawford , <i>online</i>)
15:30–16:00	Coffee break	
		Chair: Emilio Bonfiglio
16:00–16:30		The Making of a Syriac Gospel Lectionary: Craftsmen's Identity and the Workshops' Functioning (François Pacha Miran)
16:30–17:00		Translations and the Exchange of Manuscripts among Eastern Christian Communities: An Analysis of the Late Antique Syriac Evidence (Philip Michael Forness)
19:00	Dinner (<i>Brodersen restaurant; for speakers</i>)	

Friday 1 July		
Time		Title/Speaker
8:45–9:00	Arrival	
		Chair: Leah Mascia
9:00–9:30		Hebrew Book Art in Shared Spaces, c. 1300 (Katrin Kogman-Appel)
9:30–10:00		The Illustrated Arabic Book as Index of Early Globalism: Reconsidering the <i>Maqāmāt</i> of al-Ḥarīrī (BnF Arabe 5847) (Finbarr Barry Flood)
10:00–10:30		Mozarab(ic) Manuscripts: Old Paradigms and New Approaches (Umberto Bongianino)
10:30–11:00	Coffee break	
		Chair: Eka Kvirkvelia
11:00–11:30		Cilician Armenian Gospel Manuscripts with Royal Images: A Classification (Gohar Grigoryan)
11:30–12:00		East Christian World and Georgian Illuminated Manuscripts in Cross-cultural Context (Nino Kavtaria)
12:00–12:30		Patrons, Texts, Transmission: Ezekiel’s Throne Vision in Ani, Yerznka and Gladzor (Tenth-Fourteenth Centuries) (Theo M. van Lint)
12:30–14:00	Lunch (in situ)	
		Chair: Hanna Wimmer
14:00–14:30		Reflections on Multiculturalism in the Levant: The Impact of Eastern Christian Minorities in the Production of Byzantine Manuscripts of Cyprus (Elisabeth Yota , <i>online</i>)
14:30–15:00		Wearing the Word: Book Satchels and Book-Shrines at the World’s Edge (Heather Pulliam)
15:00–15:30	Coffee break	
15:30–16:00		Final discussion

****Attendance to the conference is free but booking is essential****

This conference has been organized within the framework of the AHRC-DFG Project “Demarginalizing medieval Africa: Images, texts, and identity in early Solomonic Ethiopia (1270-1527)” (ref. no. AH/V002910/1) and has been supported by the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures.