Law and Communal Identity in the Early Medieval World

A Conference at the UCLA Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies

January 23-25, 2020

Organized by
Professor Luke Yarbrough
(Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA)
and
Professor Jessica Goldberg
(History, UCLA)

This conference explores the complicated question of how law shaped the bounding of religious communities in the early medieval period—equally in the Byzantine, western Islamic, and western European worlds—and how in turn changing meanings of religious community re-shaped law.

Please register online at cmrs.ucla.edu/conference/law-and-communal-identity/
No fee. Limited seating.

Campus parking information is posted at main.transportation.ucla.edu/campus-parking/visitors

Funding for the conference is provided by the Armand Hammer Endowment for the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and the UCLA Center for Near Eastern Studies.

UCLA Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2020 | UCLA ROYCE 314
 Concepts of Law and Community

1:30 Welcoming Remarks

SESSION I | Chair: Jessica Goldberg (UCLA)
2:00 "Legal Alchemy: How and Why Canonists Turned Muslims into Jews"
Presenter: David Freidenreich (Colby College) and Victoria Paquette (Colby College)
Discussant: Brendan Goldman (Princeton University)

Presenter: Atria Larson (Saint Louis University)
Discussant: Abigail Firey (University of Kentucky)

3:30 Coffee Break

SESSION II | Chair: Michael Cooperison (UCLA)
4:00 "The Legal Significance of Sahābiyyāt: Biographies for Regulating Muslim Non-Muslim Kinship Ties"
Presenter: Uriel Simonsohn (University of Haifa)
Discussant: Evan Metzger (UCLA)

4:45 "Non-Muslim Religious Communities and the Shaping of Hanbali Law"
Presenter: Chris PreJean (UCLA)
Discussant: Lev Weitz (Catholic University of America)

5:15 Conclusion of Day I

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2020 | UCLA ROYCE 314
 Society and Its Institutions

9:00 Coffee, fruit, pastries

SESSION III | Chair: Arvind Thomas (UCLA)
9:30 "My law does not instruct me to say anything but what I have already said: Monastic Communities and the Law in Late 10th- to Early 11th-Century Central Italy"
Presenter: Maya Maskarinec (University of Southern California)
Discussant: Atria Larson (Saint Louis University)

10:15 "Overturned Order, Neglected Law? The Production of Legal Knowledge in Normandy, ca. 880–1080"
Presenter: Abigail Firey (University of Kentucky)
Discussant: David Freidenreich (Colby College)

11:00 Coffee Break

SESSION IV | Chair: Michael Morony (UCLA)
11:15 "Heterodox Judges and Witnesses: Boundaries Between Muslim Communities Inside the Courtroom"
Presenter: Mathieu Tillier (Sorbonne University)
Discussant: Oded Zinger (Hebrew University)

12:00 "East Syrian Confessional Law in the Early Medieval Caliphate"
Presenter: Lev Weitz (Catholic University of America)
Discussant: Faisal Abdullah (UCLA)

12:45 Lunch Break

SESSION V | Chair: Cecilia Palombo (Princeton University)
2:30 "Violence and Community: Two Brawls from the Cairo Geniza"
Presenter: Oded Zinger (Hebrew University)
Discussant: Marina Rustow (Princeton University)

3:15 "Legal Pluralism in Action: Individual Strategies and Overlapping Communities in Some Early Medieval Papyri"
Presenter: Arietta Papaconstantinou (University of Reading)
Discussant: Maya Maskarinec (University of Southern California)

4:00 Coffee Break

SESSION VI | Chair: Asma Sayeed (UCLA)
4:30 "Al-Taṣrāṣī’s Fatwā on Preventing the Compulsory Payment of Zakāt by Minors"
Presenter: Evan Metzger (UCLA)
Discussant: Uriel Simonsohn (University of Haifa)

5:00 "Shar ' Man Qablanā (The Laws of Those Who Preceded Us): Muslim Views on Pre-Muḥammadan Religious Law and Its Utility in the Shari‘ah"
Presenter: Faisal Abdullah (UCLA)
Discussant: Mathieu Tillier (Sorbonne University)

5:30 Conference Reception

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2020 | UCLA ROYCE 314
 State Power, Law, and Community

9:00 Coffee, fruit, pastries

SESSION VII | Chair: Sharon Gerstel (UCLA)
9:30 "Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Communities in Normative Documents of Islamo-Christian Iberia"
Presenter: Adam Kosto (Columbia University)
Discussant: Alexandra Roberts (University of Southern California)

10:15 "Revising Romanitas: Rediscovering the Roman Past in Byzantine Legal Texts (8th–11th c.)"
Presenter: Zachary Chitwood (Universität Mainz)
Discussant: Patrick Morgan (UCLA)

11:00 Coffee Break

SESSION VIII | Chair: Warren Brown (Caltech)
11:30 "Legislating Religious Boundaries in the Twelfth-Century Mediterranean"
Presenter: Patrick Morgan (UCLA)
Discussant: Adam Kosto (Columbia University)

12:00 "'Al-Awzā‘i’s Letters to ‘Abbāsid Authorities: Law and Community on the Frontier"
Presenter: Holly Robbins (UCLA)
Discussant: Arietta Papaconstantinou (University of Reading)

12:30 Lunch Break

SESSION IX | Chair: Carol Bakhos (UCLA)
2:00 "Imprisonment, Torture and the Limits of Dhimmī Legal Autonomy in Medieval Egypt: The Specter of State Violence in Cairo Genizah Documents"
Presenter: Brendan Goldman (Princeton University)
Discussant: Holly Robbins (UCLA)

2:45 "Narrating the Trial of John bar ʿAbdūn"
Presenter: Zachary Chitwood (Universität Mainz)
Discussant: Patrick Morgan (UCLA)

3:30 Coffee Break

SESSION X | Chair: Luke Yarbrough (UCLA)
3:45 "The Fatimid State and the Jewish Community: Six Geniza Documents"
Presenter: Marina Rustow (Princeton University)
Discussant: Chris PreJean (UCLA)

4:30 Concluding Discussion