

Workshop on Late Antiquity

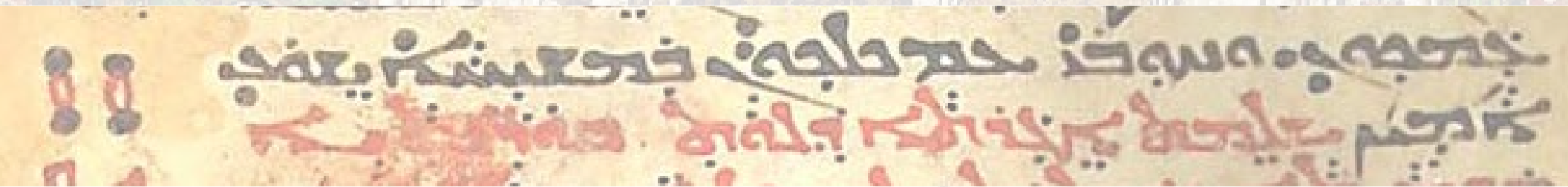
Sponsored by
Middle Eastern Studies
The Department of Religious Studies
Louise Farmer Boyer Chair in Biblical Studies



Edward Watts *University of California at San Diego* **4 February 2014—5:00 p.m.—UNB 4.206 (Chicano Culture Room)**

Elites, Monks, and the Making of Christian Counterculture in the 370s

The generation of Romans who came of age after the tetrarchic and Constantinian administrative reforms entered a world in which governmental positions were far more numerous and lucrative than ever before. The Roman educational system opened the doors to these opportunities and socialized students to take best advantage of them by developing social networks. In the 360s, 370s, and early 380s, however, we begin to see a movement in which educated elites turn against both their education and the careers for which it prepared them. Intriguingly, part of what makes their rejection of elite social norms and aspirations possible are the networks of friends their education helped them to develop.



Na'ama Pat-El *The University of Texas at Austin* **10 April 2014—5:00 p.m.—MEZ B0.306**

“Namely” or “Forsooth”? The Disturbing History of the Syriac Particle LAM

The Syriac particle LAM has been assumed to be a marker of direct speech by grammarians and linguists. Several scholars has traced its history to an infinitive of the verb to say in Aramaic. In this talk I will take a fresh look at the function of the particle in Syriac texts of various genres and periods and its possible etymology. The results will shock and amaze you, and will serve as a reminder of what happens when one does not read ancient texts carefully.



Mattia Guidetti *Independent Scholar* **14 April 2014—4:00 p.m.—DFA 2.204**

Late antique churches in early medieval Syria

The 7th century Islamic conquest forced different actors to reconfigure their identity, as well as their relationship with the territory they inhabited. Guidetti will discuss the process of creating a new sacred landscape in Syrian towns during the early medieval period, showing to what extent the presence and the aura of late antique churches determined the location of early medieval mosques—and the impact exerted on religious art of both sides by the interaction between Christian and Muslim communities.



Ingela Nilsson *Uppsala University, Sweden* **29 April 2014—5:00 p.m.—CLA 0.128**

Poets and Teachers in Hades: The Katabasis as Authorial Satire

This lecture will focus on the underworld as a place where one may encounter authors and intellectuals of the past or the present; a platform where their issues may be displayed and discussed. These discussions may function as comical, critical, or subversive approaches towards power structures. Nilsson argues that this characteristic may be seen in early modern and modern European versions of the katabasis motif, but also in Greek models of late antiquity and in Byzantium. Special focus will be placed on twelfth-century Byzantium and the anonymous dialogue Timarion.



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