



Egypt and empire: religious identities from Roman to modern times

Thu 10 Dec and Fri 11 Dec 2015

Stevenson Lecture Theatre, British Museum



Thursday 10 December

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| 09.30 | Registration | 12.05 | Evidencing God's favour:
contesting the flood in medieval Egypt
John Cooper, University of Exeter |
| 10.00 | Welcoming remarks
Neal Spencer, British Museum | 12.35 | Lunch |
| 10.10 | Archives and identities
Chair: Elisabeth O'Connell, British Museum | | Empire and innovation
Chair: Roberta Mazza,
University of Manchester |
| 10.20 | The 20th-century invention of
cosmopolitan Egypt
Will Hanley, Florida State University | 13.45 | Religious calendars and imperial
technologies of synchronization in
semi-colonial Egypt
On Barak, Tel Aviv University |
| 10.50 | Visible identities: in search of Egypt's
Jews in papyri from early Islamic Egypt
(AD 600–1000)
Petra Sijpesteijn, Leiden University | 14.15 | Language choice in Egypt against the
background of Roman law
Sofía Torallas Tovar,
University of Chicago |
| 11.20 | Coffee break | 14.45 | Settlements in transition:
Late Roman and early Islamic towns
of the north-east Delta and beyond
Alison Gascoigne,
University of Southampton |
| | The environment
Chair: Dominic Rathbone, KCL | | |
| 11.35 | What's faith got to do with it?
A diachronic perspective on
empire, land, and religion
Katherine Blouin, University of Toronto | | |

- 15.15 **Coffee break**
- Image/icon**
Chair: Sophie Lunn-Rockcliffe, KCL
- 15.30 The question of gods in arms in pagan Roman Egypt: somehow a matter of greaves
Vincent Rondot, Musée du Louvre
- 16.00 The Egyptian icon from pagan votives to the Christian panel
Jas' Elsner, University of Oxford
- 16.30 **End of session**
- 17.30 **Keynote lecture**
Egyptian religious identities under imperial rule: critical reflections
Roger Bagnall, New York University
Separate ticket available, followed by a private view of the exhibition *Egypt: faith after the pharaohs* and a reception.
- 12.15 The mantle of ascetic authority in Late Antique Egypt: enduring symbol, changeable garment
Thelma Thomas, New York University
- 12.45 Fitting in/standing out: dress and identity of Christians and Muslims in Mamlūk Egypt
Judith Kindinger, Leiden University
- 13.15 **Lunch**
- Mapping faith**
Chair: Roberta Tomber, British Museum
- 14.15 Abraham's mission and Moses' cosmography in the Christian topography of Kosmas Indikopleustes
Maja Kominko, Arcadia
- 14.45 Where did all the Christians go? Peasants and tribesmen of the Fayyum (AD 1060–1240)
Yossef Rapoport, Queen Mary University of London

Friday 11 December

- Minorities and majorities**
Chair: Venetia Porter, British Museum
- 10.00 Anti-Judaism in Egypt: from Alexandria to Fustat
David Nirenberg, University of Chicago
- 10.30 Rethinking persecutions: *P. Ryl. 3 469* and the Manichaeans in Egypt
Roberta Mazza, University of Manchester
- 11.00 Coptic texts and the transition from Roman to Islamic rule (6th–8th century)
Phil Booth, University of Oxford
- 11.30 **Coffee break**
- Dress identification**
Chair: Amandine Mérat, British Museum
- 11.45 Burial practices in Roman and Late Antique Egypt: continuity and change
Cäcilia Fluck, Skulpturensammlung und Museum für Byzantinische Kunst
- Communicating difference**
Chair: Mariam Rosser-Owen, V&A
- 15.30 The role of military elite in early Islamic Egypt (AD 640–950)
Hugh Kennedy, SOAS
- 16.00 Languages of empire and languages of Egypt
Arietta Papaconstantinou, University of Reading
- 16.30 The land of Egypt is the garden of the LORD: the flowering of Jewish culture in medieval Cairo
Ben Outhwaite, University of Cambridge
- 17.00 **End of session**