



# The Byzantine Commonwealth 50 years on: Empires and their Afterlife

27th–28th SEPTEMBER 2018, WORCESTER COLLEGE,  
OXFORD

## SPEAKERS' BIOS

We gratefully acknowledge the support of:



The Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research

## Speakers' Bios

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### **Jean-Claude Cheynet** (Paris-Sorbonne, UMR 8167 « Orient-Méditerranée »)

Jean-Claude Cheynet was a researcher at the French CNRS (1977-1995), Professor of Byzantine History at the University of Paris-Sorbonne (1995-2015), Visiting Fellow at All Souls (2005), honorary member of the Institut universitaire de France (2008-2013) and Member of the *Academia Europaea* from 2012. Cheynet's main works are on the Byzantine aristocracy (*Pouvoir et contestations à Byzance (963-1210)* (1990); *The Byzantine Aristocracy and its Military Function* (2006). He has published several catalogues of lead seals, which inform his studies on the Byzantine administration and economy (*La société byzantine. L'apport des sceaux*, 2008). Cheynet edited *Revue des études byzantines* (1996-2005) and co-edited *Studies in Byzantine Sigillography* (with Cl. Sode 2003-2016), and was head of the Centre d'histoire et de civilisation de Byzance (2000-2013).



### **Nicola Di Cosmo** (IAS, Princeton)

Nicola Di Cosmo received his PhD from Indiana University in 1991, and held research and teaching positions at the University of Cambridge, Harvard University, and the University of Canterbury (New Zealand) before joining the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton in 2003. His main field of research is the history of relations between China and Inner Asia from prehistory to the modern period. Within that broad area he has published on the early history of China's relations with steppe nomads (e.g., *Ancient China and Its Enemies: The Rise of Nomadic Powers in East Asian History*, 2002) and on Mongol and Manchu history (e.g., *Manchu-Mongol Relations on the Eve of the Qing Conquest*, 2003), and he has edited several books, including *Military Culture in Imperial China* (2009) and *The Cambridge History of Inner Asia* (2009). His most recent works explore the use of proxy data from climatology and other palaeosciences in the study of the history of China and Central Asia, with special reference to early Eurasian nomads, the Mongol empire, and the Qing dynasty.



### **Shay Eshel** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Shay Eshel is a Byzantinist and translator, currently the National Library of Israel's Humanities book curator. He received his PhD in 2015 from The Hebrew University and the National Library of Israel and his thesis was published in 2018 as *The Concept of the Elect Nation in Byzantium*. It focuses upon Byzantine identities, and asserts that the Old Testament model of the ancient Israelites was a prominent factor in the evolution of Roman-Byzantine national identity between the seventh and the thirteenth centuries.

Eshel has translated several medieval Byzantine sources into Hebrew, among them the text known as the John Phokas itinerary – *A Brief Description of the Holy Places* (*Cathedra* 135, 2010, pp.7-62), Michael Psellos' *Chronographia* (2015) and Epiphanius Hagiopolites' *Description of the Holy Places* (forthcoming).



### **Nicholas Evans** (University of Cambridge)

Nicholas Evans is currently a Research Fellow in History at Clare College, Cambridge. He holds a BA in History and Russian (2011), a MST in Late Antique and Byzantine Studies (2012), and DPhil in History (2016), all from the University of Oxford. His thesis, *Mountains, Steppes and Empires: Approaches to the North Caucasus in the Early Middle Ages*, is being revised for publication. His research in the Wittgenstein-Prize Project as Team Member (2016–2017; Division for Byzantine Research/Institute for Medieval Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences) concentrated on pastoralists in Byzantine sources, global connections in the Caucasus, and the Russian historiography of feudalism and the church in Byzantium and its neighbours. Evans' research interests include Byzantine economic and social history; Late Antique and Medieval Caucasus: history and archaeology; Approaches to pre-modern imperialism; Russian intellectual history; Environmental history.

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**Marie Favereau** (University of Oxford)

Marie Favereau is a research associate at Oxford University and member of *Nomadic Empires: A World-Historical Perspective*, a five-year project led by Pekka Hämäläinen and funded by the European Research Council. Previously, she was a member of the French Institute of Oriental Archaeology in Cairo (2005-2009), a Fulbright visiting member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton (2009-2010), and a post-doctoral researcher at Leiden University (2011-2014). She received her Doctorate in History from La Sorbonne-Paris IV and the Università degli Studi di San Marino in 2004. Her writings have appeared in *Annales Islamologiques*, *Golden Horde Review*, *Turcica*, *Revue des Mondes Musulmans et de la Méditerranée* and *Revue des Etudes Slaves*. She is the author of *La Horde d'Or: Les Héritiers de Gengis Khan* (2014) and the co-author of the graphic novel *Gengis Khan* (2014). She has also co-edited *Золотая Орда в мировой истории* [The Golden Horde in World History] (2016; English transl. 2017) and *La Horde d'Or et l'islamisation des steppes eurasiatiques, 1250-1550* [The Golden Horde and the Islamisation of the Eurasian Steppes] (special issue of *Revue des Mondes Musulmans et de la Méditerranée*, 2018).



**Peter Frankopan** (University of Oxford)

Peter Frankopan is Director of the Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research and Senior Research Fellow at Worcester College. He specialises in the history of the Byzantine Empire in the eleventh century, and in the history of Asia Minor, Russia and the Balkans. He works on medieval Greek literature and rhetoric, and on diplomatic and cultural exchange between Constantinople and the Islamic world, western Europe and the principalities of southern Russia. Recent publications include *The Silk Roads: a New History of the World* (2015); *The First Crusade: the Call from the East* (2012); and a translation of *Anna Komnene: The Alexiad* (2009).



**Tim Greenwood** (St Andrews University)

Tim Greenwood is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mediaeval History at the University of St Andrews. He is the author of numerous studies on the political, social and cultural history of late antique and medieval Armenia and has recently published *The Universal History of Step'anos Tarōnec'i* (Oxford, 2017), the first English translation and commentary of this early eleventh-century Armenian text.



**Cecily Hilsdale** (McGill University)

Cecily Hilsdale, Associate Professor of Art History at McGill University, specializes in the arts of Byzantium and the wider medieval world. She is the author of *Byzantine Art and Diplomacy in an Age of Decline* (Cambridge University Press, 2014) and numerous articles dealing with cultural exchange, in particular the circulation of Byzantine luxury items as diplomatic gifts as well as the related dissemination of eastern styles, techniques, iconographies, and ideologies of imperium.

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### Mike Humphreys (University of Cambridge)

Mike Humphreys is currently a Lecturer in Early Medieval History at the University of Cambridge and has just completed a Research Fellowship at St John's College, Cambridge. His work focuses on Byzantium between c. 600–900, with particular interest in law, ideology, identity and iconoclasm. After publishing a monograph with Oxford University Press entitled, *Law, Power, and Imperial Ideology in the Iconoclast Era, c. 680–850*, he completed a translation of the *Ecloga* and associated texts for

Translated Texts for Byzantinists. Now he is embarking on a project examining corporal punishment. He is also the editor for a forthcoming *Companion to Byzantine Iconoclasm* to be published with Brill.



### Sergey Ivanov (Moscow)

Sergey Ivanov is Professor at the National Research University "Higher School of Economics" in Moscow and also a Professor at the State University of St Petersburg. He authored nearly 200 scholarly publications, including the Russian translation and commentaries to Leo the Deacon's *History* (in co-authorship, 1988), the two-volume Russian language *Corpus of the Oldest Written Evidence on the Slavs* (in co-authorship, 1991-1995), the monographs *Holy Fools in Byzantium and Beyond* (2006, Russian original 1995, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2005, also in Czech translation), *Pearls Before Swine: Missionary Work in Byzantium* (2015, Russian original 2003, also in Czech translation) and a book of general interest *In Search of Constantinople: A Guide Through Byzantine Istanbul* (2011, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2016; Bulgarian translation).



### Hugh Kennedy (School of Oriental and African Studies, London)

Hugh Kennedy is Professor of Arabic in the Faculty of Languages and Cultures at School of Oriental and African Studies, London. He was formerly a professor of history at the University of St Andrews, a position he had held since 1972. Among his research topics is the history of the Islamic Middle East, Islamic archaeology and Muslim Spain. He holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge. His publications include *The Great Arab Conquests. How the Spread of Islam Changed the World We Live In* (2007); *The Court of the Caliphs: When Baghdad Ruled the Muslim World* (2005); *The Armies of the Caliphs. Military and Society in the Early Islamic State* (2005); and *The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphates, 600–1050* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed. 2015).



### Paul Magdalino (St Andrews University)

Paul Magdalino studied history at Oxford and received his DPhil in 1976 for a thesis, examined by Steven Runciman and Dimitri Obolensky, on Thessaly in the later Middle Ages. After school-teaching in Athens and holding fellowships in Washington D.C., he joined the Department of Mediaeval History at the University of St Andrews, from which he retired as Bishop Wardlaw Professor of Byzantine History in 2009. He also taught, from 2006 to 2014, at Koç University, Istanbul. He has had visiting appointments at Harvard and the Parisian hautes écoles, and held fellowships in Canberra, Frankfurt, Munich, Berlin and Mainz, in addition to revisiting Washington, where he was Senior Fellow of the Center for Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks from 2001 to 2007. He has published widely on many aspects of Byzantine history; his research has particularly focused on the twelfth century, the 'Macedonian Renaissance', prophecy and astrology, and the city of Constantinople. He has been a Fellow of the British Academy since 2002.

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### **Kirill Maximovich** (Göttingen/Frankfurt am Main)

Kirill Maximovich received his PhD on 'Legal Terminology in the "Pandectae" of Nikon from the Black Mountain in an Old Russian translation' in 1996 from the Institute of Russian Language (Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow), where he subsequently worked. In 1998–9 he used an Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung fellowship in Bonn to prepare the *editio princeps* of an important source of Byzantine ecclesiastical history – the *Liber parvus* ("The Small Book") by Nikon from the Black Mountain (1087). Between 2003 and 2014 he was Professor of Canon Law and Head of Department of Church History and Canon Law at the St Tikhon Orthodox University of Humanities (Moscow), obtaining his second doctorate in 2008 on "Pannonian Law-books in Old Russia". Since 2014 he has been based Göttingen/Frankfurt am Main as a researcher on the project "Edition and Investigation of Byzantine Law-Books". Maximovich is author of about 130 publications (including 6 books), mostly on the reception and dissemination of Byzantine civil and canon law in the Slavic lands. His interests include Byzantino-Slavic linguistic and cultural contacts, especially Byzantine impact on Old Slavic and Old Russian law; Church history; canon law of the Eastern Church.



### **David Morgan** (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

David Morgan was Professor of History and Religious Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1999 to 2010 (now Emeritus). From 1975 to 1999 he was on the academic staff of the History Department at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London (Reader in the History of the Middle East, 1989-99), where he received his PhD ("Aspects of Mongol Rule in Persia") in 1977. He is Professorial Research Associate in the History Department at the School of Oriental and African Studies. His first degree was a BA in Modern History from the University of Oxford in 1966. He is the author of *The Mongols* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2007) and *Medieval Persia 1040-1797* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2016), and is joint editor of volume 3 of *The New Cambridge History of Islam* (2010). He was Editor of the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* from 1987 to 1999, and was General Editor for Cambridge University Press of *Cambridge Studies in Islamic Civilization* from 1991 to 2013.



### **Johannes Pahlitzsch** (University of Mainz)

Johannes Pahlitzsch studied church music before moving on to medieval history, Arabic and Byzantine studies at the Free University of Berlin. His doctorate focused on the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem at the time of the Crusades, and he gained his Habilitation in 2008. His edition of the Arabic translation of the 'Procheiros Nomos' was carried out on behalf of the Research Center Byzantine Legal History at the Academy of Sciences in Göttingen; as a scholarship holder of the Gerda Henkel Foundation and as a member of the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton. From October 2005 to March 2009, he worked as a research associate at the University of Mainz within the framework of the DFG Priority Program 1173 "Integration and Disintegration of Cultures in the European Middle Ages". The project topic: Mediator between East and West. Greek Orthodox and Latin Christians under Muslim rule as integrative forces in the Levant (13th-15th century). Since April 2009 he has been Professor of Byzantine Studies at the University of Mainz.

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### **Daphne Penna** (University of Groningen)

Daphne Penna studied law at the University of Athens in Greece where she completed her Masters in Legal History (2003). She wrote a dissertation (University of Groningen, 2012) on “The Byzantine Imperial Acts to Venice, Pisa and Genoa, 10th-12th Centuries. A Comparative Legal Study”. She is currently working as assistant professor in the Legal History Department at the University of Groningen. Her interests lie in Roman and Byzantine law and especially in their influence on the European legal tradition. She teaches the following courses: *Seminar in Byzantine Law* (in English), *The Legal Heritage of Europe* (in English), *Roman Law, Tutorials* (in Dutch) and *History of Codifications, Tutorials* (in Dutch and English).



### **Peter Sarris** (University of Cambridge)

Peter Sarris is Reader in Late Roman, Medieval and Byzantine History at the University of Cambridge, where he is a Fellow of Trinity College, and was formerly a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford (1993-2006). He has published extensively on the social, economic, and legal history of Late Antiquity, with a particular focus on the political economy of the East Roman Empire, the transmission of Roman economic culture in the post-Roman West, and the background to the rise of Islam. His current research focuses on the development of Eurasian trading networks in Late Antiquity. His publications include *Economy and Society in the Age of Justinian* (2006), *Empires of Faith: The Fall of Rome to the Rise of Islam* (2011), and *Byzantium – A Very Short Introduction* (2015). Along with David Miller, he is the co-author of *The Novels of Justinian – A Complete Annotated English Translation* (expected September 2018).



### **Jonathan Shepard** (University of Oxford)

Jonathan Shepard was for many years University Lecturer in Russian History at the University of Cambridge, a Fellow of Selwyn College and of Peterhouse; he is Doctor Honoris Causa at St Kliment Ohrid University in Sofia. Co-author of *The Emergence of Rus* (1996) with Simon Franklin, with whom he also edited *Byzantine Diplomacy* (1992), his edited volumes include *The Expansion of Orthodox Europe* (2007) and *The Cambridge History of the Byzantine Empire* (2008). Shepard has published a collection of studies in *Emergent Elites and Byzantium in the Balkans and East-Central Europe* (2011). He is currently working on a general European history of the tenth and eleventh centuries, and is Co-Investigator on the AHRC-funded project *Dirhams for Slaves*.



### **Juan Signes Codoñer** (University of Valladolid)

Juan Signes Codoñer gained his PhD in classical Greek in 1993 from the University of Salamanca, and is now Professor of Greek at the University of Valladolid. His research focuses on Homer, Isocrates, Greek grammar, Greek historiography, Iconoclasm, Greek and Spanish Humanism, Byzantium and the Arabs. He has published over 80 articles and 21 books (as author or editor), including *El periodo del segundo iconoclasmo en Theophanes Continuatus* (1995); *The Emperor Theophilos and the East (829-842). Court and Frontier in Byzantium during the last phase of Iconoclasm* (2014); (with I. Pérez Martín) (eds.), *Textual Transmission in Byzantium: between Textual Criticism and Quellenforschung* (2014); (with M.J. Featherstone (eds.), *Chronographiae quae Theophanis Continuati nomine fertur libri I-IV* (2015).

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**Vlada Stanković** (University of Belgrade)

Vlada Stanković is Professor of Byzantine Studies and the director of the Center for Cypriot Studies at the University of Belgrade where he directs the multidisciplinary project "Christian culture in the Balkans in the Middle Ages". A member of the editorial board of *Byzantinische Zeitschrift* since 2009, he is editor-in-chief of Lexington Books' series *Byzantium – A European Empire and Its Legacy*, for which he edited the volume *The Balkans and the Byzantine World before and after the Captures of Constantinople, 1204 and 1453* in 2016. His more recent publications include: 'Putting Byzantium Back on the Map', *Modern Greek Studies Yearbook* 32/33 (2016/2017), pp. 399–405; 'John II Komnenos Before the Year 1118', in: A. Buccossi-A. Rodrigues Suarez (eds.), *John II Komnenos, Emperor of Byzantium: In the Shadow of Father and Son* (2016, pp. 11-21), and 'Stronger Than It Appears? Byzantium and Its European Hinterland after the Death of Manuel Komnenos', in: A. Simpson (ed.), *Byzantium, 1180-1204: "The sad quarter of a century"?* (2015, pp. 35–48).



**Monica White** (University of Nottingham)

Dr Monica White is lecturer in Russian and Slavonic Studies at the University of Nottingham. Her research broadly concerns the cultural and religious history of Byzantium and the medieval East Slavs, and especially the interactions between those societies. Much of her work to date has focused on the cult of saints, including a monograph about military saints, *Military Saints in Byzantium and Rus, 900–1200* (2013) along with articles about enamel icons, dragon-slaying saints, the veneration of Constantine the Great in Rus, and various aspects of the cult of relics. Forthcoming publications include studies of structural mobility in medieval Eurasia and late Byzantine views of Rus. Her teaching covers the history of Byzantium, Rus and Russia, as well as Orthodox Sainthood. She has also worked as a consultant to an antiquities dealer to identify subjects in icons.



**Marcin Wołoszyn** (University of Leipzig)

Marcin Wołoszyn an archaeologist and historian, whose PhD in 2003 from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow was on 10th-13th century Byzantine and Rus archaeological finds from southern Poland. He holds positions at the Polish Academy of Sciences Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology and at the University of Rzeszów Institute of Archaeology, and works in close cooperation with the Centre for the History and Culture of East Central Europe at the University of Leipzig (GWZO). Author or co-author of some 80 publications, Wołoszyn has been for over 10 years a member of the editorial office of *Acta Archaeologica Carpathica* (Krakow) and is a member of the scientific committee of *The Journal of Archaeological Numismatics* (Brussels). His main interest is in relations between Central Europe and the Byzantine Empire/Kievan Rus, specifically in the area of the Polish-Rus borderland, and he is now directing a project on the Cherven Towns. Other interests include contacts between Central Europe and the Mediterranean as documented by coins finds and written sources, and the Avar-Slav connection.