

INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY / BRITISH MUSEUM MEDIEVAL SEMINAR 2018–19 PROGRAMME

*The Wilson Lecture and all subsequent seminars in the series will commence at 6.15pm.
Any changes to the advertised programme will be communicated via email.*

Wednesday 24th October 2018 (IoA Lecture Theatre G6)

The Sir David Wilson Lecture in Medieval Studies by Prof. Michael Wood (University of Manchester): *The Lady of the Mercians 918–2018*

In this illustrated talk historian and broadcaster Michael Wood reflects on the life of one of the most remarkable women in Anglo-Saxon history, Aethelflaed 'Lady of Mercians' who died 1100 years ago this year. The daughter of Alfred the Great, Aethelflaed led armies, restored cities, and built fortresses, but her role in the making of England is still poorly understood. Using new evidence from manuscripts and texts, and from the urban archaeology of Mercia, Michael will look at some key aspects of her extraordinary career.

*A joint meeting with the Institute of Historical Research Earlier Middle Ages seminar, followed by a **launch party for the seminar series in the IoA Staff Common Room.***

Tuesday 20th November (IoA Room 209)

Victoria Ziegler (UCL): *Hiatus and Translocation: alternative models for early medieval urban development in Late Saxon London and beyond*

In the second half of the ninth century occupation shifted between Lundenwic and Lundenburh, an event heralded by the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle entry for 886 as King Alfred's 'reoccupation' of London. Recent archaeological research suggests that the causes, processes and effects of the move between *wic* and *burh* were more complex and nuanced than the traditional historical narrative suggests. This paper reviews the archaeological evidence for the shift between the two settlements, highlighting the possibility of cultural and/or temporal hiatuses in occupation and considering whether London's regeneration was necessarily dependent on the actions of the elite. Other contemporary examples of non-linear urban development are reassessed; were urban hiatus and translocation independent local occurrences or more widespread phenomena relating to the complex processes of urbanisation taking place during the early medieval period?

Tuesday 11th December (IoA Room 612)

Joakim Thomasson (Lunds universitet): *The making of urbanity: town architecture in the southern Baltic*

Towns are not just the structural settings that enable non-agrarian activities like craft and trade to emerge at specific places. Towns are also performed: produced and reproduced by people interacting with each other and with the social, spatial and material settings. One area of continuous negotiation and of vital importance for the recognition of urbanity is architecture. The lecture will address the general development of urban architecture in the culturally diverse area of the southern Baltic region during the Middle Ages and the beginning of Early Modern times. The characteristic stepped brick-built gable houses and timber-framed buildings are discussed in relation to changing circumstances in the social organisation of, and the power positions within, the building trade.

Tuesday 15th January 2019 (IoA Room 612)

Dr. Aleksandra McClain (University of York): *Setting New Agendas for the Archaeology of the Norman Conquest*

This talk will discuss the work of the AHRC Network Archaeologies of the Norman Conquest. The goal of the network has been to bring together the different arms of archaeology (academic, professional, heritage) to develop a materially-focused research agenda for the 11th and 12th centuries, and ensure archaeology plays a bigger role in scholarly debates and public perceptions of the Norman Conquest, both of which have been dominated by documentary history.

Tuesday 19th February (IoA Room 209)

Dr. Gareth Williams (British Museum): *Archaeology, Numismatics and the Activities of the 'Great Heathen Army' of 865–79*

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records the continued presence in England of a 'great heathen army', tracing its movements from its initial arrival in East Anglia in 865 to settlement in Northumbria in 876 and East Anglia in 879. Although this has previously been the subject of considerable attention from various disciplines, both archaeological and numismatic evidence have typically been interpreted in the light of the historical evidence. A growing body of evidence, including new hoards as well as new evidence from Viking sites, suggests that the situation may have been considerably more complex than the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle and other sources suggest.

Tuesday 19th March (IoA Room 612)

Prof. Helena Hamerow (University of Oxford): *Feeding Anglo-Saxon England: The Bioarchaeology of an Agricultural Revolution*

The medieval 'agricultural revolution' saw the spread of open-field cereal farming across much of Europe and is regarded as one of the transformative changes of the Middle Ages. In England there is a long-standing debate regarding the origins of open field farming and its impact on the country's social geography and political economy. The lecture will provide an overview of a new project, funded by the ERC, which is using plant macrofossils, animal bones, and pollen, together with settlement archaeology, to generate, for the first time, direct evidence for the conditions in which medieval crops were grown.

Wednesday 22nd May (IoA Room 612)

Dr Steve Ashby (University of York): *Melting Pot: new research on the material culture of food in Viking-Age England*

Though often seen in purely nutritional terms, food is central to the production of identity. This is especially true in contexts of migration, culture contact, and social/economic change, and thus holds significant interpretative potential in the study of the Viking Age. Through a combination of traditional and novel approaches to ceramic study, archaeobotanical and biomolecular techniques, and zooarchaeological, historical and literary contextualisation, this AHRC-funded project seeks to explore the cooking and eating habits of the occupants of 9th-11th century England. *Followed by a summer party in the IoA Staff Common Room.*

CONVENORS

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Sponsored by the World Archaeology Section (IoA) and the British Museum