Formative Memories: Western Society and the Church, 250–1150

Outside the familiar narratives of 'the end of the ancient world' and 'the beginning of the Middle Ages', this international workshop seeks a new understanding of the making of the Christian Church as an institution. That process is so vast and visible that it has often evaded critical analysis. Instead, a polemical version of history has proved remarkably durable. It demonstrates the power of social memory, which was used to legitimate change and institution building. The workshop focuses on three key junctures:

• 400: The adoption of Christianity as the religion of the Roman state creates unexpected 'problems of success' for Christian communities: these are solved largely with reference to the third-century past.

• 800: Frankish warriors and churchmen reconstruct an imperial regime in the West: it is built explicitly around tokens of memory of the Christian Roman Empire, above all its emperors and bishops.

• 1100: 'The Latin Church' achieves institutional take-off through a campaign for a celibate clergy, and in defense of ecclesiastical property rights.
Programme

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6 – AFTERNOON

6.30 WELCOME: “Hotel Barbarina”

7.00 DINNER: “Die Kelter”

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 – MORNING

9.00 Introduction

9.15 JAMES CORKE-WEBSTER | Durham
Trouble in Pontus: The Pliny-Trajan Correspondence on the Christians Reconsidered

JEROEN WIJNENDAELE | Ghent
The Career and Revolt of Gildo (c. 385–398): A Reconsideration

10.30 COFFEE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 - AFTERNOON

11.00 FLORIAN BATTISTELLA | Tübingen
Rector apostolicae fidei veneranda rexit dogmata quae clari constituere patres eloquio curans errorum scismate lapsos

CAROLA FÖLLER | Erlangen
Gregory the Great – Big in Rome

12.15 LUNCH BUFFET

10.30 JAMES NORRIE | Oxford
Family and Officers in the Rural Churches of Milan: The 11th Century

1.30 KATE COOPER, CONRAD LEYSER | Manchester/Oxford
Corpus Christi and Incorporating the Church in the later Roman Empire: Where Next?

STEFFEN PATZOLD | Tübingen
Ulrich Stutz und die Eigenkirchen

FEDERICO MONTINARO | Tübingen
“With the Franks Alone”: Diplomacy, Memory and the Church in 10th-Century Constantinople

4.30 COFFEE

5.00 SARAH HAMILTON | Exeter
Accounting for Souls: An Excommunication Formula from 11th-Century Noyons

1.30 JEROEN WIJNENDAELE | Ghent
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6.15 CONCLUDING DISCUSSION

7.30 DINNER: “La Torre”

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

DEPARTURE