

29 – 31 JULY 2026

Time, Tempo, and Storytelling.

From Late Antiquity to the Early Middle Ages.

VENUE

Fürstenzimmer · Schloss Hohentübingen
Burgsteige 11 · 72070 Tübingen

ABOUT

This workshop explores how late antique and early medieval historians used time as a narrative tool. Rather than treating chronology as a neutral backdrop, it asks how authors of chronicles, letters, hagiography, and homilies manipulated narrative time — its pace, sequence, gaps, and repetitions — to shape their audiences' understanding of historical meaning. Across three days, scholars analyse texts from c.300 to c.1100, ranging across the East and West, to explore how time was used to convey ideas on imperial crisis, political justification, exile, violence, sacred life, and *memoria*.

ORGANISERS

Michaela Selway · Yaniv Fox · Samuel Ottewill-Soulsby

PROGRAMME

WED 29 Imperial Crisis · Narrative as Political Justification

THUR 30 Letters as Episodic Histories · Christian Time ·
Sainly Lives · Waiting, Trauma & Memory

FRI 31 Rupture & Exile · Endings, Elegies & Epitaphs ·
Response

SPEAKERS

Maijastina Kahlos
Helsinki

Nora Steigerwald
Tübingen

Courtney Booker
British Columbia

Michaela Selway
Tübingen

Shane Bjornlie
Claremont McKenna

Anne Sieberichs
Utrecht

Catherine Cubitt
East Anglia

Christoph Haack
Tübingen

With a response from

Samuel Ottewill-Soulsby
Tübingen

Yaniv Fox
Bar-Ilan

Rutger Kramer
Utrecht

Jerzy Szafranowski
Warsaw

Rachael Vause
Kennesaw

Victoria Leonard
London

Harry Mawdsley
Durham

Abigail Firey
Durham

Becca Grose
St Andrews

REGISTRATION

For enquiries or to register your attendance, contact Michaela Selway
michaela.selway@uni-tuebingen.de

WEDNESDAY 29 JULY

- 13:45 – 14:00

Registration
- 14:00 – 14:15

Welcome
Michaela Selway & Yaniv Fox
- 14:15 – 15:45

Session 1: Imperial Crisis & The Tempo of Catastrophe
Moderator: Simon Grund

Maijastina Kahlos (Helsinki): *There and Back Again: Eschatological and Useful Barbarians in Late Antique Histories*

Nora Steigerwald (Tübingen): *The Rhythm of Supremacy: Ammianus Marcellinus on the Campaign of Constantius II against the Sarmatians, Quadi, and Limigantes*
- 15:45 – 16:00

Tea & Coffee Break
- 14:15 – 15:45

Session 2: Time as Political Justification
Moderator: Graeme Ward

Courtney Booker (UBC): *Time, Tempo, and Storytelling in Nithard's Historiae*

Michaela Selway (Tübingen): *Who is the King? Temporal Manipulation as Justification in the Historia Langobardorum*
- 19:00

Conference Dinner

THURSDAY 30 JULY

- 9:00 – 9:15

Arrival – Tea & Coffee Available
- 9:15 – 10:45

Session 3: Letters as Tools of Historical Construction
Moderator: Stephan Bruhn

Shane Bjornlie (Claremont McKenna): *Epistolary Narratives: Narratological Strategies in the Variae of Cassiodorus*

Anne Sieberichs (Utrecht): *Shaping the Past, Structuring Time: Letters as Temporal Tools in Gregory of Tours*
- 10:45 – 11:00

Tea & Coffee Break
- 11:00 – 12:30

Session 4: Christian Time, Instruction, and Historical Seeing
Moderator: Johanna Jebe

Catherine Cubitt (East Anglia): *Time and Narrative in the Vernacular Homilies of Ælfric of Eynsham (c. 950-c. 1010)*

Christoph Haack (Tübingen): *Rodulf Glaber's (d. 1047) Histories: A Different Story?*
- 12:30 – 14:00

Lunch Break

- 14:00 – 15:30 **Session 5: Sainly Lives and Recorded Time**
Moderator: Antonia Anstatt
- Yaniv Fox (Bar-Ilan): *Temporal Architectures in the Vita Sadalbergae*
- Rutger Kramer (Utrecht): *What a Difference a Death Makes: The Life, Times and Miracles of Saint Nicholas*
- 15:30 – 15:45 **Tea & Coffee Break**
- 15:45 – 17:15 **Session 6: Waiting, Trauma, and Mediated Memory**
Moderator: Rike Szill
- Jerzy Szafranowski (Warsaw): *High Time for a Miracle! On the Differing Lengths of Securing Miracles in the Early Medieval West*
- Rachael Vause (Kennesaw): *Mediums for the Dead: Early Medieval Scholars and Storytellers*
- 18:30 **Conference Dinner**

FRIDAY 31 JULY

- 9:00 – 9:15 **Arrival – Tea & Coffee Available**
- 9:15 – 10:45 **Session 7: Rupture, Absense, and the Experience of Violence**
Moderator: Joaquín Serrano del Pozo
- Victoria Leonard (London): *How To Tell A Disaster-Narrative Without The Disaster? Late Ancient Historiography and Gendered Violence*
- Harry Mawdsley (Durham): *Narratives of Exile in the Early Middle Ages: Rhetoric and Realities*
- 10:45 – 11:00 **Tea & Coffee Break**
- 11:00 – 12:30 **Session 8: Endings, Memory, and Temporal Closure**
Moderator: Federico Montinaro
- Abigail Firey (Kentucky): *Damming the River of Time: Endings, Elegies, memoria*
- Becca Grose (St Andrews): *Inscribing lives, deaths... and afterlives? Epitaphs and their (undead) audiences in Gaul and North Africa, 200-700AD*
- 12:30 – 12:45 **Response and Discussion**
Moderator: Steffen Patzold
- Samuel Ottewill-Soulsby
- 12:45 – 13:00 **Concluding Remarks**
Michaela Selway & Yaniv Fox
- 13:00 **Optional Lunch**