



Ca' Foscari  
University  
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Department of Humanities

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## RETHINKING POPULAR RELIGION FROM LATE ANTIQUITY TO THE EARLY MEDIEVAL PERIOD

12-13 march 2026

Aula Geymonat, Malcanton Marcorà, 1 floor,  
Dorsoduro 3484/D, Venice

## 12 March

9.00–9.30 **Welcoming of Speakers**

9.30–9.45 **Opening Remarks**

9.45–10.35 **Keynote Lecture**

**William Klingshirn**, *Lived Religion, Technical Knowledge, and the Literatures of Superstition*

10.35–11.15 Coffee Break

### **SESSION 1 – REFLECTIONS ON RELIGION FROM BELOW**

Chair: **Caroline Johnson Hodge**

11.15–11.40 **Joseph E. Sanzo**

*Critical Reflections on the Elite/non-Elite Dichotomy in the Study of (Late Antique) Lived Religion*

11.40–12.05 **Lucy Grig**

*In search of subaltern strategies: rethinking popular religion in Late Antiquity*

12.05–12.30 **José Carlos Sanchez Pardo**

*Popular and Lived Religion in Late Antique and Early Medieval Galicia. An integrated approach through written and archaeological sources*

### **SESSION 2 – CONVERSION**

Chair: **Carolyn LaRocco**

12.30–13.00 **Jacopo Merli**

*Christians on a Muslim Island: survival and adaptation in medieval Sicily*

13.00–13.30 **Rahime Aksa Boyraz**

*Byzantine Frontiers of Faith: Captivity, Conversion, and Religious Hybridity in Cilicia*

13.30–15.00 Lunch Break

### **SESSION 3 – RELIGIOUS CROSSROADS**

Chair: **Francesco Borri**

15.00–15.30 **Floriana Marra**

*Manichaean Manuscripts as Carriers of Foreign Knowledge*

15.30–16.00 **Eylül Çetinbaş**

*At the Crossroads of Faith: St. Catherine of Alexandria and the Negotiation of Sanctity in a Multi-confessional World*

### **SESSION 4 – DEVOTION**

Chair: **Katrina Rosie**

16.00–16.30 **Juliette Bourdier**

*Civitas Parisiensis in the Making: Performing Geneviève's Liturgy in First-Millennium Paris*

16.30–17.00 **Domenico Benoci**

*Between Memory, Devotion, and Identity: The Veneration of Cassiodorus Senator in the Religious Landscape of Early Medieval Europe*

19.30 dinner

## 13 March

### **SESSION 5 – BETWEEN CLERICS AND LAY DEVOTION**

Chair: **Lilian R. G. Diniz**

9.30–9.55 **James Miller**

*Rustic Devotion and Monastic Authority: Relics as Sites of Tension in Eleventh-Century France*

9.55–10.20 **Robert Wisniewski**

*Clerics and their flocks: Imposing Popular Religion*

10.20–10.45 **Carine van Rhijn**

*Lay Religious Life through Manuscripts for Local Priests*

10.45–11.25 Coffee Break

### **SESSION 6 – IN DEATH**

Chair: **Helen Foxhall Forbes**

11.25–11.50 **Vid Žepič**

*Between Debt, Dignity, and the Sacred: The Religious Dimensions of Credit Enforcement in Late Antiquity*

11.50–12.15 **Beata Barbocz**

*From ordinary to the unusual. Ritual manifestations through pottery vessels*

12.15–12.40 **Nicola Denzey Lewis**

*Lived Religion in the City of the Dead: Rethinking categories of 'domestic,' 'popular,' and 'civic' in the Catacombs of Rome*

12.40–14.10 Lunch Break

### **SESSION 7 – FEMALE PIETY**

Chair: **Giulia Zornetta**

14.10–14.35 **Katrina Rosie**

*Something Borrowed: Lay Women's Gift Economies and the Making of Official Ritual in Late Antiquity*

14.35–15.00 **Carolyn LaRocco**

*Women and 'witchcraft' in late Roman and early medieval Iberia*

15.00–15.25 **Lilian R. G. Diniz**

*Conviviality and female piety – navigating inter-religious encounters and creating community in early medieval sources*

15.25–16.05 Coffee Break

### **SESSION 8 – PRACTICE**

Chair: **Joseph E. Sanzo**

16.05–16.30 **Francesco Borri**

*Gods of the Depths: Sea and Religion on the Shores of Early Medieval Europe*

16.30–16.55 **Georgia Frank**

*Time Signature: Christian Lay Singing as Lived Religion*

16.55–17.20 **David Frankfurter**

*Extractive Devotions: Indigenous Agency in the Localization of Christianity in Late Antiquity*

17.20 **Closing remarks**