

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**

For information and to receive the Zoom link for the conference, write to: lilian.diniz@unive.it