

Jerusalems: Memory, Heritage, Imagination

Thursday 1st September

The Huntington Room, King's Manor, University of York

Join us for a series of short talks exploring the contested heritage of Jerusalem, its place on the global stage, and its real and virtual futures. Topics include a campaign to preserve the City's cultural heritage, how Pokémon Go is remapping Jerusalem, and the city through the eyes of Palestine's poet laureates. We are also delighted to be offering a dazzling preview of the forthcoming Metropolitan Museum of Art Exhibition, 'Jerusalem 1000-1400: Every People Under Heaven'.

The afternoon will conclude with a panel discussion which asks how we might use the knowledge shared by our research community to imagine new futures, both for Jerusalem itself and for the idea of Jerusalem in public life.

The event is open to the public, and is free of charge. All are very welcome to attend for the whole afternoon and evening, or for part of the discussions. For further details, please contact Helen Smith (helen.smith@york.ac.uk)

Programme:

2.30 Welcome

2.45-3.45 Session 1

Helen Smith, 'Imagining Jerusalem'

Fabio Cristiano, 'Pokémon Go's Diminished Reality in East Jerusalem'

Anthony Bale, 'Mount Joy and Jerusalem: Past, Present, Future'

4.00-5.00 Session 2

Gregor Lersch, 'A Trip to Jerusalem, a Streetcar Named Desire and ... ??' Thoughts Towards an Exhibition in the Jewish Museum, Berlin

Nora Parr, "'In Jerusalem" with two Generations of Palestinian Poet Laureates'

Maryvelma O'Neil, 'Universal Cultural Heritage in Jerusalem: Death by a Thousand Cuts?'

5.15-5.50 'Every People Under Heaven'

Barbara Boehm & Melanie Holcomb, A Preview of the Forthcoming Exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

6.00-7.00 Panel Discussion, including questions from the audience

Refreshments will be served at 3.45, 5.00 and 5.50.

Anthony Bale is Professor of Medieval Studies at Birkbeck. He is author of *The Hew in the Medieval Book: English Antisemitisms, 1350-1500* and *Feeling Persecuted: Christians, Jews and Images of Violence in the Middle Ages*, editor of *St Edmund King and Martyr: Changing Images of a Medieval Saint*, and has translated *The Book of Margery Kempe*, John Mandeville's *The Book of Marvels and Travels*, and John Lydgate, *The Lives of Saints Edmund and Fremund*. Professor Bale was academic advisor for the 'Blood' exhibition at the Jewish Museum, London, and was awarded the Beatrice White Prize for outstanding scholarly work in the field of English Literature before 1590 in 2013. Professor Bale was recently awarded a Leverhulme International Research Award in support of his project on 'Pilgrim Libraries: Books and Reading on the Medieval Routes to Rome and Jerusalem'.

Barbara Drake Boehm, Paul and Jill Ruddock Senior Curator for The Met Cloisters, is co-curator of the exhibitions *Jerusalem in the Middle Ages* (2016), *The Game of Kings* (2011–12), *Prague: The Crown of Bohemia* (2005), and *Enamels of Limoges* (1996), and curator of *Medieval Jewish Art in Context* (2011–12). She recently contributed to the exhibitions *L'Art du Jeu* (2012–13) (Musée de Cluny, Paris) and *Treasures of Heaven* (2010–11) (Cleveland, Baltimore, London). A graduate of Wellesley College, Dr. Boehm directs the Curatorial Studies program, administered with the Institute of Fine Arts, from which she received her PhD. Dr Holcomb is one of the curators of the Metropolitan Museum Exhibition, 'Every People Under Heaven', opening in September 2016.

Fabio Cristiano is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science, Lund University, Sweden. His research investigates the realities of cyberwarfare and hacktivism in the context of Middle East politics, and he has a strong interest in critical security, cyber-diplomacy and peacebuilding in virtuality/reality. He has published on peacebuilding in the Middle East, and his work in progress includes articles on Pokémon Go's diminished reality in Jerusalem; simulation and remoteness in cyberwarfare; and bodies and violence.

Melanie Holcomb, a curator at The Metropolitan Museum of Art since 1999, is a specialist in the luxury arts of the middle ages, from treasure hoards to illuminated manuscripts. She organized the exhibition *Pen and Parchment: Drawing in the Middle Ages* in 2009. Holcomb has a particular interest in travel, trade, and other means of cultural exchange among medieval patrons and artists. Her current research is focused on the art and history of the Holy Land; she and her colleague Barbara Boehm are preparing an exhibition devoted to Jerusalem in the middle ages, opening in September 2016.

Gregor H. Lersch is head of the temporary exhibitions department at the Jewish Museum Berlin, where he is working with colleagues to prepare an exhibition on the cultural history on Jerusalem (opening in October 2017). Lersch worked as a curatorial assistant for the exhibition *The New Hebrews: A Century of Art in Israel* (2005) at the Martin-Gropius-Bau exhibition hall in Berlin, coordinated the world tour of the exhibition *Egypt's Sunken Treasures* from 2006 to 2009

and subsequently was project manager of the exhibition *Side by Side. Poland and Germany: a 1000 years of art and history* again at the Martin-Gropius-Bau. From 2012 to 2015 Lersch was research assistant for art and art theory at the European University Viadrina Frankfurt /O., where he conducted research on Central European art and museum theory. In 2013 he co-edited the publication *Partizipative Erinnerungsräume (Participatory spaces of memory)*.

Nora Parr is a Lecturer in Comparative Literature at Kings College London. She holds a PhD in Arabic Literature and Culture from SOAS, was a 2015-16 Fellow at the Council for British Research in the Levant (Amman, Jerusalem). Between 2008-2011 she was an editor and staff writer at Palestine's *Ma'an News Agency*, she has also written recent reviews of the 2016 Palestinian book fair, and gallery exhibits in Ramallah and Birzeit. Her first article, 'Unbounded Space: Inter-textual Palestine in Ibrāhīm Naṣrallāh's *Balcony of Delirium*', was published in 2015 in *Middle Eastern Literatures*.

Helen Smith is Director of the Centre for Renaissance and Early Modern Studies at the University of York, and Principal Investigator of the AHRC-funded research network 'Imagining Jerusalem, c. 1099 to the Present Day'. She is author of *Grossly Material Things: Women and Book Production in Early Modern England* and co-editor of *Renaissance Paratexts*, *The Oxford Handbook of the Early Modern Bible*, and *Conversions: Gender and Religious Change in Early Modern Europe*.

Maryvelma Smith O'Neil is Director of ARCH Jerusalem (Alliance to Restore Cultural Heritage in Jerusalem, www.archjerusalem.org), a Swiss NGO that seeks to preserve the vulnerable cultural heritage of Jerusalem, from monuments and manuscripts to languages and folklore. She is a faculty member in the Global Citizenship Program at Webster University (Geneva campus). Dr. O'Neil is the author of several books and numerous articles on Italian, Asian art and Palestinian culture. She is in the process of compiling research to culturally map East Jerusalem in order to create a smartphone app.