

**Narrating Power and Authority in Late Antique and Medieval Hagiographies
from East to West**

Organized by: Ghazzal Dabiri

[Academia Belgica](#)

Via Omera 8

Rome, Italy

Thursday 15th-Saturday 17th February 2018

Program

Thursday 15

8:45-9:00

Welcome and Introduction by Ghazzal Dabiri

9:00-10:30

Panel 1: Memories and Mental Projections

Chair: Koen De Temmerman (*Ghent University*)

Jason Moralee (*University of Massachusetts*): State Power, Roman Hagiography, and Mnemonic Communities

Enrique S. Marinas (*University Complutense of Madrid*): Sins of Youth of Saint Rulers in the Byzantine and Rus'ian Hagiographical Literatures

Paul Losensky (*Indiana University, Bloomington*): Marvels of Authority: *Karāmāt* and Crises of Power in *Ṣaḥīḥ al-ṣaḥāb*

10:30-10:45

Coffee

10:45-12:15

Panel 2: Public Acts

Chair: Jeroen Deploige (*Ghent University*)

Nanouschka Wamelink - van Dijk (*University of Amsterdam*): Sainly Food Rejection and the Role of Bystanders

Anna Rogozhina (*National Research University, HSE Moscow*): “O You Evil, Blood-Shedding Lion, You Dragon That Dwells in the Abyss:” Representations of Roman Imperial Authorities in Coptic Hagiography

Roald Dijkstra (*Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen*): Laughing till Death: The Power of Laughter in Poetic Martyrdom Accounts

12:15-14:00

Lunch

Location: Academia Belgica

14:00-16:10

Panel 3: Relics, Sacred Space, and Regnal Authority

Chair: Ghazzal Dabiri (*Ghent University*)

Zara Pogossian (*Ruhr-Universität Bochum*): True Cross Relics in Armenia: Between “Popular Tales” and Princely Patronage

Nikoloz Aleksidze (*University of Oxford*): Relics as Treasure and Kings as Their Discoverers: Legitimizing Royal Rule in Late Antique Caucasia

10min pause

Dominic Parviz Brookshaw (*University of Oxford*): Symbiotic Sainthood: The Intertwining of Regal and Spiritual Power in 14th-century Fars

Eliza Tasbihi (*McGill University*): Revisiting the Significance of Rūmī’s Shrine: Redefining the Concept of Sacred Space in Mevlānā Mausoleum

16:10-16:25

Coffee

16:25-17:25

Panel 4: Prophecies & Dreams of Cooperation Between Saints and Rulers

Chair: Anunziata di Rienzo (*“La Sapienza” Università di Roma-Ghent University*)

Maria Conterno (*Ghent University*): Whose Dream Comes True? Negotiation of Primacy in the *Legend of Theodosius and Theophilus*

Fabrizio Petorella (*Roma Tre University*): Power and Prophecy in Late Antique Hagiography: *The Life of Saint Daniel the Stylite*

18h

Reception

Sponsored by the [Henri Pirenne Institute](#), Ghent University

Canova Bar & Restaurant

<http://lnx.canovapiazzadelpopolo.it/en/>

<https://goo.gl/maps/S9uCoM9fzS82>

Friday 16

9:00-11:10

Panel 5: Constructing Holiness

Chair: Julie Van Pelt (*Ghent University*)

Federica Boldrini (*University of Parma/Luiss University of Rome*): Getting Naked for God: Social and Juridical Implications of Renouncing Vanities in the Hagiography of the Female Mystics of Medieval Italy

Maria E. Doerfler (*Yale University*): Solomon in Edessa: The Saint and the Law in the Syriac *Life of Rabbula*

10min Pause

Aaron W. Hughes (*University of Rochester*): Establishing Prophetic Authority in Early Islam: Ibn Ishaq's *Sirat Rasul Allah*

Olivia Adankpo-Labadie (*École Française de Rome*): The Saint, the Bad, and the Ugly: Constructing Figures of Power and Authority through Hagiographical Narrative and Socio-political Dissent in 14th c. Ethiopia

11:10-11:30

Coffee

11:30-13:00

Panel 6: Interfaith Encounters

Chair: Maria Conterno (*Ghent University*)

Sibel Kocaer (*Eskisehir Osmangazi University*): Encounters of a Muslim Saint with Christian Monks and Rulers: The Adventures of Sarı Saltık in Ottoman Times

Petros Tsagkaropoulos (*King's College*): Between Emperor and Caliph: Literary Arbitrariness in the Representation of Power Relations in the *Life of St John of Damascus*

Damien Labadie (*École Pratique des Hautes Études*): The Caliph, the Jew and the Bishop: Power and Religious Controversy in the Georgian *Life of John of Edessa*

13:00-14:00

Lunch

Location: Academia Belgica

14:00-16:10

Panel 7: Authorial Presence: Writing for Power

Chair: Tine Scheijnen (*Ghent University*)

Stavroula Constantinou (*University of Cyprus*): The Hagiographer's Power and Authority in Byzantine Greek Miracle Collections

Mantova Yulia (*Moscow State University*): A State Official as a Hagiographer: Exploring the Case of the *Life of St. Theoktista of Lesbos* (BHG 1723)

10 min pause

Mohsen Ghasemi (*Independent Scholar*): Rūmī and Political Authorities: The Politics of Rūmī's Poetry

Manpreet Kaur (*Columbia University*): Learning to be Sufi, Writing to Make History: Malfūzāt in the Chishti Context

16:10-16:30

Coffee

16:45-18:00

Panel 8: Middle-(Wo)Men: Ignoble Agents, Ignominious Neighbors, and Benevolent Intercessors

Chair: Flavia Ruani (*Ghent University*)

Anunziata di Rienzo (*“La Sapienza” Università di Roma-Ghent University*): A Noble Christian Killer: Portraits of Apostate Executioners in the Persian Martyr Acts

Nike Koutrakou (*Independent Scholar*): The Supernatural and the Limits of Power: Imperial Middlemen between Saints and Emperors in Byzantine Hagiography

Jeremiah A. Lasquety-Reyes (*Universität Hamburg*): The Approachable Queen: The Miracles of the Virgin Mary in the *Legenda Aurea*

20h

Dinner

Location: Osteria St. Anna

<http://osteriastana.it/en/osteria-st-ana-2>

[Via della Penna, 68](#)

Saturday 17

9:00-10:00

Panel 9: Thus We Imagined Zarathustra: Images of Zoroaster and Zoroastrians in Late Antique and Medieval Iran

Chair: Paul Losensky (*Indiana University, Bloomington*)

Carlo Cereti (*“La Sapienza” Università di Roma*): Zoroaster’s Life According to the Seventh Book of the Denkard and the Zaratushtname

Ghazzal Dabiri (*Ghent University*): Who’s the Moral Authority Around Here? Zoroastrians in Medieval Sufi Hagiographies

10:00-10:30

Coffee

10:30-11:30

Panel 10: Competing and Cooperating Authorities

Chair: Klazina Staat (*Ghent University*)

Maïeul Rouquette (*Université de Lausanne*): Two Churches, Two saints, One Island: The Narrative Construction of the Conflict between Tamasus and Salamis (Cyprus) through Heracleides and Barnabas

Maryam Musharraf (*Shahidbeheshti University*): The Paradox of Junayd of Baghdad: Sobriety in a Drunken Cosmos

11:30-11:45

Closing Remarks and Discussion

12:30-14:30

Lunch

Location: ReCafé

<http://recafe.it/en/>

[Piazza Augusto imperatore, 36](#)