

**THE HARVARD UNDERGRADUATE SYMPOSIUM  
IN PREMODERN STUDIES**



Socrates with a student; from a thirteenth-century manuscript now at the Topkapi Palace Library, Istanbul

**FRIDAY, 19 APRIL 2024  
BARKER CENTER 110 (THE THOMPSON ROOM)**

**PRESENTED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MEDIEVAL STUDIES, THE COMMITTEE ON  
DEGREES IN HISTORY AND LITERATURE, THE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS, EARLY MODERN  
WORLD AT HARVARD, AND THE HARVARD ANCIENT STUDIES PROGRAM**

## **PROGRAM**

9:30 am: Welcome and opening remarks (Sean Gilsdorf, Standing Committee on Medieval Studies)

### **PANEL 1: TEXTS (9:45-11:00AM)**

Chair: Ambrogio Camozzi Pistoja, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures

Oliva Glunz, "Dante's Journey Home: Exile and Communion in *The Divine Comedy*"

Vivienne Germain, "Woman's Earth, Man's World: Nature, Gender, and Violence in *Macbeth* Today"

Livingston Zug, "Triumph over Transgression: Purity, Romanticism, and Social Isolation in *The Romance of Tristan and Iseut* and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*"

### **COFFEE BREAK (11:00-11:15AM)**

### **PANEL 2: BELIEFS (11:15AM-12:15PM)**

Chair: Francis X. Clooney, Harvard Divinity School

Aidan Scully, "Church and State: Revelation, *The Shepherd of Hermas*, and Constantine's Anti-Heretical Mission of Canonization"

John Weaver, "Truth through Illusion: The Creation of Hindu Sacred Space through the Iconographic Program of Elephanta Cave 1"

### **LUNCH (12:15-1:15PM)**

### **PANEL 3: MATERIALITIES (1:15-2:30PM)**

Chair: Reed Morgan, Department of History

Luka Pavikjevikj, "The Ritual That Escapes Definition: The Case for a Medical Interpretation of Bīt Rimki"

Sophia Charles, "Navigating the Natural Record: Climate and Avar Migration in Sixth-to-Ninth-Century Central Eurasia"

Jericho Hendershot, "Seleucia-on-the-Tigris, Ctesiphon, and Baghdad: City Planning and Imperial Control of the Lower Tigris, Fourth Century BCE—Eighth Century CE"

### **COFFEE BREAK (2:30-2:45)**

### **PANEL 4: AFTERLIVES (2:45-4:00PM)**

Chair: Ann Blair, Department of History

Theo Glaeser, "Herculean Legacies: Classical Influence on Starcaterus in the *Gesta Danorum*"

Helen He, "Materiality of Cultural Imagination: The China and Japan Volume of an Enlightenment French Religious Encyclopedia"

Charlotte Moses, "'It's Only Plain Language': J.R.R. Tolkien Writes the Aftermath of *The Battle of Maldon*"

### **RECEPTION (4:00-5:00PM)**

*Program Committee: Christine Corcoran '26, Blake Lopez '24, McKenna McKrell '26, Lydia Shahan (Committee on Studies in Religion), Brian FitzGerald (Committee on Medieval Studies & Committee on Studies in Religion)*