

Workshop 4: International perspectives on the 11th and 12th centuries

**Thursday 13th December 2018,
The East Residence Seminar Room, British Museum
12:00 PM-5:00 PM**

Aims

In Britain, the vast majority of the work focusing on the 11th and 12th centuries naturally coalesces around the end of Anglo-Saxon England and the Norman Conquest, and this perspective has become so entrenched that 1066 has become an iconic watershed and the shorthand for dividing the “early” and “late” Middle Ages. It has also resulted in the Norman Conquest being seen either as the end of one discrete period and the beginning of another. As a consequence, we have only rarely interrogated how it relates to much longer-term, larger-scale trends, processes, and patterns. The British focus on the specific interactions of the Normans and the English in the political context of the Conquest has also resulted in very insular viewpoints about what “matters” in this period. As such, this workshop will focus specifically on international perspectives on the 11th and 12th centuries, highlighting themes and research directions which resonate throughout Europe, but also drawing out where there might be key regional distinctions and variations, and why they might have arisen. The discussions from this workshop will feed into the creation of the materially-focused research agenda for the 11th and 12th centuries that is the central aim of the project, and will also hopefully spot areas where future research collaborations and new avenues of research could develop.

Schedule

12:00 Arrival: Meet at the main gate to enter via the contractors’ desk

12:15 Lunch

12:45 Aleks McClain, University of York: Introduction and project summary

1:15 Michael Lewis, British Museum: Exhibiting the Bayeux Tapestry

1:45 Alban Gaultier, Université de Caen Normandie: Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Norman Food History

2:15 Pieterjan Deckers, Vrije Universiteit Brussel: From matter to meaning: some thoughts on developing a supranational perspective on high medieval material culture

2:45 Cecilia Ljung, Stockholm University: Early Christian grave monuments and ecclesiastical developments in eleventh-century Sweden

3:15 Break

3:30 Roundtable discussion

5:00 Close