

Workshop: Preliminary thoughts about the reception of late classical theology in early medieval Iberia.

Monday 16 December to Tuesday 17 December

Room G12, University of Bristol Department of Music, Victoria Rooms, Queens Road, Bristol BS8 1SA

Please register for this event at the University of Bristol On-Line Shop (<http://shop.bris.ac.uk/browse/product.asp?compid=1&modid=1&catid=694>). The registration fee is £15 (£10 student) plus £27.50 if you would like dinner.

Introduction

In this workshop, a small group of UK-based scholars of late classical theology (primarily Latin but also Greek) and those studying early medieval Iberian liturgy will present work in progress, to explore potential resonances between our disciplines. All are welcome to register for the workshop, in order to hear the presentations and participate in the discussions.

There will be eight 10- to 15-minute case studies, each followed by 30 minutes of detailed discussion exploring ways to draw together theology, liturgical studies, and musicology. The workshop will end with a plenary discussion about the threads that have emerged over the two days, and we may explore the possibility of future collaborative research by two or more participants.

Programme

Monday 16 December

1345 Welcome from Emma Hornby (Bristol)
1400 Professor Gillian Clark (Emerita, Bristol)
1445 Raquel Rojo Carrillo (Bristol)

1530 – tea break

1600 Dr Bella Sandwell (Bristol)
1645 Dr Thomas Hunt (Newman University College, Birmingham)

1730 – tea break

1800 Dr Kati Ihnat (Bristol)
1845 session ends

1900 dinner at Öz, 4 Triangle South, Bristol. <http://ozrestaurant.co.uk/> (Details of how to book this will follow once you have confirmed your place at the Workshop.)

Continued

Tuesday 17 December

1000 Carol Harrison (Durham)
1045 Dr Emma Hornby (Bristol)

1130 – tea break

1200 Dr Jamie Wood (Lincoln).
1245 summary discussion
1330 workshop finishes

The topic

The continuing influence of early patristic Christian thought on medieval theology is well understood. However, the relationship of such thought with liturgical materials – particularly musical ones – has been much less studied. Iberia has particular potential for fruitful research into such influences for several reasons:

(1) a full Iberian Office repertoire survives in the Verona Orational, dating from ca. 700. The continuing validity of this repertoire is attested by 9th and 10th century liturgical manuscripts, some including musical notation. By contrast, the earliest manuscripts containing Gregorian chant date from the 790s. An entire liturgical cycle of Iberian chant was thus codified in something much closer to the late antique context than any other western liturgy.

(2) Unlike the Roman liturgy, each Iberian antiphon and responsory is accompanied by an oration that summarises the literal meaning of the chant text, builds on patristic and early medieval theological interpretations of it – Augustine in particular; also Gregory the Great and Isidore of Seville (who themselves were of course strongly influenced by earlier Christian theologians) – and applies that theology to the experience of the gathered community. The chant texts and their interpretations in prayer thus offer a unique insight into the early medieval Iberian understanding of their local liturgy's theology and its connection with its patristic heritage.

(3) the Iberian antiphons and responsories survive in notated (but non-pitchreadable) form from the 10th century onwards. These melodies comprise 'readings' of the liturgical texts, with the potential to interact with the textual readings of those texts presented in the orations.

In the workshop, we will explore the reception of patristic Christian thought in the early medieval Iberian liturgical (and perhaps musical) context.

This event has been generously sponsored by the University of Bristol Institute for Greece, Rome and the Classical Tradition. The workshop is affiliated with the University of Bristol Centre for Medieval Studies, and with the Faculty of Arts' 'Religion and Society' research cluster.