

Objects of Law in the Medieval and Early Modern Worlds

AUGUST 29-30, 2024

Organized by Corinne Mühlemann (University of Bern) and Fatima Quraishi (University of California, Riverside)

Institute of Art History, Mittelstrasse 43, CH-3012 Bern
Room 120, First Floor

PROGRAM

Thursday | August 29th

9:00-9:30 ARRIVAL | COFFEE

9:30-10:15 Introduction by Fatima Quraishi and Corinne Mühlemann

PANEL 1 | FORMATIONS OF AUTHORITY

Moderated by Omar Anchassi, University of Bern, SNSF-Project "Trajectories of Slavery in Islamicate Societies"

10:30-11:00 Social and Spatial Dynamics of Bukharan Fatwas as Written Artefacts

Zahir Bhalloo | University of Hamburg

11:00-11:30 Testing Virtue, Forging Nobility: Emperor Frederick III's 1462 Augmentation of Arms for the Margravate of Moravia and the Performance of Legal Authority

Stella Wisgrill | University of Cambridge

11:30-12:00 Discussion

12:00-13:30 LUNCH

PANEL 2 | CIRCULATION AND FORMATION OF LEGAL KNOWLEDGE

Moderated by Irina Dudar, Institute of Art History, University of Bern

13:30-14:00 The Materiality of Medieval Judicial Ordinances

Phillipa Byrne | Trinity College, Dublin

14:00-14:30 Bildnisrecht: Legal Aspects of Early Portraiture

Niko Munz | Oxford University

14:30-15:00 Discussion

15:00-15:30 COFFEE BREAK

PANEL 3 | MULTIPLE MATERIALITIES

Moderated by Corinne Mühlemann, Institute of Art History, University of Bern

15:30-16:00 To Attest, Fold, and Copy in the Islamic Port-City: Safavid Seals and Mughal Envelopes across the VOC Archive

Subah Dayal | New York University



16:00-16:30 A Weapon of Justice? The Making of Law's Monopoly on Violence

Masha Goldin | University of Basel

16:30-17:00 Aesthetics of Illusion and Authenticity in Ottonian Legal Documents

Nino Zchomelidse | John Hopkins University

17:00-17:30 Discussion

19:00 DINNER

Friday | August 30th

PANEL 4 | LEGAL PERFORMANCE

Moderated by Fatima Quraishi, University of California, Riverside

08:30-09:00 Epistolary Texts as Legal Objects: Querying the Mughal Farmān in Diplomatic Contexts

Shounak Ghosh | Vanderbilt University

09:00-09:30 Between Sacred and Script: Examining Legal Objects in Promises, Vows, and Oaths as Defined by Alfonso X in The Seven-Partidas

Daniela Maldonado Castaneda | Queen's University, Canada

09:30-10:00 The Medieval Curfew Bell: Sonority and the Voice of Law

Jordan Skinner | Princeton University

10:00-10:30 Discussion

10:30-11:00 COFFEE BREAK



PANEL 5 | LONGUE-DURÉE STUDIES

Moderation TBA

11:00-11:30 The Chess-Knight Seal

Krisztina Ilko | Queens College/ University of Cambridge

11:30-12:00 “God Protect us from One Finger under Twenty!” The Abbasid Nilometer Column as a Legal Object

Heba Mostafa | University of Toronto

12:00-12:30 Discussion

12:30-14:00 LUNCH

PANEL 6 | EVERYDAY LAW

Moderated by Moira Dato, Institute of Art History, University of Bern

14:00-14:30 The Material and Social Implications of Measuring Tools in Ottoman Legal History

Gül Kale | Carleton University, Toronto

14:30-15:00 What Does a Bribe Look Like? Carolingian *munera* in Literary Texts

Lorenzo Paveggio | University of Padua

15:00-15:30 Discussion

15:30-16:00 COFFEE BREAK

PANEL 7 | OBJECTS IN COURT

Moderated by Carlos Rojas Cocoma, Institute of Art History, University of Bern

16:00-16:30 The Sacred Suspended: Martha, Law, and Image in the Early Modern Spanish Atlantic

Nathalie Miraval | Yale University

16:30-17:00 Drawings, Courtroom Practices, and Juridical Decision-Making at the Edges of the Spanish Empire

Linda Mueller | Bibliotheca Hertziana Rome/Harvard University

17:00-17:30 Discussion

17:30-18:00 CLOSING REMARKS



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Images: Details of a paiza, MET 1993.256; of a breadseal, Berlin Museum of Islamic art, I. 6741; of a seal and a seal bag, St. Gall Abbey Archive, C1A3.

