

Rome Conference 24– 26 November 2021

**Constructing and Using Christian Buildings during Early Islam:
Interconnected Approaches to the Church in the Mediterranean
and the Middle East (7th-9th c.)**

Organization: **Simon PIERRE** (Sorbonne Université/Ifpo) & **M.ª Ángeles UTRERO AGUDO** (EEHAR-CSIC)



This International Conference intends to approach the constructions and uses of religious Christian buildings in most of the territories of the early Islamic empire (7th-9th c.), from Armenia and Iraq to Ifriqiya and al-Andalus. Archaeologists and historians are invited to present, compare and discuss their respective sources, methodologies and perspectives with the aim of finding possible consistent chronological and geographical trends and breaks.

This is a hybrid event (online and in-person) and will take place at the EEHAR CSIC (via di S. Eufemia 13 in Rome). Everyone attending this event in-person must pre-register sending an email to escuela@eehar.csic.es and will be required to present a valid Green pass and keep the face mask on while staying in the indoor EEHAR spaces.

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Wednesday 24 November

Session 0. Presentation

13.30-13.45 Antonio PIZZO (EEHAR-CSIC) Presentation

13.45-14.15 Simon PIERRE (Sorbonne Université/Ifpo) & M.^a Ángeles UTRERO AGUDO (EEHAR-CSIC) Introduction

Session 1. Byzantine Syria during Early Islam

14.30-15.00 Pierre-Louis GATIER (CNRS) *The Issue of Church building in the Syrian and Palestinian Near East during the 7th and 8th centuries: a Historiographical Assessment*

15.00-15.30 Robert SCHICK (Universität Mainz/American Center of Research) *Churches in Southern Jordan in the Early Islamic Period*

15.30-16.00 Pauline PIRAUD-FOURNET (Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne/ArScan, UMR 7041) *A Late Antique Residence in Bosra (Syria), Possibly still Occupied by a Christian Notable during the Umayyad period*

16.00-16.30 Discussion

16.30-17.00 Break

17.00-17.30 Mattia GUIDETTI (Università di Bologna) *The Relevance of Churches in Early Medieval Syria*

17.30-18.00 Mathilde BOUDIER (Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne) *The Christians of Damascus and their Churches in the 9th century*

18.00-18.30 Discussion

Thursday 25 November

Session 2. Ex-Sasanian Churches in the Islamic East

09.30-10.00 Françoise BRIQUEL-CHATONNET (CNRS) *Remarks on the Building of Churches in Late Antiquity: the Syriac World*

10.00-10.30 Julie BONNERIC (Ifpo) *The Churches of Iraq and the Gulf at the Turn of Islam: Chronological, Spatial and Functional Analyses*

10.30-11.00 Discussion

11.00-11.30 Break

11.30-12.00 Narmin ALI (Erbil University) & Simon BRELAUD (UC Berkeley) *Bazyran and other Northern Mesopotamian churches in Late Sasanian-Early Islamic periods*

12.00-12.30 Armen KAZARYAN (NIITIAG, Moscow) *Armenian Architecture during Arabic Occupation, mid 7th-early 10th century: Possibilities and Ways of Development*

12.30-13.00 Discussion

Session 3. From the Visigoths to the Umayyads: A Christian Al-Andalus

14.30-15.00 M.^a Ángeles UTRERO AGUDO (EEHAR-CSIC) *Beyond 711: Building and afterlife of Churches in al-Andalus*

15.00-15.30 Jesús LORENZO (University of the Basque Country) *The Christian Church under the Islamic Rule in al-Andalus: Bishoprics and Monasteries in Light of the Written Texts*

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15.30-16.00 Alejandro VILLA DEL CASTILLO (Independent Researcher) *Ornamenting Churches under Muslim Rule: Christian Sculptural Production in al-Andalus*

16.00-16.30 Discussion

16.30-16.45 Break

Session 4. Northern Mesopotamia: Neither Byzantine nor Islamic?

16.45-17.15 Philip WOOD (Aga Khan University) *Creating new Churches and Monasteries in Northern Mesopotamia from the Seventh to Ninth Centuries*

17.15-17.45 Elif KESER-KAYAALP (Dokuz Eylül Üniversitesi) *Building/Rebuilding Churches in Northern Mesopotamia in the Early Islamic period*

17.45-18.15 Simon PIERRE (Sorbonne Université/Ifpo) *Confronting Early Islamic Law? Building New Churches in the Syrian Orthodox world*

18.15-18.45 Discussion

Friday 26 November

Session 5. Northern Africa from Rome to the Fatimids

09.00-09.30 Audrey DRIDI (Sorbonne Université) *Building Churches at the Beginning of Islam: the Case of al-Fustāt first Christian Places of Worship*

09.30-10.00 Anna LEONE (Durham University) & Hafed ABDOULI (Université de Sfax) *Christianity and the Fate of Christian Monuments in the Maghreb from the 8th to the 11th c.*

10.00-10.30 Lucia ARCIFA (Università di Catania) & Michelangelo MESSINA (Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne/UNICT) *Monasteries and Religious Institutions in the Arab-Byzantine Frontier of Eastern Sicily: a New Agenda*

10.30-11.00 Discussion

11.00-11.15 Break

Session 6. Palestine and Arabia under the Umayyads and the Abbasids

11.15-11.45 Anne MICHEL (Université de Bordeaux Montaigne) *Building, Embellishing, Renovating, Reusing: What Becoming for Christian Buildings of Worship in Jordan in the First Centuries of Islam?*

11.45-12.15 Piero GILENTO (Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne/ArScan) *Churches in North-Eastern Jordan in Early Islam. Revision of Material Sources and New Research Perspectives*

12.15-12.45 Daniel REYNOLDS (University of Birmingham) *Beyond Continuity: Christians in Early Islamic Palestine, c. 750-950*

12.45-13.15 Discussion

13.15-13-30 Final conclusions and closing

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