**Beyond Exceptionalism II Conference**

**11-13 July 2022**

**John Rylands Library, Manchester UK**

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**Sponsored by The Ohio State University, The Haskins Society, and the History Department of the University of Missouri, Columbia**

**Hosted by the University of Manchester and the John Rylands Research Library**

**Monday, July 11th**

**9:00-9:30 am Welcome (Historic Reading Room): Heather J. Tanner (The Ohio State University), John Hodgson (John Rylands Library) & Charles Insley (University of Manchester)**

**9:30-10:30am Plenary (Historic Reading Room):** Amy Livingstone (U. of Lincoln), Redressing the Balance: Examining Events from Countess

Ermengarde's Perspective

Introduction: Laura L. Gathagan (State University of New York, Cortland)

**10:30-10:45am Coffee & Tea Break**

**10:45-12:15 Sessions 1 & 2 (Concurrent)**

**Sessions 1 Medieval Information Technology: Women as conveyors of knowledge (Historic Reading Room)**

chair:

Edward Loss (I Tatti, Harvard University) *Far from the exception*: female couriers and information gatherers in late medieval Italy

\*Maria Saiz Raimundo (U. of Valencia) Queen Maria of Castile, Isabel of Villena and a space of power, the Reial Monestir de la Santíssima Trinitat

**Session 2 Reconsidering women’s authority & performances of power in the medieval Iberian kingdoms (Christie Room & Zoom session)**

\*chair: Diana Pelaz Flores (U. of Santiago de Compostela)

\*Luís Rêpas (NOVA University, Lisbon) Teresa Sanches, queen of León, and her political and social role in Portugal

\*Mercedes Perez Vidal (U. of Oviedo) Beyond binary (gendered) definitions of liturgical leadership in late medieval Iberia

\*Paula Cordosa (U. of Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona) Reforming late medieval Portuguese female mendicancy: Women as agents of change

**12:15- 1:30pm Lunch (optional 10 minute group tours of Rylands Library)**

**1:30-3:00 Sessions 3 & 4 (Concurrent)**

**Sessions 3 *Non ducor, duco*. I am not led, I lead: The Power, Agency and Influence of Dowagers (Historic Reading Room)**

chair: Heather Tanner (The Ohio State University)

Gabrielle Storey (U. of East Anglia) Power of the Dowagers: The Cases of Two Angevin Queens

Ellie Woodacre (U. of Winchester) Anything but retired: Joan of Navarre’s unexceptionally active dowager years

Zita Rohr (Macquarie University) “*Escolles de vertu et de perfection”*: Premodern gendered agency, power, and influence for the next generation

**Session 4 (In)visible Women in the Norman Mezzogiorno (Christie Room & Zoom session)**

chair: Miriam Shadis (Ohio University)

\*Francesca Petrizzo (U. of Leeds) Beyond Jordan: A Network of Women’s Power in Early Norman Sicily

\*Clare Vernon (Birkbeck University of London) Women and Art: Constance of France as a Case Study

\*Paula Hailstone (Independent Scholar) Out of sight but not out of the action: dowager queens in the Norman Kingdom of Sicily

**3:00-3:15 pm Coffee & Tea Break**

**3:15-5:00 Sessions 5**

**Session 5** **Coins of the Realm: Medieval queens’ wealth (Historic Reading Room)**

chair: Amy Livingstone (U. of Lincoln)

Anais Waag (U. of Lincoln) Minting Royal Rulership: Coinage, Political Power, and the Medieval Proprietary Queen (1109-1328)   
\*Diana Florez (U. of Santiago de Compostela) Historic Evolution &Economic Interventions at the Queen’s Lands in the Crown of Castile (13-15c)

Paula Del Val Vales (U. of Lincoln) Living Like a Queen: Examining Eleanor of Provence’s Queenship through her Resources & Expenditure

Lledó Ruiz Domingo (U. of Valencia) Queenship and Wealth in the Crown of Aragon during the Fourteenth Century

**5:00-6:00 RECEPTION: Sawyer’s Arms (138 Deansgate)**

**Tuesday, July 12th**

**9:00-10:30 Sessions 6 & 7 (concurrent)**

**Session 6 Making Space for Women in Byzantium (Historic Reading Room)**

chair:

Erin Jordan (Colorado State University) Surviving the Storm: Imported Empresses in late Komenian Byzantium

\*Letitia Pala (U. of Auckland) Imperial Women and Intermarriage: Women’s Spaces as a Site of Power in the Late Byzantine Empire

\*Niamh Bhalla (Northeastern University) Seeing beyond the Surface: Representations of Women in Rural Byzantine Cappadocia

**Session 7 Warriors, Artists, Mothers: Women and medieval literature (Christie Room)**

chair:

Kathy Krause (U. of Missouri, Kansas City)Pleading her case: women’s advocacy in the illuminated manuscripts of the Dit des Quatre Sereurs

Mara Ciuntu (Oxford University) Jeanne de Montbaston’s Visual Misgendering of Bel-Accueil: Motivated or Mistaken?

\*Adelaide Greig (U. of Melbourne) Birthing Knights and Critiques: Words of Resistance in Thomas Malory’s “Boke of Syr Trystrams De Lyones”

**10:30-10:45am Coffee break**

**10:45-11:45am Plenary (Historic Reading Room):** Talia Zajac, Rus’ Consorts of Latin Christian Rulers: The Case of Queen Anna Yaroslavna of

France (d. 1075/1079)

Introduction: Charles Insley (University of Manchester)

**11:45-1:15 Sessions 8 & 9 (Concurrent)**

**Session 8 Elite Women and late medieval Scottish Political Culture** **(Christie Room)**

chair: Charles Insley (U. of Manchester)

\*Rachel Davis (U. of Highlands & Islands) Re-assessing a life: The political career of Isabella, countess of Fife (*d.* 1389)

\*Katy Jack (Independent Scholar) ‘no way under compulsion’: rewriting the story of Isabella Douglas, Countess of Mar

\*Iain MacInnes (U. of Highlands & Islands) The Exception & the Rule: Disinherited Women & the 2nd Scottish War of Independence (1332-c.1340)

**Sessions 9 Images, Visuality and Politics: Medieval women’s legacies (Historic Reading Room)**

chair: Valerie Garver (Northern Illinois University)

?Sheridon Ward (John Hopkins University) Reclaiming Women’s Imaginations: Holy Images as Mechanisms for Childbirth Miracles

Theresa Earenfight (Seattle University) Exceptionally Powerful Memories of Catherine of Aragon

Tracy Hamilton (Sweet Briar College) Mapping The Global Premodern Woman: Visibly Unexceptional

**1:15-3:15 Lunch with Rylands Library Manuscript Session**

**3:15-4:45 Sessions 10 & 11 (concurrent)**

**Session 10 The Charitable & Cultural Contributions of Medieval Monastic Women (Christie Room)**

chair: Kathy Krause (U. of Missouri, Kansas City) Atineh Movsesian (Tufts University) Patronage at Gandzasar Monastery: Armenian Women in Medieval Artksakh

\*Tiffany Ziegler (Midwestern State University) From Nuns to Nurses: Rewriting the History of the Hospital of Saint John in Brussels

Marisa Michaud (U. of York) *Pluseurs bonnes filles et notables femmes:* Towards an Understanding of Colettine Networks and Patrons

**Session 11 The Distaff and the Loom: Medieval women’s financial and kinship networks (Historic Reading Room)**

chair: Gabrielle Storey (U. of East Anglia)

Brittany Orton (U. of York) Early West Saxon Queenship: A Recovery of Matrilineal Politics in the Eighth and Ninth Centuries

\*Stephanie Christelow (Emerita Idaho State University) French Women Landlords in Early Norman England: Shaping Geopolitical Spaces

Jordan Schoonover (The Ohio State University) The King’s Kinswomen: Women’s Kinship Networks & the English Crown in the 14thc.

**6:30-8:30 pm CONFERENCE DINNER**

**Wednesday, July 13th (All sessions will be held at James Chadwick Building, U. of Manchester,** 2018 Booth St E

Manchester, M13 9SS

**9:00-10:00am Plenary (? Room ): Valerie Garver,** Beyond the Exceptional Cloth: Women, Social Bonds, and Textiles in the

Carolingian World

Introduction: Lois L. Huneycutt (University of Missouri, Columbia)

**10:00-10:15am Coffee & tea break**

**10:15am-12:15pm Sessions 12 & 13 (concurrent)**

**Session 12 From Girl to Woman: Enacting Shifting Identities in Medieval Political Life (?Room)**

chair: Laura Gathagan (SUNY Cortland)

Els De Paermentier (Ghent University) Before she was Countess: Margaret of Flanders as daughter, sister and *domina* (1200-1244)

Sarah Fry (Winchester University) Agnes Giffard - a noblewoman at the heart of an Anglo-Norman lordship

Katherina Holderegger Rossier (University of Berne), “Although an Unveiled Girl, She Could Stand as an Example to Queens and Nuns:” Adelaide of Normandy

**Session 13 Back into frame: Women’s Patronage of culture and the arts (? Room)**

chair: Lois Huneycutt (U. of Missouri, Columbia)

\*Diana Gómez-Chacón (Universidad Complutense de Madrid) Luxury, Memory, & Politics in Queen Isabel I of Castile’s Jewels

Kathleen Nolan (Hollins University) Out of the Shadows: The Cultural Patronage of Marguerite of Provence, Queen of France

Christina Zepeda (U. of Texas, Austin) Reframing the Relationship between Royal Women’s Power and Reception of Art at the Plantagenet Court

**12:15-1:30pm Lunch**

**1:30-3:00pm Sessions 14 & 15 (concurrent)**

**Session 14 Medieval & Modern Writers Confront Queenship (?Room)**  
chair: Talia Zajac (Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, John Rylands Research Institute)

\*Janna Bianchini (U. of Maryland, College Park) Royal Women and the Problem of Inalienable Possessions

Lois Huneycutt (U. of Missouri, Columbia) Making Use of the Queen: Queen-Consorts in the Lives of Medieval Saints   
\*Michael Evans (Delta College) The Exercise of Authority by Isabella of France

**Session 15 Marriage, Agency and Autonomy: Women and the Law (?Room)**

chair: Kathleen Nolan (Hollins University)

\*Kory Williams (Midwestern State University) Theodora, Marriage, and Procopian Polemics

Jennifer Thibodeaux (U. of Wisconsin, Whitewater) Jeanne Corvière’s Rape: Challenging Exceptionalism in the Historiography of Sexual Violence

**3:00-4:00 pm FINAL ROUNDTABLE (? Room): Theresa Earenfight, Miriam Shadis, Amy Livingstone, Valerie Garver, & Talia Zajac (plenary speakers from Beyond Exceptionalism I and II conferences) and the audience**

**Informal dinner (Conferees make individual reservations in small groups)**

\* Indicates online presentation.