***Religion and War from Antiquity to early Modernity: Historical Varieties of a Recurring Nexus***

King’s College London, 24-26 June 2019

Call for Papers

The conference, hosted by the Departments of Classics and War Studies, and the Sir Michael Howard Centre for the History of War at King’s College London, will mark the launch of a new international research network *Religion and War through the Ages*dedicated to exploring the nexus between religion and war as a recurring cross-cultural phenomenon attested in a great variety of historical societies from antiquity to the present and presenting a particularly poignant modern challenge.

Proposals from young researchers and established scholars in the **Late Antique and Medieval history** are now invited for papers of 20 minutes exploring historical cases that explore the influence of religion on war, from motivation and moral justification to rules of conduct.  Proposals, of up to 350 words, should be sent to Irene Polinskaya (irene.polinskaya@kcl.ac.uk) by 30 January 2019.  Successful applicants will be notified by 15 February 2019.  A selection of papers will be considered for publication in peer-reviewed conference proceedings.

What role do religious ideas play in human conflicts? Citing direct divine command or posing as guardians of divine interests, actively seeking divine approval or drawing courage from imagined divine support, armies from ancient times to the present and across diverse regions and cultures, have gone to battle with one another.  The conference will investigate specific historical cases and contexts that illustrate the influence of religion on war, from motivation to rules of conduct.  Major themes include: the demands of different sets of religious beliefs that in the past provided a cause for war; the conditions under which religious considerations became a dominant force among the reasons for and against war; the role religion played in escalating war or putting limits on violence and how that influence was felt; finally, how religion, in turn, was affected by the conduct of war in past societies.

With wide geographic coverage encompassing the Mediterranean basin, Near East, North Africa, and Europe, and taking Classical Antiquity as a starting point, but looking as far back as the second millennium BCE and forward to the Westphalian settlement of 1648, this conference will be a comparative and cross-cultural exploration of the persistent question about the role of religion in motivating, guiding, and explaining the causes and conduct of war.

Confirmed speakers include: Ian Morris (Stanford), Anthony Spalinger (Auckland), Penny Roberts (Warwick), Amir Gilan (Tel Aviv), Yannis Stouraitis (Edinburgh), Amira Benison (Cambridge).

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