**Postgraduate/Early Career Call For Papers**

**Beyond Eusebius and Augustine: Rethinking Christian Political Thought in Late Antiquity**

University of Liverpool, Tuesday 18 June 2019

**Deadline for paper proposals**: Monday 18 February 2019

Amid the mass of outstanding scholarship on the Christianization of the Roman world in late antiquity (c. 250-700 CE), political thought has been left behind. Even excellent recent accounts tend to fall back on canonical authors (esp. Eusebius of Caesarea and Augustine of Hippo), themes (e.g. the relationship between emperor and churchmen), and early to mid-twentieth century accounts (esp. Baynes, Dvornik, Markus). This project seeks to diversify approaches to late ancient Christian political thought by exploring new topics (e.g. the imperial family, the role of the demonic, the influence of ascetic ideology), authors, regions, and languages. Through an international conference bringing together specialists in Classics & Ancient History, Medieval Studies, Byzantine History, and Early Christianity, leading to a collection of path-breaking essays on specific case studies, it aims to stimulate new approaches and lines of inquiry into a central theme in late ancient history.

We invite proposals for c. 20-minute papers on this theme from postgraduate students and early career researchers. Thanks to generous support from the Royal Historical Society, we will be able to pay for UK travel costs and two nights’ hotel accommodation. Papers given at the conference will be considered for publication in a resulting edited volume/special journal issue.

We would particularly invite proposals which speak to one of the following research themes:

(1)  Developing a more pluralist conception of Christian ‘political thought’

Possible topics might include: gendered praise and invective; classical political ideals in ascetic/monastic literature; ascetic/monastic visions of earthly government; demonology and diabolical agency; ethnic discourse, ethnography, and visions of the church as an ethnic, supra-ethnic, or anti-ethnic community.

(2)  Expanding the canon

We invite paper proposals which consider previously peripheral or understudied authors, languages, and regions of late ancient western Eurasia, to complicate and nuance accounts of the development of Christian political thought in late antiquity.

(3)  Christian political ideology ‘in action’

We invite paper proposals which root Christian political culture in the lived experience of governance in the late ancient world, and consider its influence on concrete interactions between bishops, monks, emperors, officials, and their subjects.

If you are interested in presenting, please e-mail an abstract of no more than 500 words to [robin.whelan@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:robin.whelan@liverpool.ac.uk). The deadline for submissions is Monday 18 February; we will aim to provide responses by the end of February. Please feel free to e-mail any of the organisers with questions.

**Organisers**

Prof. Richard Flower (Exeter) ([R.Flower@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:R.Flower@exeter.ac.uk))

Dr Meaghan McEvoy (Macquarie) ([meaghan.mcevoy@mq.edu.au](mailto:meaghan.mcevoy@mq.edu.au))

Dr Robin Whelan (Liverpool) ([robin.whelan@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:robin.whelan@liverpool.ac.uk))

**Confirmed Speakers**

Prof. Dame Averil Cameron (Oxford; respondent)

Dr James Corke-Webster (King’s College London)

Dr Gerda Heydemann (Freie Universität Berlin)

Prof. Julia Hillner (Sheffield)

Dr Conor O’Brien (Durham)