Conquest: 1016, 1066

CALL FOR PAPERS

Paper proposals are invited for this interdisciplinary anniversary conference 21–24 July 2016 at the Ioannou Centre and TORCH, Oxford.

Papers may be on any topic relevant to the area, though the main suggested themes are listed below. Individual paper proposals (of 20 minutes’ length) are highly encouraged and are anticipated to make up the majority of the programme; proposals are also invited for consideration by a number of session organisers. Sessions which are filled may be replicated if enough paper proposals warrant it.

CONFERENCE THEMES
1. The Church; monasticism, clerical reform, theology, religious experience
2. Literature, authors, and patronage
3. Language and multilingualism, language contact
4. Institutions and governance; lordship; kingship
5. Warfare, battles, conduct in war, fighting men
6. Art and material culture; music; court life
7. Society and peoples
8. Trade and commerce
9. Space, movement, contact, networks; England and Europe, England and Scandinavia
10. Historiography

SESSIONS CALLING – proposals warmly invited
1. Economies of Power
2. The English Language in the Long Twelfth Century
3. Domesday Debated
4. The Norman Conquest and its Myth
5. Representing Gender and Conquest
6. Rewriting the Narrative: Archaeological methods and evidence
7. Women and the Conquests
8. Women and the Legitimization of Succession Revisited
10. Conquest 911 – The (proto-)Norman Conquest of Neustria Reconsidered
11. Stories of migration in a century of conquest

SESSIONS PRE-ARRANGED – further related proposals will be considered for replica sessions, and as individual paper proposals
1. Saints Alive! Conquest and cult, 1010–1110
2. Embroidering the Death of Harold: Adela of Blois, Edith Swanneck and the Bayeux Tapestry
3. Rebels or Collaborators? The conquests of 1016 and 1066 compared
4. Assandun to Hastings: The Archaeology of eleventh-century battlefields
5. Landholding and society in Lonsdale and south Cumbria: the impact of 1066
6. Artefacts in Transition: people and things in the eleventh century
7. The Structure of Landed Society in England, 1066-1086
8. Communication between Powers in the eleventh century – The Normans and mainland Europe
9. Approaching the Conquests of England using Geospatial Analysis

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SESSION DETAILS

SESSIONS CALLING – proposals warmly invited

1. Economies of Power
Name of Organiser: Dr Rory Naismith
Contact email: rn242@cam.ac.uk
Position and Affiliation of Organiser: Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellow, University of Cambridge
The tumultuous politics of eleventh-century England revolved to a significant degree around the material prizes which participants hoped to attain: land and moveable wealth, as well as the authority to govern its inhabitants and owners however one saw fit. Exploitation of economic resources has been a recurrent theme in medieval historical scholarship, especially on earlier Anglo-Saxon England, but becomes more refracted and diffused in the eleventh century. This session will seek to find a way through the divisions of political conquest (especially 1066) and modern academic disciplines which have affected understanding of how England’s rulers conceived of and related to the kingdom’s material resources. Major themes include the interface of politics and economics, with concomitant questions of agency and rationality; literary conceptualisations of what modern readers view as economic topics; the influence of Christian belief and the Church; England’s changing place within broader axes of European thought and economy; and the part played by treasure, money, land and other material goods in other arenas of power – ritual, symbolic and more.

2. The English Language in the Long Twelfth Century
Name of Organiser: Mark Faulkner
Contact email: m.faulkner@shef.ac.uk
Position and Affiliation of Organiser: Lecturer in Medieval English, University of Sheffield
As Elaine Treharne has recently acknowledged, ‘there is an immense amount of work yet to be done on the language of English texts copied between 1100 and 1200’; indeed, the most substantial work on this topic remains Schlemilch’s 1914 Halle dissertation. This session accordingly reopens the question of the English Language in the long twelfth century. Possible themes include attitudes to English; English as a foreign language; the periodisation of Old and Middle English; internally- or externally-caused language variation and change in orthography, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, register etc. It is envisaged the session will feature three twenty-minute papers.

3. Domesday Debated
Name of Organiser: David Roffe
Contact email: david@roffe.co.uk
Position and Affiliation of Organiser: Independent scholar
Despite over two hundred years of academic study, the Domesday inquest remains a mystery. There is still no consensus on the purpose of the enterprise, its execution, the documents that it generated, and their date. Views on the inquest range from executive coercion to social consultation, and on the book from Norman propaganda to bureaucrat’s aide memoire. Domesday studies are in disarray. This session will review the new ideas that have come forward in the last twenty years to see if there are any grounds for consensus on the nature of the inquest as an instrument of government in the late eleventh century.

4. The Norman Conquest and its Myth
Name of Organiser: Francesco Marzella, Francesco Paolo Terlizzi
Contact email: fmarzella@yahoo.it; fpterlizzi@yahoo.it
Position and Affiliation of Organiser: Independent scholar (Francesco Marzella), University of Bologna (Francesco Paolo Terlizzi, post-doc fellow)
The period that followed the Norman conquest of England coincides with an exponential increase of literary production of the most disparate literary genres: historical narrations, panegyrics, epic poems, hagiographies etc. In these texts the episode of the battle of Hastings and the importance of the main political characters of
the conquest (William, Harold, but also Edward the Confessor) is clearly emphasized. The new ruling dynasty has the need to legitimize its claim to the throne and the intellectuals – first of all clerks, monks and bishops – offer to the political power some necessary instruments for an impressive and efficient propaganda, proposing themselves as interpreters of reality and competing in creating successful political myths, useful both for themselves and for the rulers. The purpose of the present panel is to offer an overview of Anglo-Norman ‘mythography’ produced from the Conquest to the reign of Henry III to illustrate the relationship between literary production and contemporary political languages.

5. Representing Gender and Conquest
Name of Organiser: Dr Katherine Weikert
Contact email: Katherine.weikert@winchester.ac.uk
Position and Affiliation of Organiser: Lecturer in Classical and Medieval Studies, University of Winchester

The topic of gender in a time of conquest is ripe for exploration, but this session intends to move beyond the well-known explorations of medieval military masculinities. This session aims to investigate the representation of femininities and masculinities in the era of conquest in England ca 1000-1100, drawing from Scandinavian, Norman and Anglo-Saxon viewpoints and closely associating the depictions of gender to the conquests of 1016 and 1066. A multiplicity of viewpoints will be examined, from comparative notions of gender between cultures to exploration of gender in unexpected sources. This session will seek to move the boundaries of the representation of gender in a time of conquest and view ways of seeing femininities and masculinities in the multiple sources of the eleventh century.

6. Rewriting the narrative: what can archaeological methods and evidence bring to the study of the Norman Conquest?
Name of Organiser: Naomi Sykes, Aleksandra McClain
Contact email: naomi.sykes@nottingham.ac.uk, aleksandra.mcclain@york.ac.uk
Position and Affiliation of Organiser: Naomi Sykes, Senior Lecturer, Department of Archaeology, University of Nottingham; Aleksandra McClain, Lecturer, Department of Archaeology, University of York

The Norman Conquest has long been a touchstone for medieval historians and a focus of extensive documentary research, but until recently, archaeologists have lagged behind in studies explicitly devoted to the period and the process of conquest. However, exciting and innovative scholarship is now bringing to light the potential of archaeological data, theoretical approaches, and recent advances in scientific techniques to tell new stories of people and things in transition, and overturn traditional narratives of the Norman Conquest and its aftermath. This session will highlight findings from current research on buildings, landscapes, material culture, and skeletal and environmental data, and will introduce key themes and questions that have been raised by this work. We invite participants to discuss and debate the current and future research directions of material studies of the Norman Conquest, and set new agendas for how we approach medieval sociocultural change and transition. We also hope to stimulate discussion across disciplinary boundaries of how future research can better integrate documentary and material evidence to create a more detailed, more vibrant, and more complete picture of society, culture, and environment in the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

7. Women and the Conquests
Name of Organiser: Tracey-Anne Cooper
Contact email: coopt@stjohns.edu
Position and Affiliation of Organiser: Assistant Professor, St. John’s University.

Broadly the session’s aims will be to assess the role/s of women, individually or collectively, in relation to the Danish and Norman Conquests, and to elucidate their impact on events or the impact of events on their lives and/or responsibilities. Papers may, for example, discuss the pivotal role of an individual, such as Queen Emma, wife to Kings Æthelred and Cnut, mother to Kings Harthacnut and Edward. On the other hand, presentations may examine groups of women, such as nuns or aristocratic consorts, for whom the conquests may have presented unique challenges or opportunities. Alternatively, a paper could examine how different perspectives on women – Danish, English and Norman – in, for example, law, literature or liturgy, may have contrasted or blended in the conquests period. Essentially, the purpose of this panel will be to ensure that in
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the wider discussion of the conquests a gendered perspective is established, which while not aiming at comprehensive coverage, at least begins to ask questions about women’s experiences of, and contributions to, the history of the period.

8. Women and the Legitimization of Succession Revisited: Long Term Effects of Post-Conquest Intermarriage
Name of Organisers: Lois L. Huneycutt and Stephanie Christelow
Contact email: HuneycutL@missouri.edu; christep@isu.edu
Position and Affiliation of Organiser: Lois Huneycutt, Associate Professor of History, University of Missouri; Stephanie Christelow, History Faculty Member, Idaho State University
We hope this session builds on the work of Eleanor Searle in her 1981 article, ‘Women and the Legitimization of Succession at the Norman Conquest’. We want papers that will look at the long term effects of intermarriage among native and conquering peoples in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. We hope to see new work on Anglo-Danish/Anglo-Saxon/Anglo-Norman/Anglo-Welsh and other intermarriage leading to the creation of new nobilities, laws, lineages, landholdings, and borders. We will also be interested in cultural effects such as naming patterns, artistic patronage, literary forms, and language change.

Name of Organiser: Dr Emily A. Winkler
Contact email: e.winkler@ucl.ac.uk, emily.a.winkler@gmail.com
Position and Affiliation of Organiser: Teaching Fellow, University College London
The dates ‘1016’ and ‘1066’ provide temporally convenient markers for remembering, recognizing or—depending upon one’s point of view—commemorating the eleventh-century conquests of England. On this occasion in 2016, the 1000th anniversary of one and 950th occasion, the temporal elegance of the dates is particularly apparent. Yet in continuing to use these dates as a fulcrum for study and discussion, is there a danger of obscuring other critical moments in eleventh-century conquest history? This session considers this possibility by exploring alternative ways and temporal fulcra for constructing our modern historical narrative of these conquests.
This session proposes to ask whether there are new key moments in England’s eleventh-century history of conquest to which we should turn our attention. Do ‘1016’ and ‘1066’ obscure the extent to which change was happening in the British Isles as a whole? Do these dates take enough account of events in the Scandinavian world or the Norman world? Should these dates vie for significance with any others—Edward’s accession in 1042? The events of St Brice’s Day in 1002? The Norman victories in northern Wales and Scotland in 1093? Æthelred’s return in 1014? Papers may take a variety of different approaches: they may propose alternative dates; they may query the existing date-studded historical narrative; they may draw on historiography from the eleventh and twelfth-centuries to evaluate medieval perspectives on the relative important of these dates or other moments.

10. Conquest 911 – The (proto-)Norman Conquest of Neustria Reconsidered
Name of Organiser: Dr Benjamin Pohl
Contact email: bp368@cam.ac.uk
Position and Affiliation of Organiser: DAAD Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Faculty of History, University of Cambridge; Research Associate, Emmanuel College, Cambridge.
This roundtable is dedicated to discussing the cultural dynamics of the ‘Viking’ conquest of Neustria in c.911. Investigating the social and political stratigraphy of Normandy’s foundation through conquest, we will compare and contextualise Rollo’s acquisition of Normandy with those of England in 1016 and 1066, respectively. Particular emphasis will be placed on how these cultural dynamics were reflected and negotiated in ‘post-conquest’ narratives written in both ducal Normandy and Anglo-Norman England (such as, for example, in the works of Dudo of St. Quentin, William of Jumièges, etc.) Bringing together experts from different disciplines and international backgrounds, this roundtable seeks to produce new knowledge and further interdisciplinary collaboration.
11. Stories of migration in a century of conquest
Name of Organisers: Daniel Brown, Lale Yildirim
Contact email: daniel.brown@uni-koeln.de; lale.yildirim@uni-koeln.de
Position and Affiliation of Organiser: Historisches Institut, Universität zu Köln

The conquests in 1016 and 1066 are not just the histories and stories of great leaders and principalities; they are also events that shaped societies – either being the initial spark for a new social order or the demise of another. Also, these historical events touched the lives of the individual, often with dramatic consequences – of which migration is just one. The topic of this session is the stories of migration found before and in the wake of both events and the papers in this session are to explore the origins and fate of individuals. A focus is on the migrations in the wake of the conquest in 1016 and 1066, yet a special focus is also to be on such life stories that span the time between 1016 and 1066.

SESSIONS PRE-ARRANGED – further related proposals will be considered for replica sessions, and as individual paper proposals

1. Saints Alive! Conquest and cult, 1010-1110
Name of Organisers: Elaine Treharne and Joanna Huntington
Contact emails: treharne@stanford.edu; jhuntington@lincoln.ac.uk
Position and Affiliation of Organisers: The Roberta Bowman Denning Professor, Stanford University; Senior Lecturer in Medieval History, University of Lincoln

We propose two linked sessions to examine the construction, form, function, and reception of sanctity across the eleventh century. With few notable exceptions, studies of eleventh-century sanctity echo broader scholarship in considering sanctity as late Anglo-Saxon or post-1066. Just as it is increasingly recognized that 1066 and its aftermath need to be understood in the context of 1016, so sanctity should be considered across conquests, the better to determine tradition and innovation in, and veneration and rejection of, cults within their institutional contexts.

It is now generally acknowledged that hagiography reveals cultural and social aspirations and anxieties. Moreover, saints and their cults are powerful agents in efforts to forge and consolidate identities and reconciliations. This is certainly the case for the century under consideration, with its two conquests and concomitant renegotiations and redefinitions of power and authority. These sessions accordingly aim to explore the complex networks of politics and popular religion as manifested through saints and their cults.

2. Embroidering the Death of Harold: Adela of Blois, Edith Swanneck and the Bayeux Tapestry
Name of Organiser: Dr Joanna Laynesmith
Contact email: j.laynesmith@gmail.com
Position and Affiliation of Organiser: Visiting research fellow, University of Reading

This session will focus on women from three very different backgrounds who were involved with the reimagining of the Battle of Hastings. Baudri of Bourgeuil's poem for Adela of Blois is well known for its...
reference to a ‘tapestry’ depicting the Battle of Hastings; but Anne Lawrence-Mathers’ paper will explore how Baudri makes the story of Harold’s death fit into an elaborate celebration of Adela herself as patron of history as well as all seven liberal arts. Joanna Laynesmith’s paper will focus on Edith Swanneck whose story has been extensively embroidered in recent centuries and will suggest that that process began with the Waltham Chronicler’s desire to rewrite Harold’s death. She will question common representations of Edith and propose an alternative identity for Eadgyva Pulchra. Finally Alexandra Lester-Makin will focus on material embroidery, considering both early medieval and nineteenth-century approaches to depicting the story of Harold’s death. This paper will consider the process and techniques of both the original embroidering of the Bayeux Tapestry and the nineteenth-century restoration, exploring what that tells us about the working practices employed by Anglo-Saxon embroideresses.

3. Rebels or Collaborators? The conquests of 1016 and 1066 compared
Name of Organiser: Ryan Lavelle
Contact email: Ryan.Lavelle@winchester.ac.uk
Position and Affiliation of Organiser: Senior Lecturer in Medieval History, History Department, University of Winchester
‘The military conquests compared and contrasted’ (Matthew Bennett)
The conquests of 1016 and 1066 operated very differently: Cnut’s coronation was preceded by a decade of wars of attrition, while William was crowned after a single victory, followed by six years of consolidation, including brutal harrying of ‘rebel’ regions. Key factors were political preparations and logistic considerations combined with the need to legitimise the new regimes. Matthew Bennett’s paper will set the narrative for the session and explore how the military campaigns influenced the political settlement.
‘Lordship bonds in post-conquest turmoil’ (Courtnay Konshuh)
Both conquests resulted in the English nobility being involved in foreign rule of their country. While some are castigated in the Æthelredian annals as traitors, 1066 rather resulted in overly-zealous nobles who continued to rebel against the Normans over the next decade. This shows a conflict in the expectations and reality of fulfilling lordship bonds. Courtnay Konshuh’s paper will explore the reception of these lords’ choices during and after conquest.
“Anglo-Danes” and “Anglo-Normans” in defence of post-Conquest kingdoms’ (Ryan Lavelle)
This paper addresses the composition of post-Conquest military forces, examining the question of the place of English troops in the service of foreign rulers in the generation after the eleventh-century conquests. Although both Cnut and William’s ‘military innovations’ have been well studied from the perspective of military administration, this comparative view, particularly encompassing English participation in campaigns outside England, is an opportunity to reassess the perception of the continuity and change in military forces in England in the aftermath of conquest.

4. Assandun to Hastings: The Archaeology of eleventh-century battlefields
Name of Organiser: Dr Glenn Foard
Contact email: g.foard@hud.ac.uk
Position and Affiliation of Organiser: Reader in Battlefield Archaeology, University of Huddersfield
Through major studies, like Bosworth and Culloden, battlefield archaeology is advancing understanding of medieval and early-modern battlefields, and of key technological and tactical developments in warfare. While 11th century battlefields pose far greater challenges, the returns could be dramatic, given the typically ephemeral documentary record and uncertainty as to even battlefield location. In this session specialists in military history, artefactual study and battlefield archaeology will examine how 11th century sites, including Assandun, Fulford, Stamford Bridge and Hastings, have been and might be tackled by integrating evidence from the documentary record, the terrain and from battle archaeology.

5. Landholding and society in Lonsdale and south Cumbria: the impact of 1066
Name of Organiser: Dr William Cook
Contact email: wjcook@hotmail.co.uk
Position and Affiliation of Organiser: Research Assistant, Department of History, Lancaster University
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This session will address the Norman impact on aspects of landholding and society in Lonsdale and south Cumbria. This region marked the north-west frontier of William I’s new kingdom but it is an area for which surviving documentary evidence is scarce. The large concentration of early Norman motte fortifications has received comparatively little scholarly attention. One objective is to consider the place of these fortifications in the occupation and consolidation of the region, examining their connection with localities based on a study of the relationships between the spatial distribution of the mottes and pre-Conquest parochial structures and landholding patterns as implied by Domesday Book and the distribution of pre-Norman sculptural monuments. Another objective is to investigate the strength of Norman cultural influence in the region based on an analysis of personal name data recorded in twelfth century sources, considering the extent to which the Norman takeover imposed a new naming culture on local populations and examining patterns of insular personal name survival. Particular attention will be given to identifying social distinctions between naming cultures and their significance.

6. Artefacts in Transition: people and things in the eleventh century
Name of Organiser: Aleksandra McClain
Contact email: aleksandra.mcclain@york.ac.uk
Position and Affiliation of Organiser: Lecturer, Dept of Archaeology, University of York
The eleventh century is a challenging period for the analysis of artefacts, falling squarely between heavily studied Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Scandinavian material culture and the widespread and well-documented material of the high and late Middle Ages. Our understanding of the period’s material culture has been further hampered by imprecise dating and difficult typologies, and as 1066 has often been imposed as the break between ‘early’ and ‘late’ medieval studies, the century as a whole has tended to fall through the cracks in archaeological research. However, the eleventh century offers enormous potential for examining the material dimensions of social transition, as it was a time of conflict and intense change, marked by political, cultural, linguistic, and material transformations that are traceable and variable on national, regional, and local scales. This session will highlight recent explorations of metalwork, sculpture, and ceramics in the long eleventh century, demonstrating the potential of artefactual research to elucidate the nuances of the relationship between style, form, technology, and human behaviour in times of change.

7. The Structure of Landed Society in England, 1066–1086
Name of Organiser: Stephen Baxter
Contact email: stephen.baxter@history.ox.ac.uk
Position and Affiliation of Organiser: Associate Professor of History, St Peter’s College, Oxford
The broad aim of this session will be to offer a provisional overview of the structure of landed society in 1066, and of the nature and extent of structural change in landed society during the Conqueror’s reign. The session will draw on research which has been undertaken for the Profile of a Doomed Elite project; and, since that project remains on-going, and since its funding future between now and 2016 remains uncertain, the session will be an opportunity both to sketch emerging ideas and hypotheses, as well as to report some firm conclusions.

The best format would be two 30-minute papers. The first paper would provide an overview of the structure of landed society in 1066 and 1086, showing how landed wealth was distributed within landed society as a whole – e.g. by quantifying the number of people who belonged to different income brackets, the division of wealth between secular and religious landholders, and by gender – for both 1066 and 1086. This will be a first time that a robust estimate of structural change in landed society in early conquered England has been presented to the scholarly community.

The second paper would offer reflections on the nature of English landed society in 1066. What proportion of England’s landed wealth was held by those who regularly attended royal assemblies? What kinds of people did not attend royal assemblies, and what connected them with those who did? How concentrated and dispersed were the estates of this ruling oligarchy? How committed were landholders to local power bases? What kind of landholders were able to compete most effectively for lordship? How much regional variation was there in the texture of landed society?
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8. Communication between Powers in the eleventh century – The Normans and mainland Europe
Name of Organisers: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Hasberg, Daniel Brown
Contact email: w.hasberg@uni-koeln.de; daniel.brown@uni-koeln.de
Position and Affiliation of Organisers: Prof. Dr. Hasberg, Professor für Mittelalterliche und Neuere Geschichte und Didaktik der Geschichte; Daniel Brown, Doctoral Student, Historisches Institut, Universität zu Köln
The 11th century is a time of change and chance. New dynasties enter the European stage and old orders fall apart. With the benefit of hindsight, the 11th century may be called a time of transition between the Early and High Middle Ages. One aspect of this transitional phase is also the bilateral communication of those powers acting on said European stage. Power is even more communicated in rituals and symbols, such as the vexillum sancti Petri that accompanied William the Conqueror to England or the infamous ritual humiliation of Henry IV before the gate of Canossa. The papers in this session shall first establish the frameworks and conditions of communication in the 11th century as well as provide exempla of communication between the Normans and other European powers.

9. Approaching the Conquests of England using Geospatial Analysis
Name of Organiser: Dr Andrew Lowerre
Contact email: andrew.lowerre@english-heritage.org.uk
Position and Affiliation of Organiser: Archaeologist (Spatial Analysis), English Heritage, Heritage Protection Department, Portsmouth
The use of digital geospatial technologies such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is becoming increasingly common in research on the 'long eleventh century' in England. Spatially-referenced information from a wide range of sources (e.g., documents and literary texts, archaeological survey and excavation, Portable Antiquities Scheme findspots, topographic and environmental datasets) can be readily combined, interrogated and visualised on maps. In addition to its data-management and cartographic capacities, GIS also offers an array of tools to analyse spatial data, including techniques that are difficult, if not impossible, to realise using non-digital means.

The aim of this session is to showcase recent work on the 'long eleventh century' that makes use of the rich analytical capabilities of GIS. Papers will illustrate how geospatial analysis is now providing new insights and knowledge about people, places and events in England and her neighbours, 950—1100.

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Paper proposal

Name of Speaker:

Paper Title:

Theme(s): Chosen from the list of ten published

Related session/linked papers: May be one of the advertised proposed sessions, or be the paper title and speaker name of one or more linked paper proposals.

Contact email: Speaker's email address

Position and Affiliation of Speaker: Current post and university affiliation

Abstract (c. 200 words):

Format of paper: Usually 20 minutes; if in another format because linked with other papers to form a proposed session, please specify.

Audio-visual equipment required (if any): This may be changed nearer the time, but guidance would be useful.

Send this form in electronic copy to conquest@torch.ox.ac.uk

Deadline 31 October 2015.