

Interdisciplinary Dialogues: New work on genome research, material culture, and symbolic action in reconstructing early 'Anglo-Saxon' cultural identity

McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge
10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday 18 November 2017

Programme

10.00-10.30 a.m. Coffee and tea

10.30 a.m. Welcome: Dr Susan Oosthuizen

10.45 a.m. *Genetic identities – do they exist and did the Anglo-Saxons have one?*
Dr Ellen Røyrvik (University of Warwick)

11.45 a.m. *Beyond identity: The material lives, deaths and afterlife of Anglo-Saxon spearheads.* Andrew Welton (University of Florida)

1.00 – 2.00 p.m. Sandwich lunch

2.00 p.m. *A tired and tested hypothesis? Reassessing regional dress and cultural identity in the fifth and sixth centuries.* Dr Toby Martin (University of Oxford)

3.00 p.m. *Positioning the corpse: Death, posture and representation in early Anglo-Saxon England.* Sian Mui (University of Durham)

4.00 p.m. Concluding remarks: Dr James Barrett

4.15 p.m. Tea, coffee, and departure



Early eighth-century sculptural fragment found just outside St Wyston's church, Repton: perhaps a representation of Æthelbald, king of Mercia (d. 757) (© Dr Heidi Stoner)

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The origins and construction of early 'Anglo-Saxon' cultural identity remain hotly contested. Explanatory frameworks extend along an unusually wide continuum. They are predicated at one extreme on an almost complete break between the institutions and structures of Romano-British England and those of the fifth to seventh centuries; and at the other extreme, on arguments for substantial continuity and evolution across the period. Explanatory models range from those driven by the influence of migration from north-west Europe – for example, the complete replacement of Romano-British leadership by Germanic warrior elites, the creation of 'Anglo-Saxon' identity through the deliberate creation of origin myths, and the subordination of indigenous populations - to others in which immigrants were assimilated into existing communities, that dynamic interaction contributing to the evolution of Romano-British institutions and culture into a post-imperial, early medieval society in which ethnicity is in. Such debates are complicated not only by the tension between international, national, regional and local perspectives, but also by the range of disciplines across which the problem is actively being investigated: the archaeology of material culture and symbolic value, genomic and isotopic research on early medieval migration, contextualised interpretations of documentary evidence, numismatics, linguistics and toponymy, among others.

The colloquium brings new and innovative work by early researchers together with established scholars across a number of disciplines. It aims to encourage greater interdisciplinary dialogue on questions of early 'Anglo-Saxon' identity, to explore the themes and directions in which current research might usefully be taken and, perhaps, to discuss the possibility of establishing an informal network for taking such discussions forward in the future.

Fee: £20.00 including sandwich lunch and coffee/tea
Early booking is advised as the meeting room has limited capacity



Name

Address

.....Postcode

Email (or telephone, if no email).....

I would like to book place(s) @ £20 each at *Interdisciplinary Dialogues* on 18 November 2017

I enclose a signed, dated cheque for £ made out to 'University of Cambridge'

Dietary requirements (if applicable)

Please complete and return by Monday 6 November 2017 to: Dr Susan Oosthuizen, University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education, Madingley, Cambridge CB23 1HN. Email: smo23@cam.ac.uk.