

Objects of Law in the Medieval and Early Modern Worlds

AUGUST 29-30, 2024

Organized by Corinne Mühlemann (University of Bern) and
Fatima Quraishi (University of California, Riverside)

Institute of Art History, Mittelstrasse 43, CH-3012 Bern
Room 120, First Floor

PROGRAM

Thursday | August 29th

9:00-9:30 ARRIVAL | COFFEE

9:30-10:15 Introduction by Fatima Quraishi
and Corinne Mühlemann

PANEL 1 | LONGUE-DURÉE STUDIES

Moderated by Omar Anchassi, University of Bern, SNSF-
Project "Trajectories of Slavery in Islamicate Societies"

10:30-11:00 The Chess-Knight Seal
Krisztina Ilko | Queens College/ University
of Cambridge

**11:00-11:30 "God Protect us from One
Finger under Twenty!" The
Abbasid Nilometer Column as a
Legal Object**
Heba Mostafa | University of Toronto

11:30-12:00 Discussion

12:00-13:30 LUNCH

PANEL 2 | CIRCULATION AND FORMATION OF LEGAL KNOWLEDGE

Moderated by Irina Dudar, Institute of Art History,
University of Bern

**13:30-14:00 Social and Spatial Dynamics of
Bukharan Fatwas as Written
Artefacts**
Zahir Bhalloo | University of Hamburg

**14:00-14:30 The Materiality of Medieval
Judicial Ordines**
Phillipa Byrne | Trinity College, Dublin

**14:30-15:00 Bildnisrecht: Legal Aspects of
Early Portraiture**
Niko Munz | Oxford University

15:00-15:30 Discussion

15:30-16:00 COFFEE BREAK



PANEL 3 | MULTIPLE MATERIALITIES

Moderated by Corinne Mühlemann, Institute of Art History, University of Bern

16:00-16:30 From Golkonda to Siam: Secret Letters, Envelopes, and Governing Freight Trade in the Mughal Port-city

Subah Dayal | New York University

16:30-17:00 A Weapon of Justice? The Making of Law's Monopoly on Violence

Masha Goldin | University of Basel

17:00-17:30 Aesthetics of Illusion and Authenticity in Ottonian Legal Documents

Nino Zchomelidse | John Hopkins University

17:30-18:00 Discussion

19:00 DINNER

Friday | August 30th

PANEL 4 | LEGAL PERFORMANCE

Moderated by Fatima Quraishi, University of California, Riverside

08:30-09:00 Epistolary Texts as Legal Objects: Querying the Mughal Farmān in Diplomatic Contexts

Shounak Ghosh | Vanderbilt University

09:00-09:30 Between Sacred and Script: Examining Legal Objects in Promises, Vows, and Oaths as Defined by Alfonso X in The Seven-Partidas

Daniela Maldonado Castaneda | Queen's University, Canada

09:30-10:00 The Medieval Curfew Bell: Sonority and the Voice of Law

Jordan Skinner | Princeton University

10:00-10:30 Discussion

10:30-11:00 COFFEE BREAK



PANEL 5 | EVERYDAY LAW

Moderated by Moïra Dato, Institute of Art History,
University of Bern

11:00-11:30 The Material and Social Implications of Measuring Tools in Ottoman Legal History

Gül Kale | Carleton University, Toronto

11:30-12:00 What Does a Bribe Look Like? Carolingian munera in Literary Texts

Lorenzo Paveggio | University of Padua

12:00-12:30 Discussion

12:30-14:00 LUNCH

PANEL 6 | OBJECTS IN COURT

Moderated by Carlos Rojas Cocomá, Institute of Art
History, University of Bern

14:00-14:30 The Sacred Suspended: Martha, Law, and Image in the Early Modern Spanish Atlantic

Nathalie Miraval | Yale University

14:30-15:00 Drawings, Courtroom Practices, and Juridical Decision-Making at the Edges of the Spanish Empire

Linda Mueller | Bibliotheca Hertziana
Rome/Harvard University

15:00-15:30 Discussion

15:30-16:00 CLOSING REMARKS

16:00-16:30 GOODBYE COFFEE



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Images: Details of a paiza, MET 1993.256; of a breadseal, Berlin Museum of Islamic art, I. 6741; of a seal and a seal bag, St. Gall Abbey Archive, C1A3.

