

# Lost in Translation?

Ibn Fadlan and the Great Unwashed

## SPEAKERS' AND CHAIRS' BIOGRAPHIES



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**Lesley Abrams** (University of Oxford)

Lesley Abrams is Professor of Early Medieval History and Tutorial Fellow in History (Colyer-Fergusson Fellow) at Balliol College, Oxford. Her research and publications have concentrated on periods of conversion to Christianity, whether that of the English in the seventh century or of Scandinavians in the ninth, tenth and eleventh. She is interested in all aspects of the Scandinavian world in the early middle ages, including Viking activity and the history of Scandinavia and the overseas settlements.

Recent publications include 'Diaspora and Identity in the Viking Age', *Early Medieval Europe* 20 (2012), 'Early Normandy', *Anglo-Norman Studies* 35 (2013), and 'Bede, Gregory, and Strategies of Conversion in Anglo-Saxon England and the Spanish New World' (Jarrow Lecture 2013 (2015)).



**Irina Arzhantseva** (Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology RAN Moscow)

Irina Arzhantseva is a Principal Researcher at the Russian Academy of Sciences (Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology) and teaches Eurasian Archaeology at the Russian State University of Humanities (Institute of Oriental and Classical Studies). An archaeologist specializing in the early middle ages in the Caucasus and Central Asia, she has held visiting fellowships at the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford.

Recent publications in English include 'The Alans: neighbours of the Khazars in the Caucasus', in *The World of the Khazars*, ed. P. B. Golden *et al.* (2007); 'The Christianisation of the North Caucasus', in *The Christianisation of the Caucasus*, ed. W. Seibt (2002); (et al.) 'Early medieval urbanization and state formation east of the Aral Sea', in *The European Archaeologist* 37 (2012); and 'The Khorezmian Expedition: imperial archaeology and Faustian bargains in Soviet Central Asia', in *Public Archaeology* (in press).



**Sverre Bagge** (University of Bergen)

Sverre Bagge is Emeritus Professor at the University of Bergen, where he taught from 1973. From 2003-2013 he was the Director of the Centre for Medieval Studies there. An historian whose research interests include historiography; state formation; political culture and institutions from the Viking Age to the thirteenth century; and broader aspects of medieval culture and society, such as science, religion and the arrival of writing. Key recent publications include *Cross and Scepter: the Rise of the Scandinavian Kingdoms from the Vikings to the Reformation* (2014); *From Viking Stronghold to Christian Kingdom: State Formation in Norway, c. 900-1350* (2011); and *Kings, Politics, and the Right Order of the World in German Historiography c. 950-1150* (2002).



**Julia Bray** (University of Oxford)

Julia Bray is the Laudian Professorial Fellow in Arabic at St John's College, Oxford. Previously at the universities of Manchester, Edinburgh, St Andrews and Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint Denis, her research interests include the formal analysis of Classical Arabic literature; investigating its social uses and its cultural meanings. Bray co-edits the monograph series *Edinburgh Studies in Classical Arabic Literature* with Professor Wen-chin Ouyang of SOAS. She is working on an edition and translation of al-Tanūkhī's *al-Faraj ba'd al-shidda* for the *Library of Arabic Literature* and recent publications include the introduction to *Consorts of the Caliphs: Women and the Court of Baghdad* (2015); the chapter on medieval to early modern Arabic literature for *The New Cambridge History of Islam* (2010); and a survey of gender in medieval Arabic writing and modern historical scholarship in L. Brubaker and J. M. H. Smith (eds), *Gender in the Early Medieval World* (2004).

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### **Jean-Charles Ducène** (École Pratique des Hautes Études)

Jean-Charles Ducène is Director of Studies for History and Philology at the École Pratique des Hautes Études. He taught at the Université Libre, Brussels, having gained his PhD in Philology and Oriental History there. His research focuses on how medieval Arab geographers and cartographers reflect the evolution of ideas and the representation of the world; and also how European scholars have used these oriental authors from the Renaissance to the eighteenth century. Key publications include *De Grenade à Bagdad, la relation de voyage d'Abû Hâmid al-Gharnâtî (1080-1168)* (2006) and *L'Afrique dans le Uns al-muhağwa-rawḍal-furağ d'al-Idrīsī, Edition, traduction et commentaire* (2010).



### **Peter Frankopan** (University of Oxford)

Peter Frankopan is Director of the Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research and Senior Research Fellow at Worcester College. He specialises in the history of the Byzantine Empire in the eleventh century, and in the history of Asia Minor, Russia and the Balkans. He works on medieval Greek literature and rhetoric, and on diplomatic and cultural exchange between Constantinople and the Islamic world, western Europe and the principalities of southern Russia. Recent publications include *The Silk Roads: a New History of the World* (2015); *The First Crusade: the Call from the East* (2012); and a translation of *Anna Komnene: The Alexiad* (2009).



### **Heinrich Härke** (University of Tübingen / University of Reading)

Heinrich Härke is a Visiting Research Fellow in Archaeology at the School of Human and Environmental Sciences, University of Reading, and Honorarprofessor in Medieval Archaeology at the University of Tübingen. His research interests include migrations and ethnogenesis, early medieval burial ritual in England and on the continent, urbanisation and state formation of Eurasian nomads, and the history of European archaeology. Major publications in English include *Settlement Types and Settlement Patterns in the West Hallstatt Province* (1979); (with T. M. Dickinson) *Early Anglo-Saxon Shields* (1992); *Archaeology, Ideology and Society: the German Experience* (ed., 2000); and (with A. Belinskij) *The Iron Age to Early Medieval Cemetery of Klin Yar: Excavations 1994-96* (forthcoming 2016).



### **Þórir Jónsson Hraundal** (University of Iceland)

Þórir Jónsson Hraundal is a Lecturer in Medieval Studies and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Iceland. After graduating in general linguistics from the same university, he studied Arabic and Hebrew semitics at the University of Salamanca before obtaining an MLitt from the Faculty of Oriental Studies at Cambridge, where he examined the northwards expansion of Islam, specifically the conversion of the Volga Bulgars. His doctorate from the University of Bergen focused on accounts written mainly by ninth- and tenth-century Muslim geographers and historians on peoples they termed *ar-Rūs* ('Rus in Arabic Sources: Cultural Contacts and Identity', 2013).

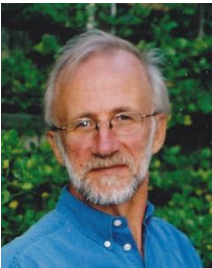


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**Marek Jankowiak** (University of Oxford)

Marek Jankowiak is Research Associate at the Khalili Research Centre and Fellow of Wolfson College, Oxford. He will also be Departmental Lecturer in Byzantine History at the History Faculty, University of Oxford, in 2016–17. He completed his PhD on the monothelete controversy (Paris/Warsaw) and was a Newton International Fellow at Oxford in 2012-13. His research interests include the early medieval slave trade, Islamic numismatics and Byzantium in the sixth to tenth centuries, especially church history, historiography and external trade. Publications include 'Two systems of trade in the Western Slavic lands in the 10th century', in *Economies, Monetisation and Society in West Slavic Lands 800-1200 AD*, ed. M. Bogucki and M. Rębkowski (2013) and 'Byzantine coins in the Viking-Age northern lands', in *Byzantium and the Viking World*, ed. F. Androschuk *et al.* (2016).



**Ingmar Jansson** (Stockholm University)

Ingmar Jansson is Emeritus Reader in Archaeology at Stockholm University, having obtained his doctorate from the Uppsala University on the Birka finds of Viking-Age oval brooches. He holds an honorary doctorate from the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute of Material Culture in St Petersburg and has been involved in organising many museum exhibitions including *From Viking to Crusader: The Scandinavians and Europe 800-1200* (1992 shown in Paris, Berlin and Copenhagen) and the Kremlin Museum's *The Viking Heritage* (1996). A specialist in the material culture of Viking-Age Eastern Europe who has carried out extensive fieldwork in Sweden, Ireland and Russia, Jansson has published over 50 works including *Gutar och vikingar* (1983); 'Wikingerzeitlicher orientalischer Import in Skandinavien', *Berichte der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts* 69 (1988); and 'Situationen i Norden och Östeuropa för 1000 år sedan – en arkeologs synpunkter på frågan om östkristna inflyttanden under missionstiden', in *Från Bysans till Norden*, ed. H. Jansson (2005).



**Evgeniy Kazakov** (Tatarstan Academy of Sciences, Kazan)

Evgeniy Kazakov is one of the outstanding specialists in the medieval archaeology of the Volga and Ural regions. In the area around the Volga River he has studied early Volga Bulgar sites, as well as those of the Finns, Ugrians and Magyars. He is the author of more than 500 scientific works, including eleven monographs which are widely known in Russia and beyond, these include *Kul'tura rannei Volzhskoi Bolgarii: etapy etnokul'turnoi istorii* [*The Culture of Early Volga Bulgaria: Stages of Ethnocultural History*] (1992); *Bulgarskoe selo X-XIII vekov nizoviii Kamy* [*The Bulgar Village of the 10th-13th Centuries on the Lower Kama*] (1991); and *Rannie bolgary i finno-ugry v Vostochnoi Evropy* [*The Early Bulgars and Finno-Ugrians in Eastern Europe*] (1990).



**Hugh Kennedy** (School of Oriental and African Studies, London)

Hugh Kennedy is Professor of Arabic in the Faculty of Languages and Cultures at School of Oriental and African Studies, London. He was formerly a professor of history at the University of St Andrews, a position he had held since 1972. Among his research topics is the history of the Islamic Middle East, Islamic archaeology and Muslim Spain. He holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge. His publications include *The Great Arab Conquests. How the Spread of Islam Changed the World We Live In* (2007); *The Court of the Caliphs: When Baghdad Ruled the Muslim World* (2005); *The Armies of the Caliphs. Military and Society in the Early Islamic State* (2005); and *The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphates, 600–1050* (1986).

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**Viacheslav Kuleshov** (The State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg)

Viacheslav Kuleshov is a historian, philologist and numismatist. After a degree in history from St Petersburg State University, he studied for his PhD in linguistics at the Institute for Linguistic Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Kuleshov has been on the research staff of the State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg, since 2005, and is the Keeper of the Oriental Coins Collections in the museum's Department of Numismatics. He is the author of more than 120 published works on subjects ranging from Eastern European archaeology and linguistics to written source studies and Islamic numismatics, he is the translator of the newly-published Russian version of Ibn Fadlan's "Book" and he is also one of the curators of an exhibition dedicated to Ibn Fadlan's journey at the Hermitage-Kazan Centre in Kazan, Tatarstan.



**James Montgomery** (University of Cambridge)

James Montgomery is Sir Thomas Adams's Professor of Arabic at Cambridge. Senior Lectureships at Glasgow, Oslo and Leeds preceded his move to Cambridge in 1997. Current research projects include an exploration of the third/ninth century through the writings of 'Amr ibn Baḥr al-Jāḥiẓ (d. 255/868-9) and editing and translating the early tenth century historiographical masterpiece by al-Ash'arī, *The Doctrines of the Islamicists*. His other major research interest revolves around literary translation and the translation of classical Arabic poetry in particular. Montgomery has recently published a translation of Ibn Faḍlān's 'Mission to the Volga' in the Arabic Library of Literature's *Two Arabic Travel Books* (2014) (<http://www.libraryofarabicliterature.org/>).



**Veronika Murasheva** (The State Historical Museum, Moscow)

Veronika Murasheva is Faculty Member of the Department of Archaeology at the State Historical Museum in Moscow. An archaeologist whose special interest is Viking activities in Eastern Europe, Murasheva has carried out excavations at the Viking-Age trading site of Gnezdovo (near Smolensk, Russia) since 1995. Publications in English include 'Scandinavian God "idol" from Gnēzdovo', *Cultural Interaction Between East and West*, ed. U. Fransson *et al.* (2007); 'Manufacturing techniques of belt and harness fittings of the 10<sup>th</sup> century AD', *Journal of Archaeological Science* 26 (1999) (with N. Eniosova). She has recently co-edited a major exhibition catalogue *The Sword and The Gold: Towards the 1,150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Origin of the Old Russian State* (2012).



**Leonard Nedashkovsky** (Kazan Federal University)

Leonard Nedashkovsky is Assistant Professor of the Department of Archaeology and Ethnology of Kazan (Volga region) Federal University. An historian and archaeologist by training, Nedashkovsky has spent time as a visiting scholar at the Universities of Durham (UK), Madison-Wisconsin (USA) and Leuven (Belgium). His research interests include medieval numismatics, the archaeology and history of the Lower Volga region. He is the author of over 150 articles and research papers, including three monographs one of which is in English: *Ukek: The Golden Horde City and its Periphery* (2004).

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**Heather O'Donoghue** (University of Oxford)

Heather O'Donoghue is Professor of Old Norse and Reader in Ancient Icelandic Literature and Antiquities at the University of Oxford. Her primary field of research is the poetry and prose of medieval Iceland and Norway, but she has also worked and published on relations between Old Norse-Icelandic literature and Old English literature, and she is interested in links with Old and Middle Irish. Recent publications include *English Poetry and Old Norse Myth: a History* (2014); *From Asgard to Valhalla: the Remarkable History of the Norse Myths* (2007); and *Old Norse-Icelandic Literature: a Short Introduction* (2004).



**Walter Pohl** (University of Vienna)

Walter Pohl is Director of the *Institut für Mittelalterforschung* of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and Professor of History at the University of Vienna. His research interests include the history of the steppe peoples, the Migration Period, and ethnic processes and identities in ancient and medieval times. Publications in English include *Kingdoms of the Empire: The Integration of Barbarians in Late Antiquity* (1997); *The Transformation of Frontiers: From Late Antiquity to the Carolingians* (2000); *Regna and Gentes: The Relationship Between Late Antique and Early Medieval Peoples and Kingdoms in the Transformation of the Roman World* (2003); *Eastern Central Europe in the Early Middle Ages: Conflicts, Migrations and Ethnic Processes* (2008); and *The Avars* (forthcoming).



**Neil Price** (University of Uppsala)

Neil Price is a Distinguished Professor of the Swedish Research Council and holds the Chair in Archaeology at the University of Uppsala, having previously held the Chair of Archaeology at the University of Aberdeen. He has held visiting or honorary posts at Harvard, Witwatersrand and Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. His research interests focus on the early medieval North c. 400-1100 CE, especially the Viking Age. Neil has three books appearing in 2016, including a second edition of *The Viking Way* (first published in 2002) on magic and sorcery and its place in the Norse world-view; *Odin's Whisper: Death and the Vikings*, on funerary rituals; and *The Vikings* in the Routledge series *Peoples of the Ancient World*. His new work, *The Children of Ash and Elm: a History of the Vikings*, has been accepted for publication by Basic Books in New York.



**Jonathan Shepard** (University of Oxford)

Jonathan Shepard was for many years University Lecturer in Russian History at the University of Cambridge, a Fellow of Selwyn College and of Peterhouse; he is Doctor Honoris Causa at St Kliment Ohrid University in Sofia. Co-author of *The Emergence of Rus* (1996) with Simon Franklin, with whom he also edited *Byzantine Diplomacy* (1992), his edited volumes include *The Expansion of Orthodox Europe* (2007) and *The Cambridge History of the Byzantine Empire* (2008). Shepard has published a collection of studies in *Emergent Elites and Byzantium in the Balkans and East-Central Europe* (2011). He is currently working on a general European history of the tenth and eleventh centuries, and is Co-Investigator on the AHRC-funded project *Dirhams for Slaves*.



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**Søren Michael Sindbæk** (University of Aarhus)

Søren Michael Sindbæk is Professor at the School of Culture and Society in Aarhus. A medieval archaeologist specialising in Viking Age Scandinavia, his research focuses on cultural communication, exchange and social networks in Early Medieval Northern Europe. Recent publications include *The World in the Viking Age* (2014); *Aggersborg: the Viking-Age Settlement and Fortress* (ed. with E. Roesdahl, A. Pedersen and David M. Wilson, 2013); *From Goths to Varangians* (ed. with L. Bjerg and J. H. Lind, 2013); *Settlement and Lordship in Viking and Early Medieval Scandinavia* (ed. with B. Poulson, 2011); and *Silver Economies, Monetisation and Society in Scandinavia, AD 800-1100* (ed. with J. Graham-Campbell and G. Williams, 2011).



**Luke Treadwell** (University of Oxford)

Luke Treadwell is the Samir Shamma Associate Professor, Assistant Keeper in Islamic Numismatics at the Ashmolean Museum and Principal Investigator on the AHRC-funded project *Dirhams for Slaves*. An historian and numismatist with interests in the history of pre-Mongol Islam, his current research lies in three broad areas: early Islamic coinage; the style and rhetoric of the caliphal office under the Umayyads and the place of the Quranic text within the developing material culture of the early Islamic community; and the history of the Samanid dynasty in the 3rd-4th centuries AH. He is currently writing a monograph on the history of the Samanids, due for completion in early 2017. Recent publications include *Craftsmen and Coins: Signed Dies in the Iranian World (Third to the Fifth Centuries AH)* (2011).



**Przemysław Urbańczyk** (Cardinal Wyszyński University)

Przemysław Urbańczyk holds professorships in Warsaw at the Cardinal Wyszyński University and at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He has published extensively on the medieval archaeology and history of Poland, east-central Europe, Scandinavia and the North Atlantic islands, and is editor-in-chief of the eighteen-volume *Origines Polonorum*. Urbańczyk has recently been a Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies in Lyon and currently directs a project on the early history of the Polish lands. His publications include *Medieval Arctic Norway* (1992); *The Neighbours of Poland in the Tenth Century* (ed. 2000); *Franks, Northmen and Slavs: Identities and State Formation in Early Medieval Europe* (ed. with I. H. Garipzanov and P. J. Geary, 2008); and *Central Europe in the High Middle Ages: Bohemia, Hungary and Poland c. 900-c. 1300* (with N. Berend and P. Wiszewski, 2013).



**Mark Whittow** (University of Oxford)

Mark Whittow is Associate Professor in Byzantine Studies, a Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford and author of *The Making of Orthodox Byzantium, 600-1025* (1996). A medieval historian and archaeologist specialising in the Mediterranean and Byzantine worlds AD 500-1300, with particular emphasis on landscape and settlement patterns, and the social and political forces that shaped them. Recent publications range in topic from Romans and Arabs before the rise of Islam to the relative significance of local, regional and long-distance trade in the medieval economy.

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**Ian Wood** (University of Leeds)

Ian Wood was Professor of Early Medieval History at the University of Leeds, where he taught from 1976 to 2015. He has held visiting fellowships in Vienna, Århus, NIAS (Holland), the British School at Rome and the Collegium Budapest and co-ordinated the ESF-funded *Transformation of the Roman World*. His research interests focus on the history and historiography of the early middle ages, including barbarian migrations and settlements, and the cultural history of the post-Roman period. Key publications include *The Merovingian Kingdoms (450-751)* (1994); *Gregory of Tours* (1994); *The Missionary Life* (2001); (with D. Shanzer) *Avitus of Vienne: Letters and Selected Prose* (2002); and (with F. Orton and C. Lees) *Fragments of History: Rethinking the Ruthwell and Bewcastle Monuments* (2007).