

# Lost in Translation? Ibn Fadlan and the Great Unwashed

MBI Al Jaber Building, Corpus Christi College, University of Oxford

**MONDAY 14 MARCH 2016**

- 8.45–9.00 Registration  
9.00–9.15 Marek Jankowiak, University of Oxford  
*Welcome and introduction to the 'Dirhams for Slaves' project*



## I. The bigger picture

**Chair:** Mark Whittow, University of Oxford

- 9.15–9.45 Hugh Kennedy, SOAS  
*Where was Ibn Fadlan coming from? (The Muslim world)*  
9.45–10.15 Walter Pohl, University of Vienna  
*Distant peoples: Ibn Fadlan and the ethnography of Eastern Europe*  
10.15–10.45 Jonathan Shepard, University of Oxford  
*Other goings-on: Ibn Fadlan between the Byzantine and North Atlantic worlds*  
10.45–11.00 Discussion

11.00–11.30 Coffee

## II. Ibn Fadlan: the text

**Chair:** Julia Bray, University of Oxford

- 11.30–12.00 James Montgomery, University of Cambridge  
*Who is the real Ibn Fadlan? Some observations on editing and translating the text*  
12.00–12.30 Luke Treadwell, University of Oxford  
*Was Abu Dulaf al-Khazraji the editor of the 'Mashhad text'?*  
12.30–1.00 Viacheslav Kuleshov, State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg  
*The Book of Ibn Fadlan: literary monument and historical source*  
1.00–1.15 Discussion

1.15–2.30 Lunch

## III. Material culture and ritual

**Chair:** Sverre Bagge, University of Bergen

- 2.30–3.00 Neil Price, University of Uppsala  
*Vikings on the Volga? Ibn Fadlan and the rituals of the Rūsiyyah*  
3.00–3.30 Þórir Jónsson Hraundal, University of Iceland  
*Ibn Fadlan and the Rus on the Middle Volga: identities, ethnicities, cultures*  
3.30–3.40 Discussion

3.40–4.10 Tea

## IV. Routes and coins

**Chair:** Peter Frankopan, University of Oxford

- 4.10–4.40 Veronika Murasheva, State Historical Museum, Moscow  
*Rus, routes and sites*  
4.40–5.10 Marek Jankowiak, University of Oxford  
*The Volga Bulgar imitative coinage*  
5.10–5.20 Discussion

**Chair:** Jonathan Shepard, University of Oxford

- 5.20–5.45 *Conclusions for the day and discussion*

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**TUESDAY 15 MARCH 2016**

## V. Markets, and the Middle Volga

**Chair:** Lesley Abrams, University of Oxford

- 9.00–9.30 Søren Michael Sindbæk, University of Aarhus  
*Viking-Age markets and emporia*
- 9.30–10.00 Leonard Nedashkovsky, Kazan Federal University  
*What was Volga Bulgaria?*
- 10.00–10.10 Discussion

10.10–10.30 Coffee

## VI. The Middle Volga and beyond

**Chair:** Ingmar Jansson, Stockholm University

- 10.30–11.00 Evgeniy Kazakov, Tatarstan Academy of Sciences, Kazan  
*The nature and chronology of ninth- and tenth-century Volga Bulgar trade*
- 11.00–11.30 Heinrich Härke, University of Reading/Universität Tübingen and Irina Arzhantseva, University of Moscow  
*Beyond the Gate of the Turks: archaeology of the Aral Sea region in the late first millennium AD*
- 11.30–11.40 Discussion

11.40–12.00 Coffee

## VII. Comparisons and the popular imagination

**Chair:** Heather O'Donoghue, University of Oxford

- 12.00–12.30 Jean-Charles Ducène, École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris  
*The sources of tenth-century Arab geographers on the North: the 'Anonymous Relation' versus al-Jayhani*
- 12.30–1.00 Ian Wood, University of Leeds  
*Other travellers' tales*
- 1.00–1.10 Discussion

## VIII. Round-up

**Chair:** Jonathan Shepard, University of Oxford

- 1.10–1.30 Przemysław Urbańczyk, Cardinal Wyszyński University, Warsaw  
*Overall questions, discussion and conclusions*

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For further details, including how to register to attend, please see the *Dirhams for Slaves* website (<http://krc.orient.ox.ac.uk/dirhamsforslaves/>), or contact Jonathan Shepard ([jonathan.shepard@orinst.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jonathan.shepard@orinst.ox.ac.uk)).



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