SMA Student Colloquium 2026: Programme

Saturday 14th – Location: Dawson Building, Durham University (D104)

1. 9:00: Welcome and Introduction
2. 9:15: Emily Walker, Durham University - *Sealed with a kiss: Expressions of affection and courtly love on anonymous Late Medieval English seal matrices*
3. 9:35: Liam Harrison, Durham University – *From Relic to ritual: Unravelling the history and archaeology of the Boy Bishop ceremony through the Boy Bishop Token*
4. 9:55: Gillian Courtney, University College Dublin – *Reconstructing the written surface: An experimental archaeology and material analysis of the Springmount wax tablets*
5. 10:15: Tea break
6. 10:45: Laura-Marie Miucci, LMArchaeology – *Pigment: Re-evaluating Cornwall's medieval ecclesiastical wall-paintings*
7. 11:05: Charlie Mason, University of Oxford – *Keep your vow of quiet: Investigating the sensescape at the monastery of Apa Apollo (Bawit), Egypt*
8. 11:25: Eleanor Ashton-Cobb, Durham University – *Architectural symbolism in the round churches of the Knights Templar in Britain*
9. 11:45: Jason Cohen, University of Cambridge – *Families on the edge: Making kin and community at the dawn of 'Anglo-Saxon' England*
10. 12:05: Alexander Beer, Durham University – *Timelines and bloodlines: Bayesian radiocarbon modelling and genetic evidence for the Anglo-Saxon settlement*
11. 12:25: Lunch
12. 13:20: Keynote talk by Karen Milek, Professor of Geoarchaeology at Durham University – *Geoarchaeologies of early medieval lives in rural and urban environments*
13. 14:20: Maeve McGroary, University College Dublin – *Folklore in foundations: The native context of Anglo-Norman castle sites in 13th century Roscommon, Ireland*
14. 14:40: Raj Kamal Oraon, Durham University – *Reading the ploughed landscape: Automated mapping of medieval ridge and furrow from LiDAR*
15. 15:00: Amberley Armstrong, University of Cambridge – *Can historic maps offer clues to the Late Medieval Fenland environment?*
16. 15:20: Christopher Whitaker, University of Oxford – *Making hay in early medieval England: Livestock fodder and agricultural change*
17. 15:40: Tea break
18. 16:10: Wing Yan Tong, Durham University – *Feeding the bishops: Provisioning and consumption in a medieval episcopal household at Auckland Castle*
19. 16:30: Raquel Enrich Pericás, Autonomous University of Barcelona – *Maqbara de Ribaforada (Navarre, Spain), an anthropological study*
20. 16:50: Ailem Paladea Rojo, University of Alicante – *Diet and human-environment interactions in early medieval Baelo Claudia (Strait of Gibraltar, Spain): Evidence from stable isotope analysis*

21. 17:10: Margaret Sullivan, University of York – *Beyond invasions: Changes and continuities in medieval Iberian lifeways*

Sunday 15th – Local excursion, Durham

1. 9:30: Lab tours of the Dawson Building (meet at entrance)
2. 10:30: Walk to Durham Castle and Cathedral
3. 11:00: Durham Castle and Cathedral Tour, led by Dr Andrew Andrew Ferrara, Durham University
4. 14:00: End of tour