Call for Participation

*Reconsidering the Concept of Decline and the Arts of the Palaiologan Era*

One day and a half Symposium & Workshop
24th and 25th February 2017
University of Birmingham

Organisers:
Andrea Mattiello – University of Birmingham
Maria Alessia Rossi – The Courtauld Institute of Art

This one day and a half conference combines in its structure a symposium and a workshop. The aim is to examine and contextualise the artistic and cultural production of the geopolitical centres that were controlled by or in contact with the late Byzantine Empire. The intent is to set the innovation of this production against the notion of decline and the narrative of decay frequently acknowledged for the Palaiologan Era; and to promote an understanding of transformation where previous cultural heritages were integrated into new socio-political orders.

On the second day, a workshop will be held. This is open to the speakers, the invited lecturers and to six MA students from United Kingdom universities. Each MA student will be invited to give a 10-minute power point presentation in an informal setting discussing one of the seven objects listed below.

The objects:

1 - Pyxis with imperial families and ceremonial scenes, late Byzantine, 1403-1404, 3 x 4.3 (1.2 x 1.7), ivory, BZ.1936.24, Dumbarton Oaks Collection [http://museum.doaks.org/Obj27443?sid=3288&x=21036&port=2609](http://museum.doaks.org/Obj27443?sid=3288&x=21036&port=2609)

3 - Baptism scene, katholikon of the monastery of the Periblpetos, Mystras, ca. 1370, fresco
http://odysseus.culture.gr/java/image?foto_id=10072&size=11

4 - Mandylion or Sacro Volto, monastery of San Bartolomeo degli Armeni, Genoa, panel painting with gilded silver, enamels and precious and semi-precious stones, 14th century (excluding the silver case 1601 and external bejewelled frame 1702), 400 x 295 x 30mm

5 - The «large» sakkos (dalmatic) of Metropolitan Photios, 1414-17, Kremlin Museum, Moscow, (TK-4)

6 - Icon with J H S (01549), 15th c., 44,5x63,5 cm, Andreas Ritzos, Byzantine and Christian Museum, Athens
http://www.byzantinemuseum.gr/en/search/?bxm=1549

7 - Cassone with painted front panel depicting the Conquest of Trebizond, attributed to workshop of Apollonio di Giovanni di Tomaso, after ca. 1461, poplar wood, linen, polychromed and gilded gesso with panel painted in tempera and gold Dimensions: 100.3 x 195.6 x 83.5 cm; Painted surface 38.7 x 125.7 cm, John Stewart Kennedy Fund, 1914, Accession Number: 14.39, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
http://metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/192693?sortBy=Relevance&amp;ft=cassone&amp;pg=1&amp;rpp=20&amp;pos=29

MA students need to choose two objects amongst the seven above and put together a 250 words text explaining why they chose these objects and how each of the two objects, in their entirety or focusing only on one detail, relates to the title of the conference.

The organizers will select six MA students and assign to each of them one of the two objects they proposed to present. The MA students will be invited to give their presentations on the second day of the Symposium in an informal setting. The six presentations do not require original research, but rather are aimed at raising questions, discussing the objects, and providing an opportunity for scholars and students to discuss in a relaxed way the main topics of the Symposium and to further develop on the papers presented on the first day.

Travel in the UK and accommodation will be covered for the MA students presenting at the workshop.

Proposed objects, the 250 words text and a short CV should be sent to Alessia Rossi mariaalessia.rossi@courtauld.ac.uk and Andrea Mattiello axm570@bham.ac.uk by 12 December 2016. Selected students will be contacted by the 16 December 2016.