



THE DECLINE OF REGICIDE

AND THE RISE OF EUROPEAN MONARCHY

From the Carolingian Age to the Early Modern Period

Professor Sverre Håkon Bagge
University of Bergen

Thursday, 14 June 2018 at 7 pm

Neill Lecture Theatre, Trinity Long Room Hub

Admission Free — All Welcome — Register via [Eventbrite](#)

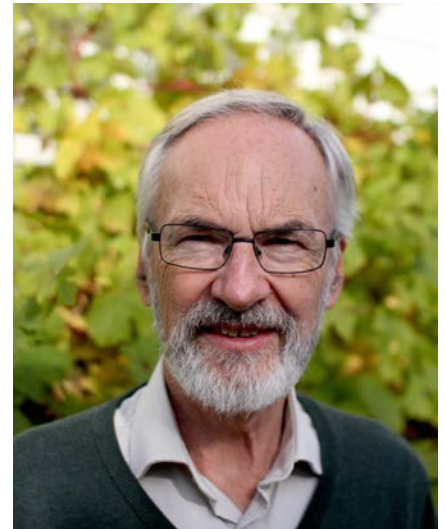
Organizers: Dr Peter Crooks and Dr Alessandro Silvestri
Trinity Medieval History Research Centre

The Decline of Regicide and the Rise of European Monarchy

The lecture discusses the decline of regicide in Western Christendom from the Carolingian Period onwards, seeking the main explanation of this in the introduction of hereditary succession, legitimate birth and primogeniture, combined with a relatively weak monarchy, dependent on support from the aristocracy. This is further confirmed by a comparison with other kingdoms, notably Byzantium, where dynastic succession was of less importance but where the emperor's power was greater and the bureaucracy stronger. Here regicide might serve as a safety valve against bad rulers, an option that was not available to most European kingdoms, particularly in the Early Modern Period. However, in some countries, notably England and Sweden, deposition by an organised political body might serve the same function. Eventually, this led to formal limitations of the king's power and the rise of popular participation in the government.

About the Speaker

Professor of Medieval History at the University of Bergen, **Sverre Bagge** works on early state formation, with a particular focus on the medieval Norwegian Kingdom and its institutions. He collaborated with the research project *The Origins of the Modern State in Europe* (1988–92), and led important projects such as *The Individual in the European Cultural Tradition* (1992–5) and *The History of Power in Norway* (2001–2). Among his main recent publications: *Cross and Scepter: The Rise of the Scandinavian Kingdoms from the Vikings to the Reformation* (Princeton, 2014) and *From Viking Stronghold to Christian Kingdom: State Formation in Norway, c. 900-1350* (Copenhagen, 2010).



About this event

This public lecture forms part of a three-day workshop on **'A Eurasia of Composite Polities, 1250–1500: Collective Identities and Communications in the Premodern World'**. The organizers are delighted to welcome the following scholars to the Trinity Long Room Hub: Michal **Biran**/U Jerusalem | Robert **Frost**/U Aberdeen | Steinar **Imsen**/Norwegian University of Science and Technology | Timothy **Insoll**/U Exeter | Isabella **Lazzarini**/Università del Molise | Erin **Maglaque**/U St Andrews | Robert **Stein**/U Leiden | Len **Scales**/ U Durham | Regula **Schmid Keeling**/U Bern | Hilde **De Weerd**t/U Leiden | Jo **van Steenbergen**/U Ghent.

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