

Professor Robert Bartlett

will deliver the James Lydon Lectures in Medieval History and Culture

Dynasties: Family Politics in Medieval Europe

Public Lecture 1

Monday 24 April 2017 @ 7 pm

Thomas Davis Theatre, Arts Building Room 2043

Lectures 2 – 4

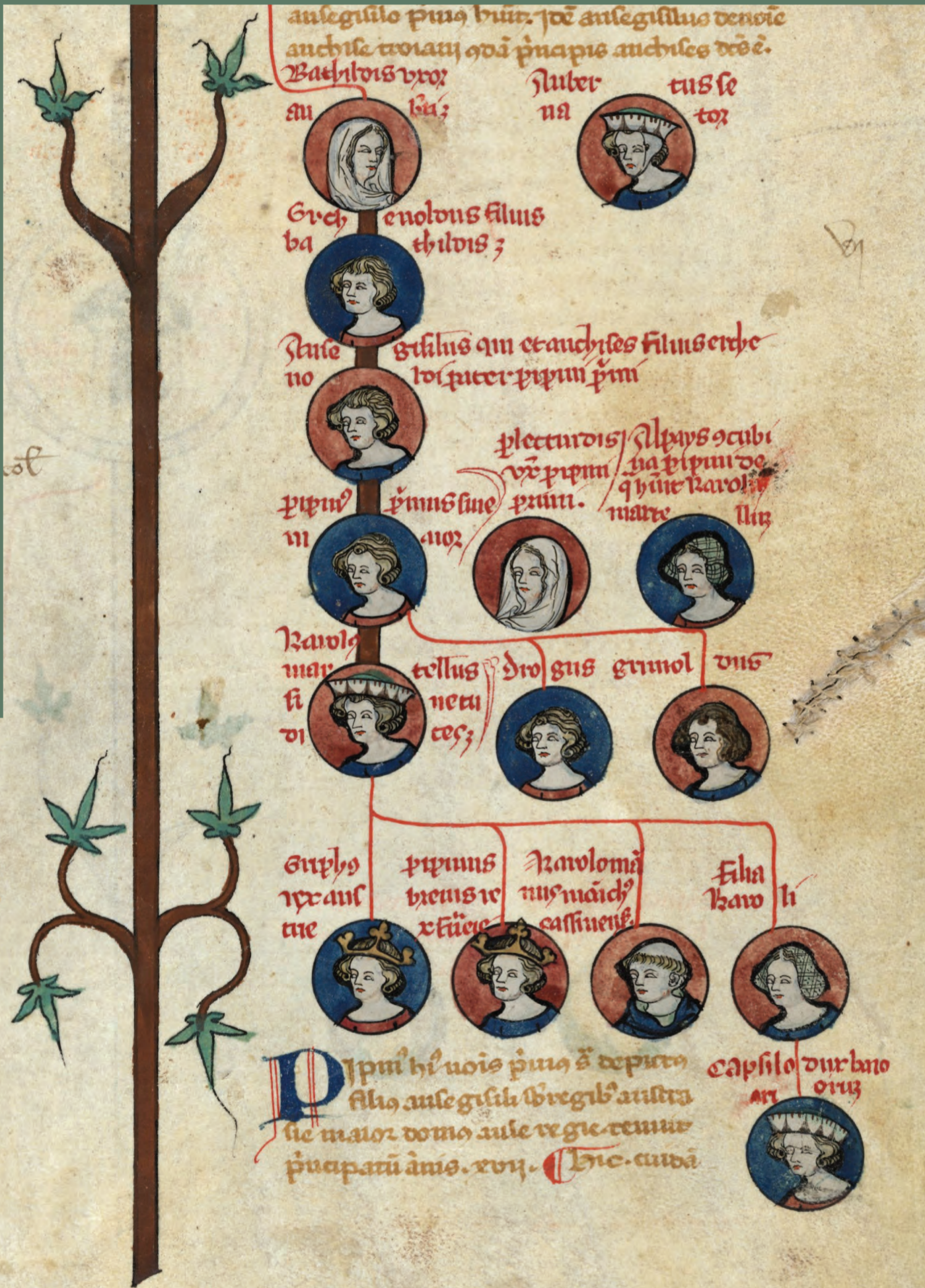
Tuesday 25, Wednesday 26

and Thursday 27 April 2017 @ 5.30 pm

The Classics Seminar Room, Arts Building Room B6.002

ADMISSION FREE;
ALL WELCOME

Monday 24th to Thursday 27th April 2017



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The James Lydon Lectures in Medieval History and Culture



It was in the millennium between the fall of Rome and the Reformation—commonly known as the ‘Middle Ages’—that Europe emerged as something more than an idea, and many of the institutions, cultural forces and political ideas we associate with the ‘modern’ world were born. What is the continuing relevance of this era for contemporary Irish and European society? And how are we to understand medieval history and culture on its own terms, rather than through the distorting prism of presentist concerns? These are among the most urgent and problematic questions facing medieval scholarship today.

The Lydon Lectures provide a platform for a distinguished lecturer to reflect on these issues and to convey specialist findings to a mixed audience of academic specialists, students and members of the public.

The inaugural Lydon Lecturer was Professor John Gillingham (Emeritus Professor of History at the London School of Economics) who spoke on the subject: ‘War, Enslavement and Chivalry in Irish and European history’ (21–23 October 2014). The third Lydon Lecturer is Professor Rosamond McKitterick (University of Cambridge), whose series in 2018 will explore the theme: ‘Rome and the Invention of the Papacy in the Early Middle Ages’.

The series is named for James Francis Lydon who died on 25 June 2013. Professor Lydon was a towering figure in the Department of History, Trinity College Dublin. Successor in the Lecky Chair of History to Edmund Curtis and Jocelyn Otway-Ruthven, he combined the best of both, exuding Curtis’s empathetic warmth for the human story of Ireland’s past while sharing Otway-Ruthven’s fascination for Anglo-Irish institutional history. In his long and distinguished career, Professor Lydon produced a series of seminal works on the history of Ireland, including: *The Lordship of Ireland in the Middle Ages* (1972, 2003); *Ireland in the later Middle Ages* (1973); *England and Ireland in the Later Middle Ages* (ed., 1981); *The English in Medieval Ireland* (ed., 1984); and *The Making of Ireland: From Ancient Times to the Present* (1998).

The Trinity Medieval History Research Centre

The Lydon Lectures are organized by the Trinity Medieval History Research Centre. The Centre promotes research into the history of Ireland, Europe and the wider world in the Middle Ages. Our approach to the past is interdisciplinary, with a particular interest in digital humanities.

The Centre provides a venue and forum for the interaction and the exchange of ideas among medievalists based in Trinity and Dublin more generally, as well as for distinguished visiting scholars from further afield. In 2013 the centre launched the biennial Trinity Medieval Ireland Symposium (TMIS). The first volume in that series (*The Geraldines and Medieval Ireland: The Making of a Myth*) was published in 2016. The second volume (*The Irish–Scottish World in the Middle Ages*) will be published in 2018.

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For information:
E: lydon.lectures@gmail.com
W: <http://www.tcd.ie/medieval-history/events/lydon-lectures/>

Organized by the
Trinity Medieval History
Research Centre

 Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

TRINITY
Long
Room
HUB



About the series

Monarchies are now rare in the world, numbering around twenty in a system of almost 200 independent states, but for hundreds of years monarchy was the way that politics worked in most countries. And monarchy meant power was in the hands of a family – a dynasty – and hence politics was family politics. It was not elections or referenda that shaped political life, but the births, marriages and deaths of the ruling family. This added further unpredictability to the unpredictable business of ruling.

These lectures discuss this past reality systematically as it is found in mediaeval Europe. Starting with a general lecture examining the issue from the point of view of the life cycle of marriage, birth and death, the later talks focus on specific aspects of the dynastic system: the possibility of female rule; the unpredictable intrusion of pretenders, who claimed to be (perhaps falsely) long-lost members of ruling dynasties; and the way that names, the numbering of rulers and the visual display of heraldry expressed a sense of belonging to a dynasty.

Programme of Events

PUBLIC LECTURE 1:

Dynasties: Family Politics in Mediaeval Europe

Monday 24 April 2017

7pm

Thomas Davis Theatre
Arts Building, Room 2043

Subsequent lectures all take place in the Classics Seminar Room, Arts Building Room B6.002

LECTURE 2:

The First Female Sovereigns in Mediaeval Europe

Tuesday 25 April 2017

5.30 pm

LECTURE 3:

Pretenders and Returners: Dynastic Imposters in the Middle Ages

Wednesday 26 April 2017

5.30 pm

LECTURE 4:

A Sense of Dynasty: Names, Numbers and Family Trees

Thursday 27 April 2017

5.30 pm

About the speaker:

Robert Bartlett



Robert Bartlett is Bishop Wardlaw Professor of Mediaeval History at the University of St Andrews in Scotland and a Fellow of the British Academy. He received his university education at Cambridge, Oxford and Princeton, taught earlier at the universities of Edinburgh and Chicago and has held fellowships in America, Germany and Israel.

His books include *The Making of Europe: Conquest, Colonization and Cultural Change 950-1350*, which won the Wolfson Literary Prize for History and has been translated into German, Estonian, Polish, Japanese, Spanish, Russian and Hebrew; *England under the Norman and Angevin Kings 1075-1225*; *The Medieval World Complete*, an illustrated introduction to the Middle Ages; and, most recently, *Why Can the Dead Do Such Great Things?: Saints and Worshippers from the Martyrs to the Reformation* (Princeton University Press, 2013).

He has lectured widely, from New Zealand to Chile, from Japan to California, and has written and presented three television series for the BBC, “Inside the Medieval Mind” (2008), “The Normans” (2010), which took him to Sicily, Istanbul and Jerusalem, and “The Plantagenets” (2014).



Distinguished guest participants

Dr Stuart Airlie,
University of Glasgow

Professor Sverre Bagge,
University of Bergen

Dr Ana Rodríguez,
Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales, Spanish National Research Council

Dr Katharine Simms,
FTCD (Emerita)

Professor Nicholas Vincent,
University of East Anglia

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