

Professor John Watts, University of Oxford

The **James Lydon Lectures** in Medieval History and Culture 2022

Re-thinking the

Wars of the Roses

Civil War in a Later
Medieval Polity

Neil Theatre
Trinity Long Room
Hub

Tuesday, 1 March 2022

@ 7 pm

Admission Free

All Welcome

Registration Essential via Eventbrite



Organized by the
Trinity Medieval History Research Centre

<http://www.tcd.ie/medieval-history/events/lydon-lectures/>

Trinity Long Room Hub

Arts & Humanities Research Institute



About the series

These lectures explore the causes and dynamics of Civil War through the lens of one particular and well-known conflict: the 'Wars of the Roses', which were centred on the kingdom of England in the second half of the fifteenth century.

While this conflict has generally been treated in an insular fashion, as a notorious episode in the English national story, my aim will be to use it as a case-study for a much wider series of questions – about the workings of power in situations of contested authority, about the ways in which political division, violence and uncertainty are understood, about the boundaries of political space, and about the processes of political economy.

Much as this will be a series of historical lectures dealing with specific times and places, my hope is to say something of general and topical importance about political disorder, and certainly to locate the Wars of the Roses in a wider geographical and temporal setting. People who know about the Wars should find that these lectures intersect with and challenge their understanding of them; my aim though is that the majority, who may not know much about these particular conflicts, will find the lectures interesting at a more general and methodological level.

Programme of Events

PUBLIC LECTURE

The Civil Wars We Think We Know: Narrativity and Politics

Tuesday, 1 March 2022 at 7 pm
Neil Lecture Theatre
Trinity Long Room Hub

Pre-registration via [Eventbrite](#) essential.

Subsequent events for the Medieval History are by invitation only.

LECTURE 2

Logics of Political Division

Wednesday, 2 March 2022

LECTURE 3

Political Economy and its Role in Civil Conflict

Thursday, 3 March 2022

LECTURE 4

The Outside World

Friday, 4 March 2022





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.

Previous Lydon lecturers include Professor **John Gillingham**, Emeritus Professor of History at the London School of Economics (2014); Professor **Robert Bartlett**, University of St Andrews (2017); and Professor **Rosamond McKitterick**, University of Cambridge (2018).

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 the 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.





About the speaker

John Watts is Professor of Later Medieval History at the University of Oxford, and fellow of Corpus Christi College.

He is interested in politics, political culture and political structures in later medieval England and Europe, between the 13th and the early 16th centuries.

Most of his published work deals with later medieval English politics and political culture, but he has also written about politics in later medieval Europe.

His publications include *Henry VI and the Politics of Kingship* (Cambridge, 1996); *The End of the Middle Ages?* (ed.) (Stroud, 1998); and *The Making of Polities: Europe, 1300–1500* (Cambridge, 2009).

He is currently working on a book for the New Oxford History of England series, provisionally entitled, *Renaissance England, 1461–1547*.



Distinguished guest participants

Prof Justine Firnhaber-Baker
University of St Andrews

Prof Serena Ferente
University of Amsterdam

Prof Jan Dumolyn
Ghent University

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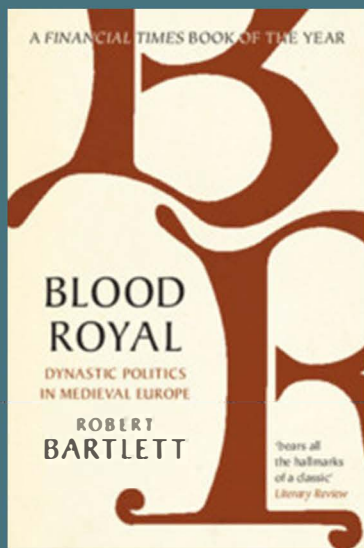


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The James Lydon Lectures in Medieval History and Culture
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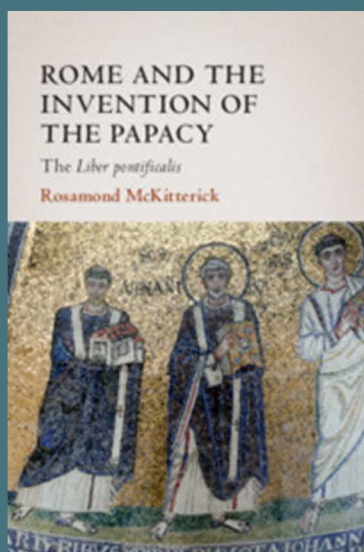
Blood Royal: Dynastic Politics in
Medieval Europe

The Lydon Lectures 2017

Robert Bartlett
Cambridge University Press 2020

'Blood Royal is a tour de force. In dynastic politics, Bartlett has found a huge subject that has yet been little explored. He has researched it magisterially, ranging Europe-wide across vast numbers of sources in classical and vernacular European languages.'

— Janet L. Nelson



**Rome and the Invention of the
Papacy:** *The Liber Pontificalis*

The Lydon Lectures 2018

Rosamond McKitterick
Cambridge University Press 2020

'With this book, Rosamond McKitterick makes a powerful contribution to medieval history. Her thorough study demonstrates the construction of the papacy through the act of collective biography embodied in the Liber Pontificalis, enabling us to look with new eyes at the city of Rome during its momentous transition from imperial capital to centre of western Christianity.'

— Marios Costambeys