



RESEARCH SEMINAR
SRII, Wednesday,
February 12, 2020, 15:00

Ewan Short (Cardiff)

**The Byzantine gardens at the Mangana as a symbol of imperial harmony and generosity
(1042-1046)**

This paper is a work-in-progress presentation on research for a publication discussing the landscaped features of the Mangana area of Byzantine Constantinople. This area was located on the eastern peninsula of the city, between the Acropolis and the sea walls overlooking the Bosphorus. Textual and material sources show that the Mangana was developed during the reign of the emperor Constantine Monomachos (r.1042-1055). The development of the built environment in these years included the establishment of extensive gardens. My research uses evidence from Byzantine texts alongside site visits conducted during my three-month placement at the SRII. I examine the symbolic significance of the Mangana gardens as a representation of the harmony of the relationship between Constantine and his mistress, Maria Skleraina (d.c.1046). I also consider the gardens as a visual symbol of the couple's generosity. Overall, I suggest, the extensive landscaping of the Mangana site worked as imperial propaganda designed to characterise Constantine and Maria's relationship as akin to an imperial marriage.

Patrick Hällzon (Uppsala)

The medical lore of Eastern Turkestan: Eastern Turki manuscript sources as a means to explore health and illness in the Southern Tarim Basin during the Late 19th and early 20th centuries

During the last two decades, a number of studies on Eastern Turkestan/Xinjiang have been published within the field of history, religion and cultural anthropology. Some of these cultural-historically oriented studies have broadened their field of enquiry by utilizing a combination of western and local sources. The current research focuses on Eastern Turki medical manuscripts found in the Jarring Collection in Lund, Sweden. While topics concerning health and medicine have been discussed with regard to neighboring areas such as Western Turkestan, very few studies have been devoted entirely to medicine among the Muslim oasis dwelling people of Eastern Turkestan during the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries. By examining local manuscript sources, we may come closer to an emic understanding of the state of affairs. Thus, the current research will largely rely on these sources for interpreting how ideas of health and medicine were reproduced and understood by the Turkic speaking Muslim sedentary inhabitants in Eastern Turkestan in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.