University of Birmingham

Dr Ruth Macrides

Reader in Byzantine Studies

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About

As a researcher in Byzantine history and culture I am particularly interested in historical narratives — their construction as texts — legal texts in their social contexts, Constantinople, palace and ceremonial. I am head of the postgraduate taught programmes of the Centre, convenor of the General Seminar and editor of the journal of the Centre, *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies*.

Qualifications

- BA (Columbia, New York)
- PhD (London)

Biography

Ruth Macrides studied Greek and art history at Columbia University before taking her doctorate in Byzantine history at Kings College, London. She taught mediaeval history at the University of St Andrews before coming to the Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies, Birmingham. She is editor of *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies*.

Teaching

- Crusades
- Ritual
- Travellers

Postgraduate supervision

My main areas of supervision are in the Comnenian and Palaiologan period, with special interest in historical writing, social and legal history, Byzantium and the crusades, the reception of Byzantium in the 19th and 20th centuries in Britain and Greece.

I have supervised six PhDs to completion on the Late Byzantine army, Late Byzantine cities, Diplomacy in the Palaiologan period, The Palaiologan court, Social relations in fourteenth-century Byzantium, War-writing in the middle Byzantine period. My present PhD students are working on the following topics: a biography of Manuel II; the empire of Trebizond and its relations with Constantinople; diplomacy at the empire of Nicaea; the horse in Byzantium, usurpation and dynastic succession; the horseback emperor on coins.

Research

Main areas of interest: Byzantine historiography; late Roman and Byzantine law, especially relating to marriage, inheritance, dowry, criminal law; social and kinship structures in the middle and late Byzantine period; western travellers to the east Mediterranean; the reception of Byzantium in Britain and Greece in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Other activities

- Editor, *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies*

Publications

Books

- (Ed with J.A. Munitiz and Dimiter Angelov) **Pseudo-Kodinos, the Constantinopolitan Court, Offices and Ceremonies (http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754667520)** (Ashgate 2013:
- (Ed) **History as Literature in Byzantium (http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781409412069)** (Farnham 2010).
- George Akropolites The History (Oxford 2007)
- Ed., **Travel in the Byzantine World (http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754607885)** (Aldershot 2002)
- ***Kinship and Justice in Byzantium (http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780860787990)***, *11th-15th centuries* (Aldershot 1999)

Articles (a selection)

- ‘Ceremonies and the city: the court in fourteenth-century Constantinople’. in *Royal courts in dynastic states and empires: a global perspective*, eds. J. Duindam, T. Artan, M. Kunt (Leiden 2011) 217-35.
- ‘The citadel of Byzantine Constantinople’, in *Cities and citadels in Turkey from the Iron Age to the Seljuks*, eds. S. Redford and N. Ergin (Louvain, 2013) 277-304.
- ‘Trial by ordeal in Byzantium: on whose authority?’, in *Authority in Byzantium*, ed. P. Armstrong (Farnham 2013) 31-46.
- '"The reason is not known". Remembering and recording the past. Pseudo-Kodinos as a historian', in P. Odorico, P.A. Agapitos, M. Hinterberger (eds), L'écriture de la mémoire. La littérarité de l'histographie (Paris 2006) 317 - 330
- 'The law outside the lawbooks: law and literature', Fontes Minores XI (2005) 133-145
- '1204: The Greek Sources' in A. Laiou (ed) Urbs capta: The fourth Crusade and its consequences; la quatrième croisade et ses conséquences, (Paris 2005), 143-152
- 'The ritual of petition', in P. Roilos and D. Yatromanolakis, eds., Greek Ritual Poetics (Cambridge, Mass. 2004), pp. 356-370.
- 'The thirteenth century in Byzantine historical writing', in Ch. Dendrinos, J. Harris, E. Harvalia-Crook, J. Herrin, eds., Porphyrogenita: Essays in honour of Julian Chrysostomides (London 2003), 63-76.
- 'George Akropolites' rhetoric', in E. Jeffreys, ed., Rhetoric in Byzantium (Aldershot 2003), 201-111.
- 'Constantinople: the crusaders' gaze', in R. Macrides, ed., Travel in the Byzantine World (Aldershot 2002), 193-212.
- 'Substitute parents and their children', in M. Corbier, ed., Adoption et fosterage (Paris 2000), 307-319.
- 'The pen and the sword: who wrote the Alexiad?', in Th. Gouma-Peterson, ed., Anna Komnene and her times (New York 2000), 63-81.
- ‘”As Byzantine then as it is today”: Pope Joan and Roidis’ Greece’, in D. Ricks and P. Magdalino, eds., *Byzantium and the Modern Greek Identity* (Aldershot 1998) 73-86
- ‘From the Komnenoi to the Palaiologoi: imperial models in decline and exile’, in P. Magdalino, ed., *New Constantines* (Aldershot 1992) 269-282
- ‘Dynastic marriages and political kinship’, in J. Shepard and S. Frnaklin, eds., *Byzantine diplomacy* (Aldershot 1992) 380-410
- ‘Subversion and loyalty in the cult of St Demetrios’, *Byzantinoslavica* 51 (1990) 189-197
- ‘The Byzantine godfather’, *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies* 11 (1987) 139-162
- ‘Saints and sainthood in the early Palaiologan period’, in S. Hackel, ed., *The Byzantine Saint* (London 1981) 67-8

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