

Ghent University - UFO and Blandijn - 27-29 April 2026, Ghent (BE)



Second International Postgraduate Conference of the Ghent Centre for Late Antiquity (GCLA)

**09:30** ○ Opening Remarks and Introduction (Lieve Van Hoof and the Organising Committee)

*keynote lecture*

**09:45** ○ **Christine Shepardson**  
Vulnerability and Violence: Radicalizing Miaphysite Devotion after Chalcedon

• coffee break | 10:45-11:15 •

*Martyrology as Media for Persecution and Inter-Imperial Tensions*

**11:15** ○ **Michael D. Ethington**  
“None of Our Forces Shall Harm the Captives.” Sparing Prisoners and Deportation Practices in the Syriac Julian Romance and Syriac Hagiographies between Rome and Iran

**11:45** ○ **Bahram Roshan-Zamir**  
Negotiating Christian Vulnerability and Sasanian Power in the Syriac Acts of the Persian Martyrs

**12:15** ○ **Yue Wu**  
Rewriting Violence: Explanations of Persian Persecution in the Martyrdoms of Simeon bar Šabbaʿe

• lunch break | 12:45-14:00 •

*Ecclesiastical Fragility*

**14:00** ○ **Lorenzo Colombo**  
The First Letter of Peter Mongus to Acacius and Its Armenian Translation

**14:30** ○ **Yucheng Zeng**  
Rank, Region, and Vulnerability: Miaphysite Monks between Empire and Episcopacy (560–580)

**15:00** ○ **Calvin van den Elzen**  
“But I Am Forbidden and Hindered from This...”: The Vulnerability of the East-Syriac Katholikos-Patriarch against Caliphal Intervention in the Late Eighth Century

**15:30** ○ **Remi Lafontaine**  
The Good Christian Ruler according to the Bishop of Rome: Clementia and Humilitas in the Papal Correspondence during Late Antiquity (Late Fourth–Early Seventh Century)

all sessions in Auditorium P



to register for the conference, please send an e-mail to: [gclaphdconf@ugent.be](mailto:gclaphdconf@ugent.be)

*Organising Committee:* Carlo Emilio Biuzzi, Justine De Rouck, Tanguy Desimone, Angelo Gargiulo, Thomas Girault, Giovanni Gomiero, Karl Robinson, Ricarda Schier, Leila Williamson.

*Graphics:* Carlo Emilio Biuzzi.

*keynote lecture*

**Stanimir Panayotov**

09:30 Why Is the Indefinite Dyad Female?

• coffee break | 10:30-11:00 •

*Gendered Vulnerability and Power*

11:00 **Theocharis Bointas**

Vulnerability and Power in Aristaenetus' Erotic Letters

11:30 **Erica Rose Hampton**

A Vulnerable Nature: When Ceres Takes Up Fumantia Opima Against Olympus

12:00 **Michael O'Ryan**

A Delicate Balance: Power and Vulnerability of Empresses in Late Antique Constantinople

• lunch break | 12:30-14:00 •

*Ecocriticism, Systems,  
and Challenging Hierarchies*

14:00 **Yang Qianzhi, Liu Xinyue**

Aldhelm's Animal Riddles and the Reconfiguration of Natural Authority

14:30 **Andrew McNey**

Revolt in the System: Studying Resilient Systems from the Ground Up in the Sixth-Century Negev

15:00 **Madeleine Duperouzel**

Viewing and Challenging Power, Vulnerability, and Dependency on Fourth-Century Estates

• coffee break | 15:30-16:00 •

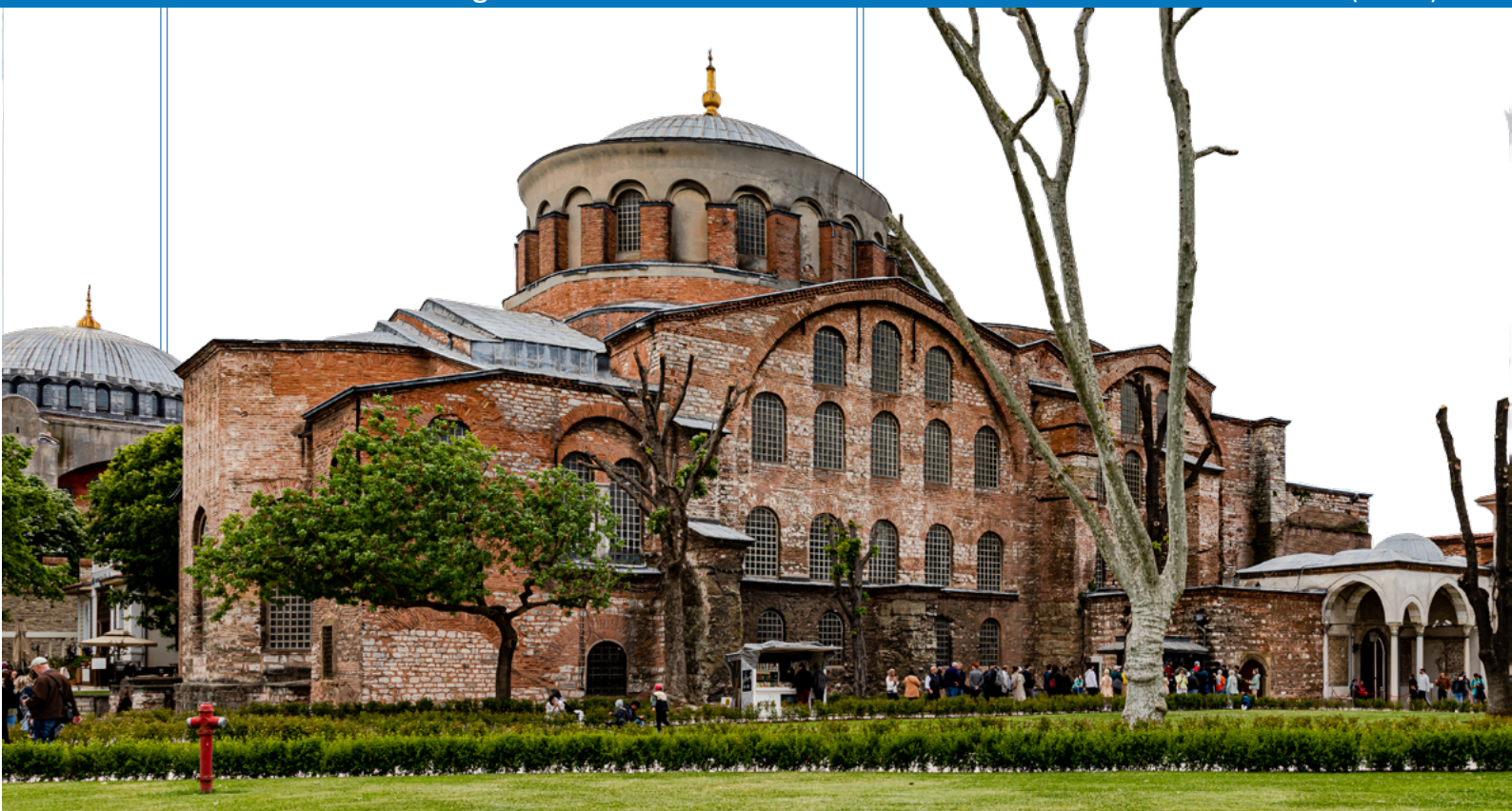
*keynote lecture*

16:00 **Marco Formisano**

Their Late Antiquity: A Contemporary Issue

morning in Auditorium P

afternoon in Leszaal Pirenne (UFO)



*Vulnerability of Western Rulers  
after the Fall of Rome*

- 09:30** ○ **Emily Schwartz**  
“*Hic est, Hic Stilicho!*”: Stilicho’s Power and Vulnerability in Claudian’s Court Poetry
- 10:00** ○ **Gonzalo Landau Brenes**  
*Decalvatio*: How to Lose a Visigothic King in 10 Days

• coffee break | 10:30-11:00 •

*Vulnerability of Ascetic Bodies  
and Spiritual Authority*

- 11:00** ○ **Cristina Tava**  
Mediating Power: Ascetic Vulnerability and Social Authority in the Representation of Simeon Stylites
- 11:30** ○ **Davide Azzolin**  
Disempowering John Chrysostom: Bodily, Emotional, and Gender Vulnerability in the Letters to Women
- 12:00** ○ **Antoni Nieva**  
Miraculous Justice in Greek Hagiography: False Accusers in Early Monastic Literature

• lunch break | 12:30-14:00 •

*Vulnerability and Power  
in the Periphery*

- 14:00** ○ **Flavia Moracas**  
Governing Vulnerability: Naples and Coastal Defence in the Fifth Century
- 14:30** ○ **Stefano De Vita**  
Periphery under Pressure: Strategic Choices of Neapolitan Dukes amid Imperial Decline (Eighth–Ninth Centuries)
- 15:00** ○ **Boris Van de Moortel**  
The Balkans under Emperor Anastasius I and the Limits of Roman Imperial Authority (491–518)

• coffee break | 15:30-16:00 •

*Emotions and Social Vulnerability*

- 16:00** ○ **Nina Van der Sype**  
Vulnerability in Older Age: Dynamics of Social Exclusion in Maximianus’ Late Antique Elegies (Sixth Century AD)
- 16:30** ○ **Silvia Lucchesi**  
“*Dii avertant principes pueros*” (Hist. Aug. Tac. 6.5): Child Emperors between Vulnerability and Power in the *Historia Augusta*
- 17:00** ○ **Luca Melis**  
Ante Litteram Mobility: Notes on Study-Related Migrations in Himerius’ Speeches
- 17:30** ○ *Closing Remarks* (Organising Committee)

morning in Leszaal Pirenne (UFO)

afternoon in Vandenhovepaviljoen

