Aspects of the Reception of Flavius Josephus in the Middle Ages: The Greek-Speaking East and the Latin-Speaking West

Tuesday, September 29th at 5:00 pm
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No Jewish works, except the biblical texts, were used by Christians on such a large scale as the *Judean Antiquities* and *Judean War* of the Jewish-Roman historian Flavius Josephus (37-100 CE). His works (narrating the events from the biblical Creation to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE) became central to the construction of Christian thought and identity across the Greek-speaking East and the Latin-speaking West in the Middle Ages. Dr. Kampianaki will explore the reasons why and the ways through which a notable Jewish author, such as Josephus, entered the Christian sphere, while his Jewish origins were still being acknowledged. It will further investigate how Josephus was perceived particularly in the Medieval Greek literary tradition and how his works played a key role in the formation of genres recording the history of the Church or of the Byzantine state.

Theofili Kampianaki is a Research Fellow at the School of History and Cultures in the University of Birmingham in the UK. She holds a Master’s and a Doctorate in Medieval Greek and Latin Languages from the University of Oxford. She is currently revising her doctoral thesis, which examined the twelfth-century chronicle of John Zonaras, a best-seller of the Greek-speaking world in medieval times, for submission to Oxford University Press. She is particularly interested in the reception of classical authors in medieval literature, having published articles on the adaptation of Plutarch by Medieval Greek chroniclers and the reception of the historian Flavius Josephus in Medieval Greek and Latin literature. In the course of her studies, she has received scholarships from Wolfson College Oxford, the Alexander Onassis Foundation and the A.G. Leventis Foundation.

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