

**TIM GREENWOOD AND LEONE PECORINI GOODALL,
RARE INSIGHTS INTO THE LATE Umayyad ERA THROUGH A NEGLECTED ARMENIAN SOURCE: THE
MARTYRDOM OF VAHAN OF GOŁT'N**

Monday Majlis Online on the 1st of June, 17:00-18:30 (UK time)

**Centre for the Study of Islam, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter
Register please on this link: <https://tr.ee/gW2Y2clj-c>**



Tim Greenwood is Bishop Wardlaw Professor of History at the University of St Andrews. His research focuses on the history and culture of medieval Armenia between 400 and 1100 CE, analysing a wide range of literary, epigraphic and material sources as well as exploring the multiple contexts within which these were generated. They attest a spectrum of attitudes among contemporaries. He is presently completing research on Hexaplaric readings in a thirteenth-century Armenian Psalm commentary as well as advancing an ongoing project into legal pluralism in medieval Armenia.

<https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/history/people/twg3>

Abstract: The Armenian *Martyrdom of Vahan of Gołt'n*, composed in 744 CE, offers a fresh perspective from which to study the Umayyad caliphate at large and the caliphal North in particular. It traces contemporary networks of power, communication, and knowledge within and beyond Armenia. As a product of the late Umayyad world, it constitutes a work of major significance, completed just before this world was convulsed by conflict



Leone Pecorini Goodall is a postdoctoral researcher at Leiden University on the ERC-Starting Grant project: “Embodied Imamate: Mapping the Development of the Early Shi'i community: 700-900” led by Dr. Edmund Hayes. His thesis, awarded the 2025 BRAIS Dissertation prize, was the first social history of succession of the Umayyad and Abbasid Dynasties. His research focusses on the socio-political history of early Islam with a strong focus on genealogy, prosopography, and the role of Armenia in Islamic history.

<https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/staffmembers/leo-ne-pecorini-goodall>

and transformed. The *Martyrdom* reveals contemporary Armenian perceptions of Umayyad hegemony, including *ʿaṭā* (stipend) payments, public executions, conversions, apostasy, contemporary apologetics, and the nature of Caliph Hishām's court at Ruṣāfa. At the same time, it portrays members of the Armenian elite, lay and clerical, reacting in different ways to new political circumstances.



BNF MS Arménien 178, f. 558, the Parisian manuscript that was used to make the first edition of the “Martyrdom of Vahan” in 1854, the MS was copied in Sebasteia by Pawłos in the 12th century. Credit: Gallica.bnf.fr - <https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b525275042/f567.item.r=Armenien%20178>

Church of St. Sergius in Ruşāfa, the capital of Hishām b. ‘Abd al-Malik (r. 724-43) and the site of Vahan’s martyrdom at the hands of the caliphal authorities. The images are from the Manār al-Athār website: <https://www.manar-al-athar.ox.ac.uk/>, credit: Sean Leatherbury/Manar al-Athar, and Christian Sahner/Manar al-Athar.

In the spirit of the label ‘Majlis’ and also to make the talks even more interesting, our speakers present the topic discussed as embedded in their own journey.

You can watch the previous Majlises here

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8YRkUahFj_81oJzCSDLTx4kVQQgeHLC-

However, we don’t record the Q&A in order to keep the discussion free.

Please come and enjoy the talks and the discussions :) If you’d like to be included in the CSI (Centre for the Study of Islam, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter) mailing list, please write to me (I.T.Kristo-Nagy@ex.ac.uk).

We’ll be happy to welcome you!

István T Kristó-Nagy

<https://experts.exeter.ac.uk/4333-istv%C3%A1n-t-krist%C3%B3nagy>