

Department of Middle Eastern Studies

Seminar Series

Easter Term, 2023

Sam Lasman

University of Cambridge

“*Azhdahā*: The Chimeric Monster in Ferdowsi and Beyond”



In his epic *Shāhnāma* (Book of Kings), Ferdowsi reworked older traditions to craft a recurring monstrous antagonist, the *azhdahā*. A hybrid entity combining human and reptilian qualities, this creature allowed classical Persian poets to explore fate, mortality, the past, and the complex relationships between people and other types of being.

Harvard University Art Museums, ms. 1948.61 (18th century, Iran(?)).

Thursday, 18 May 2023, 17.15

Room 10 (the old common room) at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.
Refreshments will be served from 17.00.