

# Department of Middle Eastern Studies

## Seminar Series

Lent Term, 2023

**Andrew Marsham**

*University of Cambridge*

“Perspectives on the Umayyad Empire: Ecology,  
Dynasty, and Identity”



The Umayyad Empire (644–750 ce) was the first Islamic empire, ruled by relatives of the Prophet Muhammad in alliance with the tribespeople of the Syrian Steppe. It was one of the largest empires of ancient and medieval times, extending over 8,000 miles between the Atlantic Ocean in the West and the Indian Ocean in the East. This talk will examine the distinctive character of the empire, paying particular attention to the unusual ecological history of the period, the unique role of the Syrian tribes, and their interactions with the Umayyad dynasty, and the formation of new ethnic and religious identities during the century of Umayyad rule.

Thursday, 2 February 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.