



2009-2010

## St Andrews Institute of Mediaeval Studies Annual Newsletter

University of St Andrews  
Founded 1413

Welcome to the second edition of the newsletter of the St Andrews Institute of Mediaeval Studies. As you will see, SAIMS continues to be a vibrant and thriving research community. The Institute fosters communication among academics from various disciplines, and the interdisciplinary focus is noticeable in its many activities and events, on which, see inside.

The research community of some thirty staff is augmented by about the same number of Ph.D. students, whose research ranges from the devotional phenomenon of tears to

patterns of trade in early Arabia, reflecting the wide range of expertise and interests of their supervisors. The students are full members of the research community, regularly presenting papers as well as organizing conferences and workshops. The size of the Institute, as well as the qualities inherent to the small town of St Andrews, makes for an intimate environment which fosters inclusivity. There is a strong sense of camaraderie among students and staff, a group which also includes about 20 Masters students on the various programmes each year.

The research community is cosmopolitan in both its

interests and its participants. Scholars are attracted from all over Britain, Europe, and North America to study and work at SAIMS: visiting scholars from Britain and abroad are a regular feature of the Institute's life. The mediaeval setting of St Andrews is an ideal location and the library, which has impressive collections on all aspects of the Middle Ages, including precious manuscripts and early printed books, is an important part of our activities.

This has been a good year for SAIMS: as we go to press a new journal is about to be launched in conjunction with Brepols. See page 6 to find out more.



University of St Andrews  
Institute of Mediaeval Studies

# Conferences 2009-2010



## TOEBI 2009

The Teachers of Old English in Britain and Ireland annual conference was held in St Andrews on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009, organized by Dr. Christine Rauer. Among the speakers were Robyn Bray, Erika Corradini, Kees Dekker, Tom Duncan, Chris Jones, Hugh Magennis, and Donald Scragg. The theme of the conference was ‘Learning Old English: Past and Present’, and papers covered aspects of this topic from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> centuries; Old English comparative philology, early dictionaries of Old English and their modern use, learning methods and teaching materials on Old English from the past in a modern context, as well as the history of TOEBI itself from 1989 to 2009.

## Gender and Transgression 2010 Conference

The third annual *Gender and Transgression* Conference took

place April 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010. There were a series of seminars given by postgraduates from St Andrews as well as other universities, including Aberdeen, Aberystwyth,

Cambridge, Edinburgh, Huddersfield, Lincoln, Oxford and York. This year’s keynote address was given by R. I. Moore, Professor Emeritus of Medieval History at Newcastle, entitled “‘Little Women Sunk in Sin’: Was there a Gender Revolution in the Twelfth Century?’. Organized by Jamie Page, Matt McHaffie, Laura Tompkins, and Kate Hammond, all PhD students, the conference was well attended and led to lots of debate.

The conference ended with a round table discussion which covered topics such as the liminal status of women, prostitutes and bastards, ideas of medieval childhood, views of sexuality, queenship, transgressions in sacred spaces and punishments for sexual misbehaviour.

## Donald Bullough Fellowship

This year’s Donald Bullough Fellowship was granted to Prof Cynthia Neville of Dalhousie University, Halifax.

In 2010-11 the Fellowship will be held by Dr Ross Balzaretti of the University of Nottingham.

The fellowship is granted to a mediaeval historian with a permanent university post and enables a scholar to participate in the workshops, seminars and intellectual life of the University. The next deadline for applications is

November 30<sup>th</sup> 2010

For more details see our website



## THIRD Annual Lecture



The third annual SAIMS Lecture, funded by a generous donor, took place on 17 February, 2010. This year's lecturer was Professor Mary Carruthers of New York University, where she is Erich Maria Remarque Professor of Literature and Professor of English. She is the author of *The Craft of Thought: Meditation, Rhetoric and the Making of Images 400-1200* and, perhaps her best known work, *The Book of Memory*, on which she also led a workshop while at St Andrews. In her lecture Professor Carruthers spoke to the title 'Ordinary Beauty in the Middle Ages'. The lecture examined the use of the word *pulchritudo* in works concerned with architectural aesthetics as well as the idea of beauty as

it concerns God. Professor Carruthers explained aesthetics from the pre-romantic viewpoint - it involved the senses and sense-based knowledge; she explained that beauty was experienced physically, and that the root of the word 'pulchritudo' referred to quality of the skin or surface of an object. The lecture was given to a large audience made up of academics, students and members of the public. The lecture was followed by a stimulating discussion and a wine reception.

The SAIMS annual lecture tradition began in 2008, when the Institute was formally launched with a lecture by Professor Gerd Althoff from the University of Münster.

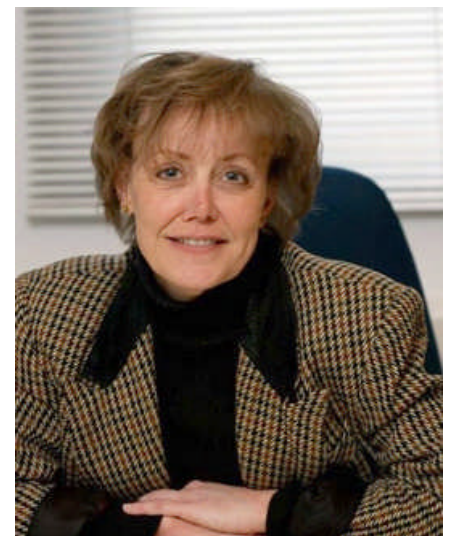
### Visiting Academics

Professor Cynthia Neville, who holds the George Munro Chair in History at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada, was awarded the Donald Bullough Fellowship for 2009-10 and spent the first semester at St Andrews. At Dalhousie, Professor Neville is the only mediaevalist in the Department of History. And consequently enjoyed the possibility being in St

Andrews gave for discussions with other medievalists.

Her work has examined the legal, cultural, social, and political history of both Scotland and England in the later Middle Ages. While at St Andrews she completed one project and began another. The first is a major scholarly edition of the *acta* of King Alexander III of Scotland (1249-86), which will be published in the *Regum Scottorum* series.

In St Andrews, Professor Neville led a workshop derived from her new project, a study of pardon in Scotland. She and the participants discussed a pre-circulated paper, entitled "The Quality of Scottish Mercy: Royal Letters of Remission in Scotland, c.1100 - c.1600". Of particular interest to her is the long survival in Scotland of the custom known as



assymthment (which required that violent offenders make compensation to the person or kindred of an injured party) and the challenge that such 'private' notions of justice must have represented to mediaeval kings seeking to promote notions of royal, 'public' justice and to exercise the traditional prerogative of royal mercy. In effect, Professor Neville argues, the king never had sole control over the punishment of violent offenders and she is interested in exploring the fundamental ideas that distinguished Scottish legal practices in the matter of pardon and mercy from those found in England and on the Continent. As a regular traveller to Edinburgh in the summer months to conduct her research in the archives, she knows Scotland very well and she enjoys living here. Her publications include *Violence, Custom, and Law: The Anglo-Scottish Border Lands in the Later Middle Ages* (1998), *Native Lordship in Medieval Scotland: The Earldoms of Strathearn and Lennox, c. 1140-1365* (2005), and *Land, Law, and People in Medieval Scotland* (2010).

**Professor Stephen Kolsky** was the visiting Mundus scholar for the first semester of this year. He is currently a Principal Fellow at the

University of Melbourne and was previously Associate Professor and Reader in their Italian Department. He is currently working on translations into Italian from Latin and Spanish texts of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries in the Northern Italian courts. He is concerned with the process and concept of translation, especially in cultural and political terms, and what patrons were looking for in a translation. Professor Kolsky is also working on sceptical philosophy in Italian Renaissance literature.

While at St Andrews, Professor Kolsky participated in the SAIMS weekly seminar series, reading a paper on a sceptical reception or reading of Boccaccio's *Decameron*. He explained that many scholars look for hidden meaning in the text, a theme or moral that holds the hundred stories together. Professor Kolsky argues that there is a deliberate lack of moral certainty and that this absence spurs readers to create their own moral meaning; they are freed to formulate their own interpretation. The first story, of Cepparello,

challenges the unthinking acceptance of positions of authority. The sceptical theme of this story gives the reader a possible way in which to read the rest of the *Decameron*. The final story, that of the patient Griselda, makes little sense, and is not necessarily what it appears to be. If both the first and last story are morally ambiguous, he argues, then a sceptical reading of the entire work is desirable.

Professor Kolsky's studies and teaching have covered a wide area of Italian literature, up to the present. His main publications include *Mario Equicola: The Real Courtier*, (1991); *The Genealogy of Women: Studies in Boccaccio's "De mulieribus claris"*, (2003); *Courts and Courtiers in Renaissance Northern Italy*, (2003); *The Ghost of Boccaccio: Writings on Famous Women in Renaissance Italy*, (2005), as well as some recent work on the fiction writer Andrea Camilleri. Professor Kolsky's diverse background in Italian language and literature made a great contribution not only to the Institute of Mediaeval Studies but also to the work of colleagues in the School of Modern Languages, who arranged the visit.

**Dr Louise d'Arcens** is a Senior Lecturer in the English

Literature program at the University of Wollongong. She received her PhD at the University of Sydney, specializing in medieval literature. She came to St Andrews primarily as a result of a collaborative project with Dr Chris Jones, 'Fossil



and Root: A comparative Study of Anglo-Saxonism in Nineteenth-Century British and Australian Poetry'. They are currently co-writing an article looking at the intersection of Anglo-Saxonism and discourses of archaeology in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Dr d'Arcens is primarily looking at the work of the Australian poet Victor Daley. In addition to the research seminar she delivered for the SAIMS weekly seminar series, ('Old Songs in the "Timeless Land": Australian Medievalism'), Dr d'Arcens also participated in the one-day symposium on 'Medievalisms' organized by Dr Jones and Dr Bettina Bildhauer. Dr d'Arcens visit to SAIMS was funded in

great part by an Australian Academy of Humanities-British Academy Special Joint Project grant. This same grant enabled Dr Jones to visit Australia in January of 2010, to participate in a symposium on 'Medievalism, Nationalism, and Colonialism', as well as a research day on medievalism at the University of Western Australia. Dr d'Arcens has just finished a book manuscript entitled *Old Songs in the Timeless Land: Medievalism in Australian Literature 1840-1920*. This book is part of a larger project (focusing on the 19<sup>th</sup> century), of which she is one of the chief investigators: a four-year Australian Research Council funded project on Australian medievalism, which also involves a digital repository of materials relating to medievalism in Australian pop culture. Dr d'Arcens has also recently finished editing an issue of the journal 'Screening the Past', on medievalist cinema.

**Professor Bill Miller**, Thomas G. Long Professor of Law at the University of Michigan

Law School was also a visitor to SAIMS during the second semester. In the course of his stay he ran a series of workshops aimed at postgraduate students on the representation of legal culture in Icelandic sagas. Professor Miller will be returning to St Andrews next year.

**Professor Stephen White (Emory)**, honorary visiting professor for the year, was presented with his Festschrift on 26 April 2010. Professor John Hudson, who contributed to the volume, presented a copy of the book to Dr White following a paper discussing themes central to his work at the weekly seminar. The book, *Feud, Violence, and Practice Essays in Medieval studies in Honor of Stephen D. White*, edited by Belle S. Tuten and Tracey L. Billado, was published by Ashgate. The contributors include Rob Bartlett, Bill Miller, Kate McGrath, Dominique Barthélemy, Caroline Bynum, Fred Cheyette, Elizabeth Brown, Isabel Alfonso Antón, Paul Hyams, Richard Barton, Elizabeth C. Pastan, Cynthia Johnson, Annette Parks & Karen Bosnos.



## Workshops

**Julia Smith**, Edwards Professor of Medieval History at the University of Glasgow, formerly a colleague at St Andrews herself, held a workshop on 9th December, 2009 entitled 'Contexts for Early Medieval Hagiography'. The main items discussed were her own 'Radegund peccatrix: Authorizations of Virginity in Late Antique Gaul', and 'Holy Texts, Holy Men, and Holy Scribes', by Claudia Rapp. Both readings focused on the cult of saints and hagiography in Early Mediaeval Europe. The workshop began with a discussion of the tensions between Classical and Medieval schools in regard to the transition from the Ancient world to the Early Mediaeval, and the contribution of saints' cults to this debate. Professor Smith illustrated the fluidity of hagiographical texts, as well as the changes in saints' cults, by elaborating on the story of Radegund of Poitiers, born around AD 520, who founded a convent and was revered as a saint soon after her death. There are thirteen extant manuscript copies of Radegund's *Vita*, and many rewritings of her life in later texts. Different Radegunds

emerged from the various texts, as the story changed. The workshop concluded with a general discussion of hagiography as a genre.

**Michael Clanchy**, Emeritus professor in the University of London, author of *Abelard a Medieval Life* gave a seminar on 17th March 2010, followed by a charter workshop the next day. The seminar focused on Abelard and his masters, Anselm of Laon and William of Champeaux, and explored the ideas of orality, literacy, memory, and Abelard's accounts of his masters. Professor Clanchy posed the question 'Why did Abelard write books?'. The discussion, perhaps inevitably, focused on Abelard's ambivalent reputation and his businessman-like way of attracting students. The workshop, on a selection of pre-1300 Latin charters from the University Library, dealt with land grants to St Andrews itself. Previous transcriptions were revisited and various issues highlighted, including the importance of seals and the language the writer of the charters 'thought in'. Particularly pertinent contributions on local information in the charters were added by the place names historian, Dr Simon Taylor, on a brief visit back to St Andrews from Glasgow.

## THE MEDIAEVAL JOURNAL

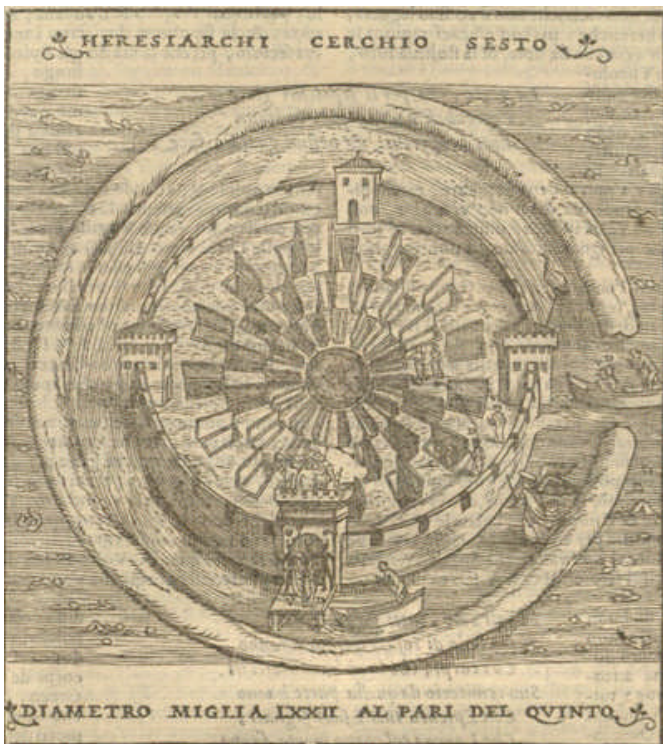
We are delighted to announce a new journal for 2011 in conjunction with Brepols publishers. *The Mediaeval Journal* will be a distinctively European-based cross-disciplinary and multinational journal of Mediaeval Studies published in English in both print and online formats. Featuring the work of specialists in all areas of Mediaeval Studies, it will offer wide disciplinary coverage in every issue and welcomes submissions from the worldwide community of mediaevalists in both traditional disciplines such as Art History, History, Archaeology, Theology, European Languages /Literatures (including English), or Manuscript Studies, as well as burgeoning areas such as Islamic or Jewish Studies, Mediaevalism, Material Culture, History of Medicine and Science, History of Ideas, Queer Studies, Postcolonial Studies, and Musicology, to name only a few. Each issue of *The Mediaeval Journal* will also contain timely and expert reviews.

Please send submissions, in the form of email attachments, to the General Editors: Dr Ian Johnson ([irj@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:irj@st-andrews.ac.uk)) and Dr Margaret Connolly ([mc29@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:mc29@st-andrews.ac.uk)).

**Ordering Information:** To order a copy of *The Mediaeval Journal* contact [periodicals@brepols.net](mailto:periodicals@brepols.net).

## Lectura Dantis

This year marked the beginning of the *Lectura Dantis Andreapolitana*, organized by Robert Wilson and Claudia Rossignoli. A *lectura Dantis* is a public reading and discussion of all one hundred cantos of Dante's *Commedia*. The tradition of the *lectura Dantis* goes back to Boccaccio's series of public lectures on Dante which he began in Santo Stefano di Badia in Florence on 23rd October 1373. Other *lecturas* are held in Zürich (*Lectura Dantis Turicensis*), Naples (*Lectura Dantis Neapolitana*), California (*Lectura Dantis Californiana*), and Rome (*Lectura Dantis Romana*), the longest running. The *Lectura Dantis Andreapolitana* is the first *lectura* in the United Kingdom. Dante scholars from the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Reading, Leeds, Warwick, Manchester, Hull, Bristol, TCD, UCD, Princeton, Harvard, Chicago, Yale and Naples are participating.



## Weekly Seminar Series

Throughout the academic year, staff and students gather each Monday evening for a seminar given by a visiting scholar or a member of SAIMS staff; the papers given usually discuss on-going research projects.

On Wednesday evenings the postgraduate students also run their own seminar series presenting aspects of research in progress to their peers.



## Charity Run

On Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 16 SAIMS members ran in the Edinburgh Marathon to raise money for Multiple Sclerosis Scotland. Four relay teams entered: team one comprised John Hudson, Audrey Wishart, Laura Tompkins and Kimberly Knight; team two, Kate Hammond, Matthew McHaffie, Emily Michelson, and Kenneth Duggan; team three, Roberta Cimino, Steve Robbie, Angus Stewart, and Alex Woolf; team four, James Palmer, Gary Stratton, Peter Kushner, and Chris Jones.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> April, the Institute held a 'Pub Quiz' night to support help the SAIMS Marathon runners raise money. Jon Muir, from Mediaeval English, and a local quiz master, compered the five round quiz, with a cash bar and a raffle with prizes to be won. It was a night enjoyed by all.

## Research Projects – a couple of highlights

### Religion and public life in late mediaeval Italy

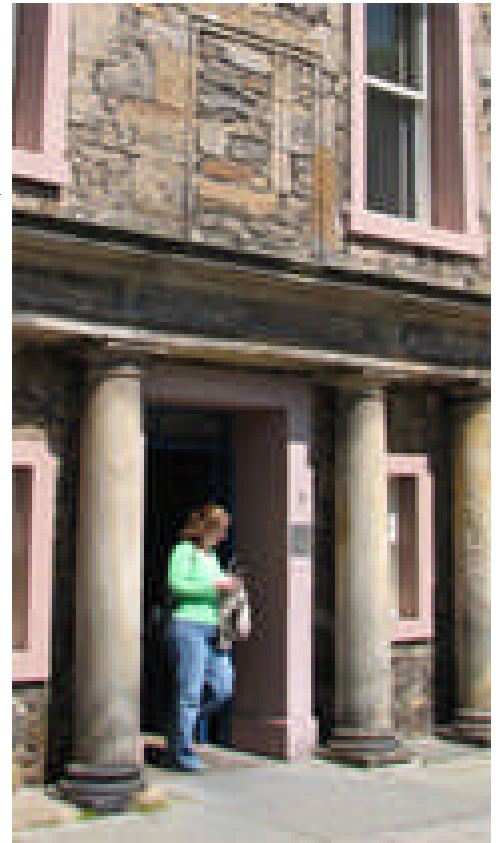


This AHRC funded project, led by Professor Frances Andrews with the assistance of Dr Agata Pincelli, is documenting the phenomenon of communal office-holding by men vowed to the religious life as a means to illuminate relations between secular and religious communities, the attitudes of elites and the ways in which they negotiated power. This year they held a successful conference in September, coordinated by Stefan Visnjevac, whose thesis on

'Preachers, Holy Men and the Governance of Late Medieval Italian Towns' forms part of the project. The main project is due to be completed in January 2011. More details can be found on: <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/~rplife/>

### Corpus of Scottish Medieval Parish Churches

There has been a view that the loss of medieval ecclesiastical architecture since the Reformation has been so great that insufficient now survives for a detailed understanding of the pre-Reformation Scottish parish church. It is becoming increasingly clear however that a majority of parish churches survived the Reformation. Although many were subsequently rebuilt or abandoned, the purpose of this AHRC funded project has been to determine whether more medieval fabric has survived than might appear on first sight. A corpus with an entry for each site is now available, setting out the historical and architectural evidence, together with a bibliography of the principal sources and illustrations of the existing buildings. See <http://arts.st-andrews.ac.uk/~cmass/sites.php>



In 2009

### Dr Bettina Bildhauer

was awarded the Philip Leverhulme Prize, by the Leverhulme Trust. She will be working on the German late Middle Ages and the way they are perceived in modernity.

This follows the success of Dr Simon Maclean in winning this prestigious prize in 2008



## Law, Violence, and Social Bonds

The St Andrews Institute of Mediaeval

Studies will host a joint postgraduate and staff conference on over 17-19 June, 2011, on the theme of "Law, Violence, and Social Bonds, c. 900-1250." The interdisciplinary conference, organized by SAIMS members Kate Hammond, Rob Houghton and Matt McHaffie, will attract scholars working

across a wide range of geographical areas. The main goal of the conference is to explore the relationship between law, violence, and social bonds: what were these concepts during the middle ages; how did contemporaries understand them; how were attitudes and developments within each field affected by the others? The keynote speakers will be Professor Dominique Barthélemy (Université Paris Sorbonne) and Professor Bill Miller (University of Michigan Law School). Please stay tuned to the SAIMS website for further information.



Several members of SAIMS have joined together to form an ensemble band, taking its name of Dry Island Buffalo Jump from an idea Alex Woolf had for the name of a band back in his student days. The band has performed on BBC Scotland Radio and been interviewed in the Times. Most recently, the band has released its first single, "The Credit Crunch Song," which is available for purchase online via the St Andrews online shop at: <<http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/dibj/>>. All the proceeds of this song will enter a scholarship fund in order to help under-privileged students finance their studies. All proceeds from the bands gigs and events go into this fund. The seven-member strong band seen above, from left to right, is made up of Dr James Palmer, Dr Simon MacLean, Dr Dave Evans, Dr Norman Reid, Prof. Chris Given-Wilson and Dr Chris Jones together with Rabbi Bill Blunt and Dr Peter Kushner (not pictured). You can friend them on Facebook: Dry Island Buffalo Jump.

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University of St Andrews  
*Scotland's first university*

## Institute of Mediaeval Studies Postgraduate Study at St Andrews



The newly founded Institute of Mediaeval Studies at the University of St Andrews builds on the excellence of our Department of Mediaeval History, founded at St Andrews in 1955, which has grown to be the largest of its kind in the world.

Our Institute, which is a truly interdisciplinary initiative, brings together academic staff of international standing in literature, languages, history and history of art. Together with postdoctoral fellows, research associates, postgraduates and visiting academics, they form a community of over 100 people working on the Middle Ages. Subjects taught and researched at the Institute reflect this vast range, including a remarkable combination of experts on both East and West, Byzantium, Islam and Christianity.

### THE INSTITUTE OFFERS 3 FULL-TIME MASTERS DEGREES (MLitt):

- Mediaeval History
- Mediaeval English
- Mediaeval Studies

The Institute and the participating departments also offer MPhil and Doctoral research degrees (full-time or part-time) in single and combined disciplines.

### WHAT YOU GET:

- teaching and personal supervision by leading experts
- the opportunity to learn in a vibrant and stimulating research community
- taught courses on a range of single and interdisciplinary subjects
- training in research skills, palaeography and codicology (often using original manuscripts in the University library), as well as languages including Latin, Arabic, Greek, Old English, Middle Scots, German, French, Italian, Old Norse, Middle Welsh and Old Irish.

Further information on the activities of the Institute, including the long-standing seminar series, research interests and staff profiles may be found on the SAIMS website: [www.st-andrews.ac.uk/saims](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/saims)

For enquiries about postgraduate studies, please contact the Institute Administrator,  
Mrs Audrey Wishart: [saimsmail@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:saimsmail@st-andrews.ac.uk)

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