

E A Lowe Lectures in Palaeography 2026

Script and politics: problems in the palaeography of a multilingual island

Professor Julia Crick will deliver the E A Lowe Lectures at 5pm on the following days in the MBI Al Jaber Auditorium, Corpus Christi College.

5 November: 'Two Islands'

This lecture takes another look at the palaeography of post-Roman Britain and Ireland, at some of its troubled twentieth-century history, and at major shifts in understanding over the last three decades. In particular it asks where we stand on the fraught question of the identification of Irish and English script.

12 November: 'Displacement'

This lecture considers instances of engagement between Insular and Continental traditions of writing, both via exemplars and via the presence of living practitioners on both sides of the English Channel.

19 November: 'The Old World and the New'

For the half-century after 1050 the palaeography of England is alive with readily detectable external influences. Who are the foreign writers, how does their activity intersect with that of native scribes, what do their collaborations have to tell us about conquered England?