

# The Roman and Islamic City in North Africa

29 September 2017

Workshop organized by the *Impact of the Ancient City* project

McDonald Institute seminar room

The *Impact of the Ancient City* project reassesses how the Greco-Roman city was variously embraced in the Islamic and Christian worlds across the Mediterranean, up to the present day. The project's approach to urban evolutions pairs development on the ground with that in the imagination. Our first workshop focuses on North Africa and al-Andalus to examine the character and tempo of Islamic impact, and how what we find in the western Mediterranean diverged from what is more familiar from research in the eastern region. This workshop starts from a convergence of interests in recent work at Volubilis, and broadens out to consider the complex story of the afterlife of the Roman city in North Africa and southern Spain.

## Programme

**09.00 – 09:15:** Registration

**09:15 – 09:30:** Welcome by Andrew Wallace-Hadrill

*Andrew Wallace-Hadrill to chair*

**09:30 – 10:30:** Javier Martinez-Jimenez, *Roman and Islamic Urbanisms at the Straits of Gibraltar.*

**10:30 – 11:30:** Lisa Fentress, *Volubilis and Walīla between Idrīs and the Awraba*

**11:30 – 12:00:** **Coffee/Tea break**

**12:00 – 13:00:** Corisande Fenwick, *Where are those great and most splendid cities?: Rethinking medieval urbanism in early Islamic North Africa.*

**13:00 – 14:00:** **Lunch**

*Elizabeth Key Fowden to chair*

**14:00 – 15:00:** Said Ennahid, *Of Saints and Sultans: Muslim Shrines at Roman Archaeological Sites in Morocco.*

**15:00 – 16:00:** Susana Calvo Capilla, *"Spolia" in al-Andalus and North Africa: a form of historicism and political legitimation.*

**16:00 – 16:30:** **Coffee/Tea break**

**16:30 – 17:30:** Amira Bennison, *'Traces of the Ancients': the Roman city in the Arabic geographical and chronicle traditions.*

**17:30 – 18:30:** Hugh Kennedy, *Response and final discussion.*

**19:00 – 22:00:** Dinner for speakers at Magdalene College



Map of Roman cities in North Africa and Spain