

Matt O'Farrell My background is in Persian studies and Ancient History. I am most interested in the intersection of “factual” and stereotypical narrative (legendary or folkloric) in the representation of historical events. As such I take comparative approaches to historical problems which draw in a wide variety of material. My research focuses on the interlocking problems of late antique historiography, Iranian studies and legend.

As part of the project Leadership in Times of Crisis (250-1000 CE) I will examine the reaction of Zoroastrian leaders to the Arab conquests of the 7<sup>th</sup> century. In particular I will be looking at the role played by the memory of the Sasanian Empire, its historical and royal ideologies, in the creation of the historical and prophetic (that is, apocalyptic) texts of this community.



#### Publications

O'Farrell, M. (submitted to peer review early 2019) “A Scene Played Out Again; Ardashir and Constantine, Sargon and Cyrus” in K. De Temmerman, J. Van Pelt and K. Staat (Eds.) *Fictionality in Late Antique Hagiography*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge. 8000 words

O'Farrell, M. (2020) “Kārnāmag ī Ārdāšir ī Pābagān” in P. Van Nuffelen and L. Van Hoof (Eds.), *Clavis Historicorum Tardae Antiquitatis*, Brepols: Turnhout. 550 words