

# BGU-Fordham Joint Virtual Workshop

On Zoom,  
December 13  
9am EST/4pm IST



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## **Hortis et pomeriis habitatores delectat: Gardens in the Landscape of the Latin East**

The earthly paradise; the enclosed garden of Solomon's love songs; the garden of Christ's agony: the imagination of pilgrims and travelers to the Holy Land brimmed with visions of gardens. It is no surprise, then, that visitors to the Latin East frequently commented on elements of the landscape that they understood to be built and designed for pleasure and enjoyment. On the one hand, gardens were a central element of urban life, and gardens appear over one hundred times in reference to mostly urban properties in the documentary record of the Frankish east. But descriptions of the palace complexes in Jerusalem and Beirut and of the construction of major fortifications in the thirteenth century also underline the use of gardens in the demarcation of elite spaces. To date, scholarship has provided no sustained account of horticulture or elite designed landscapes in the Frankish context. Contrasting what we know of the gardens of the Franks with the evidence and new theoretical approaches related to gardens and parks in Europe and with the major city and palace gardens of Syria and Anatolia, this paper hopes to highlight the importance of gardens in our understanding of Frankish settlement and culture.

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