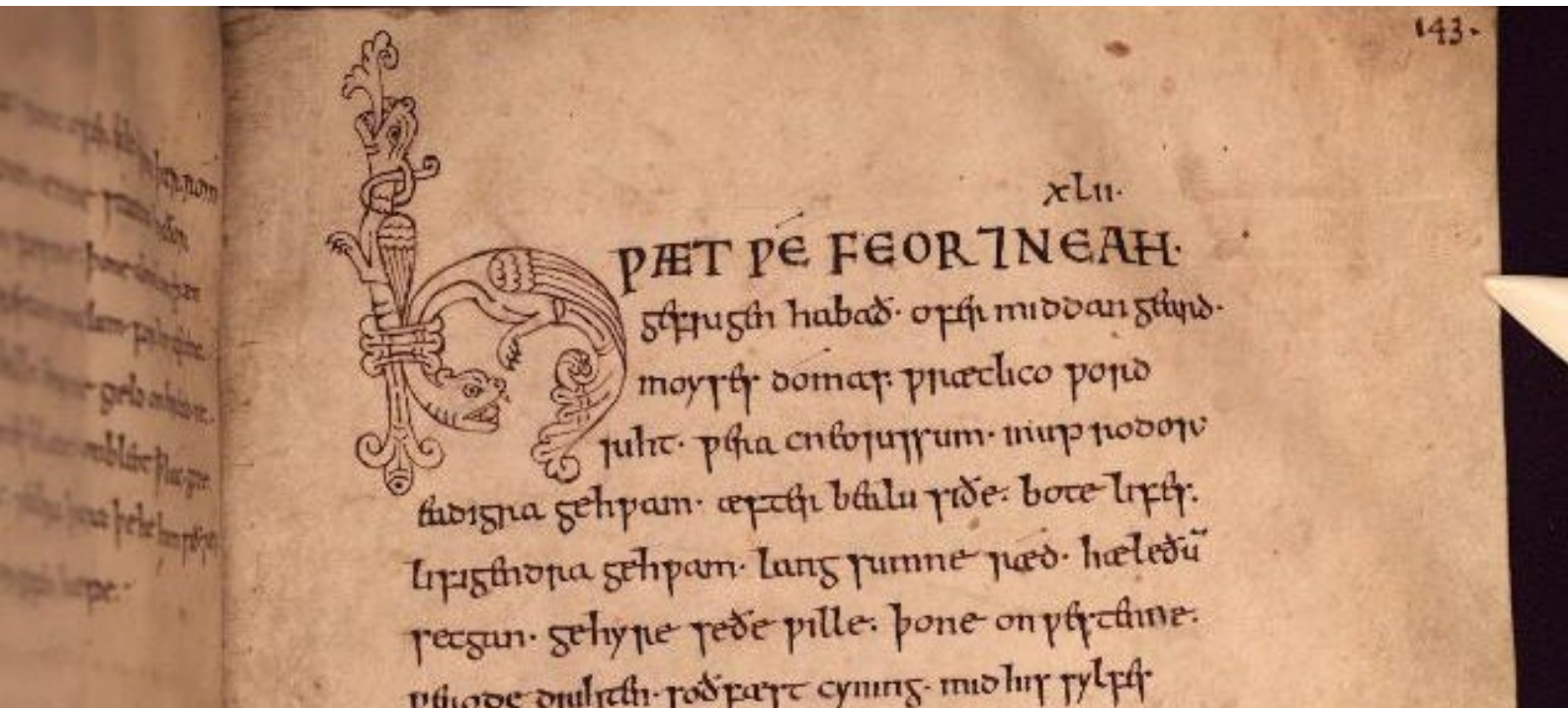




Intertextuality in the Old English *Metrical Psalms*

Dr Emma Knowles, Western Civilisation program



[Dr Emma Knowles](#) is a former Gates Cambridge scholar. Her PhD dissertation focused on the representation of nature in the Old English poems *Genesis A*, *Exodus* and *Daniel* and is currently being developed into a monograph. She worked as an Associate Lecturer and Lecturer in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Sydney from 2019-2023. Emma's research interests include Old English and Middle English literature, medieval biblical literature, Arthurian literature, ecocriticism and medievalism, and she has previously published on the Old English *Exodus* and Thomas Malory's *Le Morte D'Arthur*.

The Old English *Metrical Psalms*, though they are often dismissed as somewhat pedestrian, seem to make use of deliberate and strategic borrowing from existing Old English poetry. In this paper I will discuss what it means for both our understanding of the Old English *Metrical Psalms*, and understandings of the construction of Old English poetry more broadly, if the Psalms-poet was utilising intertextuality in their work. My focus will be the representation of the Exodus narrative in *Psalm 105*, which I argue borrows from the Old English poem *Exodus*. This suggests that not only are the *Metrical Psalms* not simply a slavish copy of their Latin source, but that the poet was familiar with more 'traditional' Old English poetry, and capable of employing this knowledge when it was appropriate to the work's subject matter.

Join the seminar

CONVENORS

Professor Nell Musgrove (NSAH)
Dr Clare Davidson (IHSS)

DATE & TIME

Tuesday 25 August, 1-2pm AEST

IN-PERSON VENUE

MEL-412-1-01, Arts Precinct
36-38 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy
(access via Graham St)

VIDEO LINK

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