KINDLY INVITE YOU TO A LECTURE ON

*Genomics, History and Archaeology: Toward a Genomic History of the Early Middle Ages*

By Patrick Geary, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of History – Institute of Advanced Study

*20th May 2019 - 18.30*

**AULA STUK, NAAMSESTRAAT 96, LEUVEN**

Recent, spectacular advances in ancient DNA research hold the possibility of new insights into the history of human population structures and movements, but the misuse or misinterpretation of genomic data also carries the threat that old tropes of racial essentialism are being revived under the guise of genomic science. This lecture will present how the international, interdisciplinary team of archaeologists, historians, and geneticists that P. Geary directs are attempting to meet these challenges and offer a new way of understanding Roman and Barbarian societies during the so-called Migration Period at the beginning of the Middle Ages. In particular, P. Geary will present his methods for analyzing genetic origins and biological kinship along the Danubian frontier and in northern Italy during the fifth and sixth centuries and the implications of our approach both for a reappraisal of this crucial period and for the development of a model of true collaboration between natural scientists, social scientists, and humanists.

Patrick Geary is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of History at the Institute for Advanced Study. In 1968-69 he was an élève libre in the Institut supérieur de philosophie at the Université catholique de Louvain. He subsequently received his PhD from Yale University and has taught at Princeton University, the University of Florida, Notre Dame, and UCLA. He is former director of the Notre Dame Medieval Institute and the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. Among his books are Furta Sacra: Thefts of Relics in the Central Middle Ages; Before France and Germany: Living with the Dead in the Middle Ages; Phantoms of Remembrance: Memory and Oblivion at the end of the first Millennium; The Myth of Nations: The Medieval Origins of Europe; Writing History: Identity, Conflict and Memory in the Middle Ages; and Language and Power in the Early Middle Ages. He is former President of the Medieval Academy of America and is a fellow of the Medieval Academy, corresponding fellow of the British Academy, the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Sciences of Göttingen, the French National Society of Antiquarians, The German Archaeological Institute, and is an honorary member of the Institute for Austrian Historical Research. His research concentrates on Continental history between the fifth and twelfth centuries. Currently he leads a team of historians, geneticists, and archaeologists studying population structure and mobility between Central Europe and Italy in early Middle Ages. More information: [https://www.ias.edu/scholars/geary](https://www.ias.edu/scholars/geary)