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Conrad Leyser studies the religious and social history of western Europe and North Africa, from the fall of Rome to the rise of Latin Christendom after the first millennium. His book *Authority and Asceticism from Augustine to Gregory the Great* (Oxford, 2000) discusses the problem of moral authority in the post-Roman West. He is the co-editor, with Kate Cooper, of *Making Early Medieval Societies: Conflict and Belonging in the Latin West, 300-1200* (Cambridge, 2006).

His current project traces the relationship between institutional identity and cultural memory across the late ancient and early medieval period. In *The Age of Faith: the Making of the Medieval Church*, he plans to follow the development--slow and late--of a professional, celibate clerical hierarchy.