Scholarship concerning the cultural and artistic landscapes of medieval Anatolia has made encouraging progress in recent years. There remains, however, much work to be done concerning the production of the Islamic arts of the book in this period. This lecture will discuss one aspect of the arts of the book – calligraphy – and explore what we know about scripts and the scribes who produced it. The talk will cover several manuscripts from all over Anatolia, including Konya, Sivas, Istanos (today Korkuteli, near Antalya) and Erzincan. The manuscripts are varied and include Mevlevi texts by Jalal al-Din Rumi and Sultan Walad, Qurans, mirrors-for-princes and historical chronicles. The lecture will outline the local features of naskh, tawqi' and muhaqqaq in particular and compare it to the scripts of Mamluk and Ilkhanid neighbours and discuss the use of calligraphy in illuminations and whether there is any evidence of overlap with inscriptions seen in contemporary art and architecture.

Cailah Jackson is currently a research fellow at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies (Salem and Bakr bin Laden Junior Research Fellow). Her research focuses on the arts of the book in the Islamic world in the medieval period. She was awarded the Leigh Douglas Memorial Dissertation prize (2018), attributed by the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies. She is also the author of a book entitled Islamic Manuscripts of Late Medieval Rûm, 1270s-1370s: Production, Patronage and the Arts of the Book (Edinburgh University Press, forthcoming) and several articles about manuscripts in medieval Anatolia.