## GAME OF THRONES! History, Medievalism and How It Might End



In this lecture I'll talk about watching and writing about HBO's *Game of Thrones* as a medieval scholar. I'll also explain some of the medieval history and literature from which George R. R. Martin chiselled the building blocks for the construction of his imaginary world. *Game of Thrones* has now become the most frequently streamed or downloaded show in TV history. I'll suggest some reasons for its enormous international success as the medieval fantasy epic for the twenty-first century, and will undertake a little speculation on how the show might end.

CAROLYNE LARRINGTON is Professor of Medieval European Literature at the University of Oxford, and teaches medieval English literature as a Fellow of St John's College. She has published widely on Old Icelandic literature, including the leading translation into English of the Old Norse Poetic Edda [2nd edn, Oxford World's Classics, 2014]. She also researches medieval European literature: two recent publications are Brothers and Sisters in Medieval European Literature [York Medieval Press, 2015] and an edited collection of essays (with Frank Brandsma and Corinne Saunders), Emotions in Medieval Arthurian Literature [D. S. Brewer, 2015]. She also writes on the medieval in the modern world: two recent books are The Land of the Green Man (2015) on folklore and landscape in Great Britain, and Winter is Coming: The Medieval World of Game of Thrones (2015), both published by I. B. Tauris. She is currently researching emotion in secular medieval European literatures, and planning a second book about Game of Thrones.





