ARENA, PHD, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, “PROPHETIC CONFLICTS”

**Summary of Paper**

In my presentation, I offer an analysis of Jer 28, an episode generally understood as expression of the prophetic conflict between the “true” prophet Jeremiah and the “false” prophet Hananiah. Scholars generally argue that from this passage, some criteria to set apart “true” and “false” prophecy appear, accepting the interpretation that prophetic conflicts represent a socio-historical phenomenon in ancient Israel. Conversely, I offer quite a different interpretation, showing how the falsehood of Hananiah is given *a priori*, without providing any objective reasons. Similarly, also the interest that the episode shows in prophecy is only instrumental to the structure of an ideological conflict that does not deal with the status of prophetic gifts but echoes a polemic as to the role of the Babylonian invasion of 587 and the subsequent exile. Redactional interventions have contributed to sketch Hananiah as a liar (a “false” prophet) to highlight the role of Jeremiah as the only mouthpiece of YHWH entitled to speak in his name. This attitude of the redactors is observed throughout the book of Jeremiah (and Ezekiel and Micah), in which the attacks against the prophetic class never aim to present the actions of a “true” prophet in contrast to other “false” prophets, neither are meant to engage in a theorical discussion as to the nature of prophecy, but rather are used to support the viewpoints of the redactors as to crucial matters in post-exilic Judah.