The Struggle for the State after the Death of Augustus

17 September AD 14: a month after Augustus' death, the Roman senate convened to congratulate his chosen successor, Tiberius—and Tiberius balked. Why? Did Tiberius initially try to refuse power? A hint as to what was going on comes from Augustus' own political autobiography, the Res Gestae.


“The True Story of Six Fake Authors: Understanding the Historia Augusta”

The Historia Augusta is a collection of lives of emperors that claims to be written by group of six authors writing around 300 CE. In fact, it was (almost certainly) written by one person writing a hundred years later and manufacturing not only their authorial identity but a great deal of their material as well. This talk will discuss the bizarre details of the collection, and explore why someone would do this and what we as historians can learn from it.