

**UNIVERSITÄT
ERFURT**

Max-Weber-Kolleg

MONDAY LECTURES

IN RELIGIOUS, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Max-Weber-Kolleg | Seminar für Religionswissenschaft

29.01.2024 | 16:15

Research Building „World Relations“

C19.00.02/03

MONDAY LECTURES: VALENTINO GASPARINI

Building the Divine Power in the Greco-Roman World: (3) The Power of the Otherness

The third lecture in the event series “Building the Divine Power in the Greco-Roman World” will be consecrated to investigate the ways through which divine power can be analysed in terms of “excesses” and “flaws”, or, in other words, of symbolic exchange between weakness and power.

Concepts of similarity and difference are crucial to the way in which social actors foster their own agency and build their identities. Lack and surplus create otherness, and otherness in turn creates social distinction. The aim of this lecture is to explore dynamics of activation of the divine power as a result of factors that habitually foment (in the human sphere) social marginality, such as anonymity, gender and transgenderism, disability, physical deformity, wealth inequality, etc.

The OMEGA project intends to investigate whether elements that are stigmatized in human society by their status of otherness and weakness might have represented rather a means of enhancement of power for a divine *puissance*.