

Venue and Registration

Augustinerkloster, Augustinerstraße 10,
99084 Erfurt, Germany.

Registration

Sessions marked with a * (Keynote address on Thursday 9 to 10.30, and the whole Friday program) can be attended remotely upon registration via urbrel-conf@uni-erfurt.de

For further queries, please write to urbrel-conf@uni-erfurt.de



Updates on
<https://miwa.hypotheses.org/2021workshop>

Exhibition

"Life around Water in India" 07.07. – 08.08.2021
Venue: Cloister of the Augustinerkloster, Erfurt
Further details on the above given link.

The conference is part of the DFG-funded Humanities Centre for Advanced Studies "Religion and Urbanity: Reciprocal Formations" (FOR 2779). The group is based at the Max Weber Centre for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies of the University of Erfurt, Germany. This group analyses the mutual formation of urbanity and religion from antiquity to the present. It focuses on specific case studies, like Mediterranean or Indian cities of the ancient world, early modern political and religious centres or modern Indian or European towns, but it also introduces more wide-ranging theoretical investigations.

Organizer

Dr. Sara Keller | sara.keller@uni-erfurt.de

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www.uni-erfurt.de/go/urbrel
<http://urbrel.hypotheses.org>

Image: Amritavarshini stepwell,
Ahmedabad © Somya Parikh

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WORKSHOP

Accessing Water
in the South Asian City

8th–9th July 2021 |
Augustinerkloster, Erfurt

Accessing Water in the South Asian City

Water is a revealing element of urbanity, and the Indian city a glaring example of the prominence of water issues in space making and social organisation. Looking at the South Asian city in a broad geographical and historical scale, the workshop aims to determine the role played by urban socio-religious constructs in the shaping of a rich, complex, sometimes problematic, waterscape.

The access to water is a determining factor of urbanisation, and this is more strongly felt in regions prone to aridity and irregular rainfalls. In India, recent water crisis of summer 2019 and 2020 confirm the emergency of the situation and the extreme fragility of certain social groups. Against this dramatic situation, the workshop proposes to look at water(s) and water availability in the broader context of Indian urbanity. It addresses, beyond limiting material and infrastructural arguments, the human and social forces at work. In particular, the workshop aims to look at the religious and social dynamics that shaped the urban waterscape and thus participated to the formation of the materiality of the city, from ancient times to present. How did the sacred dimension of water impact urbanisation processes such as city foundation and urban sacred geography? Reciprocally, how did the urban way of life shape and transform water environments and the hydro-architecture? How did religious precepts and practices determine a graded relationship and access to water? Acknowledging the responsibility of past socio-religious patterns and their resurgences shall help rethinking today's management of hydro-space and reinventing a relationship with water in the South Asian urban context.

Concept note and panel description:

<https://miwa.hypotheses.org/accessing-water-in-the-south-asian-city>

Abstracts

<https://miwa.hypotheses.org/speakers>

Modality

Event in presence with hybrid facility for online participation.

Contributions

Akil Amiraly: "From the tap to the cistern, the difficult reappropriation of an ancient technical knowledge: Rainwater harvesting in Ahmedabad"

Julia Hegewald: "Dependency on Water and the South Asian City: Questions of Location, Urban Planning and Architectural Design"

Jutta Jain-Neubauer: "Urbanization and Waterscapes: Patronage, Power and Religion in pre-modern Northern and Western India"

Padma Sunder Joshi: "Peeping into the Traditional Water Wisdom in Nepal Mandal"

Sara Keller: "Releasing temple gold. Spatial fix in medieval Saurashtra through water epigraphy"

Vrushti Mawani: "Discursive co-articulations of 'being illegal' and 'being Muslim'"

Nicolas Morelle: "Water supply in Deccan Forts of India: the Naldurg case (14th-17th century)"

Heather O'Leary: "The Moral Construction of the Hydro-Social Subject: Water exchange and conduits of purity in contemporary Delhi"

Bertrand Sajaloli and Etienne Grésillon: "Water and the sacred: which spatial mediations?"

Yogesh Sharma: "Accessibility to water sources in urban centres in pre-modern India"

Julia Shaw: "Cities, land and water in early-historic South Asia: upland-lowland interactions, and monastic versus state-level governmentalities"

Prakhar Vidyarthi: "Water and Urbanism in Western India: The Navnath temples of Vadodara"

Laura Verdelli: "Customary water management systems and contemporary territorial changes in Tamil Nadu (India)"

WEDNESDAY, 07 JULY 2021

From 16:00 onwards | Registration & Exhibition visit

THURSDAY, 08 JULY 2021

9:00 – 9:15	Welcome note by Sara Keller*
9:15 – 10:30	Keynote address by Bertrand Sajaloli on "Water and the sacred: which spatial mediations?" (joint contribution by Bertrand Sajaloli and Etienne Grésillon). Presentation followed by discussion.*
10:30 – 11:00	Tea break
11:00 – 12:15	Group work on Panel I: Inconsistent resources. Water as a determining factor of urbanity
12:15 – 13:30	Group work on Panel II: Providing access. Religion as agent of water availability / Infrastructural solutions and their limitations
13:30 – 14:45	Lunch
14:45 – 16:00	Group work on Panel III: Restricting access. Cultural and normative deficiencies / Impact of social and religious context
16:00 – 16:30	Tea break
16:30 – 19:00	Excursion at the Petersberg and its medieval water system
19:30	Dinner at Augustinerkloster

FRIDAY, 09 JULY 2021

9:00 – 10:00	Short presentation of the papers*
10:00 – 11:00	Presentation of group work results*
11:00 – 11:30	Tea break
11:30 – 12:15	Discussion 1: Sources and methodology* Chair: Susanne Rau
12:15 – 13:00	Discussion 2: Themes: overlapping, gaps, perspectives.* Chair: Martin Fuchs
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00	Excursion at Eisenach. Presentation on Water Supply in Eisenach and the Wartburg by Susanne Rau and Sara Keller.