



MONDAY LECTURES | SOSE 2025

IN RELIGIOUS, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

RESEARCH BUILDING "WELTBEZIEHUNGEN" | C19.00.02/03

LECTURE SERIES BY CORINNE BONNET

WHERE DO THE GODS LIVE? A COMPARATIVE SPATIAL APPROACH TO RELIGIOUS PRACTICES AND REPRESENTATIONS IN THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN

The basic assumption of this comparative exploration of the divine is that space deeply shapes the relationship between humans and divine powers. Imaginary, experienced, moving or memorial spaces fuel narratives and rituals and convey complex representations of the divine. The extensive study of the gods' onomastic attributes in the Greek and Semitic areas, in the framework of the ERC project "Mapping Ancient Polytheisms", has shown that toponymic and topographic onomastic elements are massively used to describe and qualify the gods. Space is in fact their most attested characteristic. Space, however, can range from a very local horizon (a god of a specific spring, for example, or the gods of a particular domestic space) to a global, universal or cosmic dimension (the gods of the heaven, of the universe, etc.). How does this multi-scalar dimension work in the religious systems of the ancient Mediterranean, where villages, cities, regions, kingdoms, and empires coexist? The seminar series will explore relevant case-studies and address conceptual issues, about the intersection between polytheism and monotheism, time and space, immanence and transcendence, the one and the many.

**14.04.2025 | 28.04.2025
05.05.2025**

**ALL GUESTS WELCOME.
NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY.**