

**UNIVERSITÄT
ERFURT**

Max-Weber-Kolleg

MONDAY LECTURES

IN RELIGIOUS, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Max-Weber-Kolleg | Seminar für Religionswissenschaft

15.01.2024 | 16:15

Research Building „World Relations“

C19.00.02/03

MONDAY LECTURES: VALENTINO GASPARINI

Building the Divine Power in the Greco-Roman World: (1) The Power of the One

The first lecture in the event series “Building the Divine Power in the Greco-Roman World” will be consecrated to investigate the ways through which it was possible to empower specific gods as “much more divine” than others. Speakers are invited to investigate, according to different registers and contexts of use, i) which linguistic options could be adopted to empower a specific deity or the notion itself of “divine” (theion/theos) by praising its nature as unique or supreme; ii) how far minimalism (see, e.g., the baetylus of Aphrodite in Paphos) and/or the “superabundant” amalgam of selected attributes (see, e.g., the so-called “Sabazius’ hands”, the “pantheistic objects”, the “grylloi” or the other bizarre images represented on amulets and “magical papyri”) contributed iconographically to the definition of this empowerment. We expect the analysis of such case studies to open a new debate on modern historico-religious categories such as “henotheism”, “megatheism”, “pagan / pluriform / insular / inclusive / quasi / soft monotheism”, “monolatry”, etc., thus stimulating new critical methodological reflections.

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