AESToR NET – The Aesthetics of Religion Research Network
Kick-off workshop: “The Sensory Sacred – Aesthetic as a Connective Concept for the Study of Religion” – Positions and Future Plans

Date: 22 – 23 August 2015 (right before the IAHR World Congress)
Venue: University of Erfurt; FG 1 room 0021 (on campus, across Nordhaeuser Street)

Saturday, 22 August 2015
14.00 Welcome and Introduction to the new DFG funded AESToR NET
Katharina Wilkens and Anne Koch, LMU Munich
15.00 Introduction to the first network-funded publication: “The Sensory Sacred: Aesthetics as a Connective Concept for the Study of Religion”
Alexandra Grieser, Trinity College Dublin
"The Sixth Sense: Aesthetics, Religion and Alternative Knowing"
Jay Johnston, University of Sydney
15.30 Coffee
16.00 Discussion of Jay Johnston’s paper
16.30 “Mapping Connections” – short presentations of concepts and cases demonstrating diverse aspects of the aesthetics of religion approach
Comment: Fred Cummins, University College Dublin
18.30 Dinner: “Rassmann’s in der Sackpfeifenmühle”, Lange Brücke 53 (see below)

Sunday, 23 August
9.00 Taking up the “Mapped Connections” from Saturday; input and discussion: “Moving from perception-action towards sense making: an enactive view” – Fred Cummins, Cognitive Sciences, University College Dublin
10.30 Coffee
11.00 The Future of the AESToR Network: Planning of the 2016 meeting in Oslo
Dirk Johannsen, Oslo/ Anja Kirsch, Basel
12.00 General Discussion
13.00 Catered Lunch
14.00 Annual General Meeting of the Working Group “Aesthetics of Religion”
-15.00 (DVRW) – Elections, Structures, Planning
Invited Speakers

**Jay Johnston** (PhD) is Associate Professor, Department of Studies in Religion, and Director of the World Religion Program, University of Sydney. Her current research examines concepts of materiality, embodiment, environment and image agency in religious and archaeological discourse and practice. She leads the international collaborative project: "The Function of Images in Magical Papyri and Artefacts of Ritual Power from Late Antiquity" funded by the Australian Research Council. She is the co-editor of “The Sensory Sacred: Aesthetics as a Connective Concept for the Study of Religion”. Publications include *Angels of Desire: Esoteric Bodies, Aesthetics and Ethics* (2008); *Religion and the Subtle Body in Asia and the West: Between Mind and Body* (co-edited with G. Samuel, 2013) and *Animal Death* (co-edited with F. Probyn-Rapsey, 2013).


Dinner Venue: