Beyond Duty: Interacting with Religious Professionals and Appropriating Tradition in the Imperial Era

International Conference of the ERC research project “Lived Ancient Religion: Questioning ‘cults’ and ‘polis religion’”

14th to 16th January 2015, Augustinerkloster Erfurt

Organisation:

Prof. Dr. Richard Gordon | Max-Weber-Kolleg
Prof. Dr. Jörg Rüpke | Max-Weber-Kolleg
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The project LAR ("Lived Ancient Religion") – or lar, the god of the Roman household – is audacious in the sense that it intends to develop a new and integrative perspective on religion in the Ancient Mediterranean and an adequate methodology. This approach sets out to replace the concepts of "cults" and "polis religion(s)" as integrative frameworks in the description of a field that could usefully be conceptualised as "religion". By refocusing on the individual and the situational, i.e., on the intrinsic determinants of "lived religion", it aims to bring the study of ancient Euro-Mediterranean religion into discussion with global History of Religion. We hope to stimulate the development of an approach that can comprise the local and global trajectories of the multidimensional pluralistic religions of antiquity.

The Conference: This fifth LAR conference focuses on religious practitioners and providers of specialised religious knowledge in the Ancient Mediterranean. A selective group of specialists with a diverse background in religious practitioners and providers of specialised religious expertise in the early Principate of Aelius Aristides’ contesting religious and medi-cal expertise in the Hieroi Logoi. 18:35 | Markus Vinzent (Erfurt): Philosophy, the most precious and worthy asset – the Philosophers truly holy men 19:45 | Dinner

Thursday, 15th January

Religious Reformation and the Body
Chair: Rubina Raja
09:00 | Anja Klöckner (Giessen): Tertium genus? Representations of Religious Professionals in the Cults of Magna Mater / Cybele and Atthis
09:45 | Andrej and Ivana Petrovic (Durham): The paradigm of inner purity and Egyptian priests in Eastern Mediterranean
10:15 | Françoise Van Haerpen (Louvain): Puzzling representations of the Mater Magna’s cult specialists in the Roman Empire
11:00 | Coffee Break / Poster Session
Religious Innovation and Representation 1
Chair: Anna-Katharina Rieger
11:30 | Joan Breton Connelly (New York): Priestesses on the Athenian Acropolis: Genealogy, Authority, and Memory
13:00 | Lunch
Religious Innovation and Representation 2
Chair: Georgia Petridou
14:15 | Annette Weissenrieder (Berkeley): A Roadmap to the Heavens: (High) priestly vestments and the Temple in Josephus
15:00 | Angela Standhartinger (Marburg): Best practice. Religious reformation in Philo’s representation of the Therapeutaey and Therapeutrides
16:00 | Coffee Break / Poster Session
Religious Innovation and Representation 3
Chair: Jan Bremmer
16:30 | Rubina Raja (Aarhus): “You can leave your hat on”. The palmyrene priestly modius
17:15 | Michael Dr. Swartz (Ohio): Rhetorical Indications of the Poet’s Craft in Ancient Synagogue Poetry
19:00 | Dinner

Friday, 16th January

Religious Innovation Gone Wrong 1
Chair: Nicola Denzey Lewis
09:00 | Valentino Gasparini (Erfurt): “Sex and the Duty”. Chastity, Betrayals, Power Struggles and Other Intrigues among Anubis’ Priests at the Dawn of the Roman Empire
09:45 | Federico Santangelo (Newcastle): Priestly expertise in the early Principate
10:30 | Coffee Break
Religious Innovation Gone Wrong 2
Chair: Anja Klöckner
11:00 | Nicola Denzey Lewis (Brown): Lived Religion Among Second-Century Gnostic Hieratic Specialists
11:45 | Jan N. Bremmer (Groningen): Lucian on Peregrinus and Alexander of Abunoteichos: a sceptical view of religious entrepreneurs
13:30 | General Discussion
15:00 | Lunch
Departure