



Foto: Max Weber (© BAdW München)



Organisation:

Dr. Esther Eidinow | Max-Weber-Kolleg Erfurt

Prof. Dr. Richard Gordon | Max-Weber-Kolleg Erfurt

Conference of the ERC Research Project “Lived Ancient Religion: Questioning ‘Cults’ and ‘Polis Religion’”

Pictures: (left) A late-antique curse against the judge Sura (who is probably the figure inside the rhombus), omitting the text itself. From the Fountain of Anna Perenna, Rome. Drawing: Private; (right) The Egyptian demon Aberamenthou imagined carrying off a victim. From Oslo Papyrus 1, col. 3. Drawing: Private.

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This project is funded by the European Union

UNIVERSITÄT ERFURT

Narrating Witchcraft: Agency, Discourse and Power

30th June – 1st July 2016

Venue: Max-Weber-Kolleg Erfurt, room 121

Taking up the challenge of the Lived Ancient Religion project, with its focus on the individual and the situational, and its concern to comprise both local and global trajectories of the multi-dimensional pluralistic religions of antiquity, this conference focuses on witchcraft. While we acknowledge the difficulties of cross-cultural translation, the conference assumes the diachronic and cross-cultural conceptual power of witchcraft beliefs and practices, which encompass both local and global meanings and whose historical trajectory extends back to Ancient Mediterranean cultures.

A major aim is to bring other disciplinary perspectives and experience to bear on witchcraft-narratives, Graeco-Roman, Jewish and Christian, in the Roman imperial period. The multi-disciplinary nature of the conference is intended to offer a fruitful comparison of different theoretical frameworks, as well as drawing out both similarities and differences in multiple aspects of the construction and transmission of witchcraft narratives over time, place and culture. To that end, the conference invites scholars from different disciplines, including ancient, early modern and modern history, anthropology, and gender studies, bringing together their diverse methodologies, and varieties of evidence.

As usual, the conference papers will have been circulated in advance, so that the proceedings will mainly consist of discussion on the basis of these papers. If you wish to attend, please inform Dr. Eidinow at latest by Friday, 17th June so that you can be added to the circulation-list.

Programme

Thursday, 30th June 2016

Chair: Jan Bremmer

09:15 | A brief introduction by the organisers

09:30 | Peter Geschiere (Amsterdam):

The Historicity of Witchcraft Narratives—Examples from the Forest Region of South Cameroon

10:15 | Esther Eidinow (Nottingham):

Social Knowledge and Spiritual Insecurity: Identifying ‘Witchcraft’ in Classical Greek Communities

11:00 | Coffee Break

Chair: Wolfgang Behringer

11:20 | Alison Rowlands (Essex):

Contested Narratives, Contesting Identities: Witchcraft Narratives in Legal and Social Context in Early Modern Germany

12:05 | Richard Gordon (Erfurt):

Knowing the Ropes: Malign Magic in Latin Literary Narratives

12:50 | Lunch

Chair: Svenja Nagel

14:30 | Marion Gibson (Exeter):

Narrating Witchcraft in Early Modern English News Pamphlets

15:15 | Almuth Lotz (Potsdam):

Libanius and Theodoret of Cyrillus on Accusations of Magic: Between Legal Norm and Legal Practice in Late Antiquity

16:00 | Coffee Break

Chair: Richard Gordon

16:30 | Olivier Dufault (LMU, Munich):

Witchcraft Accusations Directed at Client-Scholars under the Roman Empire

17:15 | Wolfgang Behringer (Saarbrücken):

Witchcraft Narratives in Early Modern Demonologies from the *Malleus Maleficarum* (1486) to Francesco Guazzo’s *Compendium Maleficarum* (1626)

19:00 | Dinner

Friday, 1st July 2016

Chair: Esther Eidinow

09:30 | Greta Van Buylaere (Würzburg):

Foreign Witches

10:15 | Svenja Nagel (Heidelberg):

All is Fair in Love and War: Egyptian Witchcraft and Sexual Dynamics in Graeco-Roman Egypt

11:00 | Coffee Break

Chair: Alison Rowlands

11:20 | Jan Bremmer (Groningen):

Simon Magus: a Pagan Magician in a Christian Context

12:05 | Yuval Harari (Ben Gurion):

Three Charms for Killing Adolf Hitler: Practical Kabbalah in WW2

12:50 | Final Discussion

13:15 | Lunch