

Co-produced Rituals

Uncovering a Common Culture
in the Pre-Modern
Mediterranean

International Conference

2–3 April 2025

Haus der Universität
Schlösslistrasse 5
Bern, Switzerland

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Wednesday, 2. April 2025

9:00 Introduction

Caroline Bridel, Bern Universität; Maureen Attali, Université de Fribourg/Université de Nanterre

Demons and Deviance

9:30 Divorcing Demons in Jewish Aramaic and Syriac: Reflections on Translation, Scribal Practice, and Religious Contact in Late Antique Iraq

Ra'anan Boustan, Princeton University

Break

10:45 Co-Producing Curse Culture: Ritual Imprecation in Ancient and Medieval Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

Carson Bay, IAS Princeton

11:30 Chasing Clouds and Raising Storms: Technologies of Life or Markers of Deviance?

Maijastina Kahlos, University of Lisbon

Lunch Break

Funerary World

14:00 Co-Produced Images of Martyrdom: Suffering and Redemption on Sarcophagi in Late Antiquity

Sarah Hollaender, Graz University

14:45 “I Would Not Kiss You”: Haptic Relic Rituals and their Discontents among Late Antique Communities

Adam Bursi, Cornell University

Break

Monastic Views on Rituals

16:00 Regium to Diuinum to Monasticum: Late-Antique Promises of Monastic Enrolment and their non-Christian Inspiration

Michael Wuk, Freie Universität Berlin

16:45 Dominican Writers and the Definition of Islam through its Rituals

Pierre Courtain, Université de Nantes/Université de Louvain

Thursday, 3. April 2025

Places of Worship

9:00 The Early Christian Altar: Precedents and Particularities

Robin Jensen, University of Notre-Dame

9:45 Alternative Economies: Ancient Synagogue Coin Deposits Between Greco-Roman Religion and the Rabbis

Jocelyn Burney, University of Missouri

Break

11:00 Between Menorah and Minaret: A Case Study in Multivalent Religious Symbols

Shlomo Zuckier, IAS Princeton

Lunch Break

Festivals

13:30 Covered Continuity – the Joint Feast of the Roman New Year and Christian Epiphany

Elsa Lucassen, University of Amsterdam

14:15 Afikoman: One Riddle, Many Solutions

Israël Yuval, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Break

A Genetical Outlook

15:30 Jewish-Christian Relations in Antiquity and the Middle Ages: New Insights from Archeo-Genetics

Leonard Rutgers, Utrecht University

Medieval Water Rituals

16:15 Entangled Performative Details between Jewish Immersion Ceremonies and Christian Baptism in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries in Latin Europe

Neta Bodner, Open University Israel

17:00 Art and Ritual: Co-Production in a Jewish Ablution Basin

Ariel Fein, IAS Princeton