



International Conference  
Freie Universität Berlin  
15 – 17 December 2016

## MAKING SENSE OF THE OATH IN LATE ANTIQUITY AND THE EARLIER MIDDLE AGES



Image courtesy of the Penn Museum, Image #238272

### RELIGIOUS ACT, SOCIAL BOND, HOLY SACRAMENT

Prof. Dr. Stefan Esders  
Lukas Bothe  
in collaboration with  
Dr. Gerda Heydemann (Österreichische Akademie  
der Wissenschaften/Freie Universität Berlin)

Venue:  
Freie Universität Berlin  
Fabeckstr. 23-25  
Room 2.2058/2.2059  
D-14195 Berlin

Information and programme:

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[http://www.sfb-governance.de/teilprojekte/projektbereich\\_b/b10/index.html](http://www.sfb-governance.de/teilprojekte/projektbereich_b/b10/index.html)

## Programme

**Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December**

(Room 2.2058)

**14:00 – 14:30**

Stefan Esders (Freie Universität Berlin)

*Welcome and Introduction*

### **Session 1 – The Christian Oath in Roman Society**

**14:30 – 16:00**

Bernd Kollmann (Universität Siegen)

*Jesus' Teaching on Oaths in its Ancient Context*

Moshe Blidstein (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

*Religious Authority and the Cancellation of Oaths and Vows in the Roman Empire*

***coffee break***

**16:30 – 18:00**

Kevin Uhalde (Ohio University)

*The Shape of Early Christian Fidelity: Tertullian on Swearing and Repentance*

Nicholas Wheeler (University of Toronto)

*Two Cases of Perjury: The Fourth Century Origins of the Canonical Norm against Perjury in the Latin Church*

**Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> December**

(Room 2.2059)

### **Session 2 – Obligations, Promises, Vows and Oaths: Redefining Social Relations in an Age of Transition**

**9:00 – 10:30**

Susanna Elm (University of California at Berkeley)

*Conditio — Religious Bonds and Social Acts in Augustine*

Claudia Rapp (Universität Wien)

*Promise — Prayer — Contract — Oath: Religious Frameworks and Legal Norms for Social Interactions in Early Byzantium*

***coffee break***

**11:00 – 12:30**

Andrew Marsham (University of Edinburgh)

*Oath and Covenant in the Qur'an*

Jamie Wood (University of Lincoln)

*Oath-Taking in Early Medieval Iberia: Contextualising 'Pactual' Monasticism*

***lunch break***

**Session 3 – Fidelity, Oath-Taking and Narrative Justice: The Carolingian Empire and After**

**14:00 – 14:45**

Jennifer R. Davis (The Catholic University of America / The American Academy in Berlin)

*Re-imagining the Oath during the Reign of Charlemagne*

**short break**

**15:00 – 16:30**

Mayke de Jong (Universiteit Utrecht)

*“Fides” after the Battle of Fontenoy (25 June 841): Nithard and Paschasius Radbertus*

Heiko Behrmann (Freie Universität Berlin)

*Oath-Taking and Perjury in the Annals of St. Bertin: Tracing the Political Thought of Hincmar of Rheims*

**coffee break**

**17:00 – 18:30**

Ian Ward (Princeton University)

*The End of the Carolingian Oath of Loyalty in the Tenth Century*

Theo Riches (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster)

*Differentiating Sacred and Profane in the Eleventh-Century Oath: A Bishop’s Job, But Does Anyone Have to Do it?*

**Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> December**

(Room 2.2059)

**Session 4 – Framing the Oath in Early Medieval Theology, Exegesis and Canon Law**

**09:00 – 10:30**

Owen Phelan (Mount St. Mary’s University)

*Oaths and Bishops in the Ninth Century*

Gerda Heydemann (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften / Freie Universität Berlin)

*“Ego autem dico vobis non iurare omnino”: The Prohibition to Swear (Matthew 5:33–37) in Carolingian Exegesis*

**coffee break**

**11:00 – 11:45**

Stefan Esders (Freie Universität Berlin)

*Dissolving the Oath (7<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> centuries)*

**11:45 – 13:00**

Kate Cooper (University of Manchester) / Conrad Leyser (Worcester College / University of Oxford)

*Conclusive Remarks*

Final Discussion