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
Fabekstr. 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
Programme

Thursday, 15th 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, 16th 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)
Condicio — 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, 17th 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 Heydeman (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 (7th–11th centuries)

11:45 – 13:00
Kate Cooper (University of Manchester) / Conrad Leyser (Worcester College / University of Oxford)
   Conclusive Remarks

Final Discussion