



## **International Summer School “Religions and Rituals”**

**24–28 June 2024 | Max-Weber-Kolleg, University of Erfurt**

**Organizers:** Elisabeth Begemann, Daria Pezzoli Olgiati, Anna-Katharina Rieger, Jörg Rüpke

### **Call for Applications (deadline: 28 February 2024)**

In the framework of its interdisciplinary research programme “Weltbeziehungen” (Self-Word-Relations), the Max-Weber-Kolleg of the University of Erfurt invites applications for the International Summer School **“Religions and Rituals”** in Erfurt from 24 to 28 June 2024.

#### **Topic**

The relation of the self to transcendental entities, to the community or society, its ways of ritual communication and meaning-making, and its reflection on the world and on socio-institutional orders are at the core of considering what we term “religion”. But do we know what religion is? To describe religion, say, as an ‘active response by human beings to the call of the sacred’, as ‘experience of the numinous’, or of ‘power’, or whatever, is, from the historian’s point of view, merely to substitute a less specific term for a specific one. ‘Religion’ is not an objective entity that can be established empirically. It is communication with super-human addressees and objects employed in such communication that we study through the lens of (religious) rituals; it is processes of group formation that we study through the lens of “religions”.

During the International Summer School, we will discuss and explore the topic **“Religions and Rituals”**, focussing on Mediterranean antiquity, but also confronting historical with contemporary practices to provide space for common discussions and research. The International Summer School will include lectures by the organizers and further experts in the fields like Hartmut Rosa (Sociology) and Katharina Waldner (Religious Studies), as well as methodological workshops exploring methods in religious, literary, and archaeological studies for researchers from different disciplines.

## **Format**

The International Summer School follows a participatory format, where we can learn from each other and our research. We are planning a variety of formats, e.g., lectures, group discussions, field trip, presentations of the research projects of the participants, and methodological workshops. To provide an atmosphere of openness and mutual supportiveness, occasions for socializing will be part of the programme.

## **Costs**

We ask for a participation fee of 150,00 EUR to cover the costs of the conference (incl. lunch, welcome & farewell dinner, public transport), payable on acceptance. Travel and accommodation costs are to be covered by the participants. Couch surfing spots with local Ph.D. researchers may be available. Further financial support can be made available for those with no other funding options. Please indicate in your letter of motivation if you need support for travel and accommodation as well as the amount you expect you will require. We especially welcome applications from outside the EU.

## **Location**

The venue is wheelchair accessible. Please let us know if you have specific needs and we will do our best to accommodate them.

## **Application**

To apply, please provide a letter of motivation of about 300–400 words, outlining why you are interested in participating in the International Summer School. Please also include a current CV and a brief sketch of your current research project, for which time for presentation and feedback is sought in the Summer School (1500–2000 words, incl. bibliography). If you have suggestions for specific topics you would like to address during the International Summer School or are interested in organizing a group session, please provide an additional description of the topic and why you think it is particularly interesting to discuss (up to 500 words). A maximum of 20 applicants can be accepted for the International Summer School.

Please send your application by **28.02.2024** with the subject line “Application International Summer School Max-Weber-Kolleg” in one single PDF-file (max. 10 MB) to [mwk.bewerbungen@uni-erfurt.de](mailto:mwk.bewerbungen@uni-erfurt.de).

We welcome applications from doctoral and post-doctoral researchers, as well as from excellent MA students in their last year of study. If you have any further questions, please get in touch with [elisabeth.begemann@uni-erfurt.de](mailto:elisabeth.begemann@uni-erfurt.de).