

OUTLINE

Rituals structure human action and offer orientation in a world full of contingencies in a long-term perspective. Individuals and groups invent and use rituals and persistent socio-religious practices to contact and position themselves in relation to their environment, their fellow humans, other groups, or transcendent beings and ideas. Rituals are – to a certain extent – fixed courses of action that enable such communication and positioning. It is often postulated that rituals must not change in order to be effective. However, rituals are only enduring and persisting because they are transformed, re-created and adapted to new situations and changing environments.

The conference will focus on rituals, their types and qualities to examine how and with which components they determine the relationship of an individual or a collective to its environment. It inquires into the kind of relationships that are established or made possible by ritual actions between people, things (objects, images, texts, music) and the world. These relationships can, for example, establish and stabilize hierarchies, avoid conflicts, stabilize or renegotiate roles, or structure time. To this aim, the following questions arise:

- Which qualities of a ritual (symbolism, performativity, resonance, redundancy) must be present or remain so that people can experience them as helpful for their self-image and self-positioning?
- How can the effectiveness of a ritual be measured? Are gradations of effectiveness, variants of rituals conceivable and who determines whether they are valid?
- At which points in the performance of rituals are changes and adaptations possible? How can the performers implement them? Which social power relations reflect such changes?
- What kind of medial thematization do rituals experience in narratives, texts, music and image objects? How do they mediate, promote and prevent acceptance and certainty of the (still valid) effect? How do rituals themselves and their representations relate to processes of sacralization of persons, things and places?
- How and through which qualities of rituals practiced by individuals, social groups and societies can temporal boundaries (over generations), material boundaries (through symbols) or spatial boundaries (through transfer) be crossed?

The discussion of these questions is intended to open up new perspectives on the relationship of rituals and socio-religious practices to (changing) world relations of individuals or groups – not only from an anthropological or religious studies point of view, but also from a historical and sociological perspective.

VENUE: University of Graz, Main Campus

Tuesday: Aula (Main Building), Universitätsplatz 3, 1st floor

Wednesday: morning: HS 111.21, Beethovenstr. 8, 2nd floor

afternoon: SZ 15.22, ReSoWi-Zentrum, Universitätsstr. 15, Bauteil G, 2nd floor

Thursday: SZ 15.21, ReSoWi-Zentrum, Universitätsstr. 15, Bauteil A, 2nd floor

IGS „RESONANT SELF-WORLD-RELATIONS IN ANCIENT AND MODERN SOCIO-RELIGIOUS PRACTICES“

Universities of Erfurt and Graz

Coordination: Dr. Enno Friedrich, Dr. Anna-Katharina Rieger

Mozartgasse 12

8010 Graz

resonance@uni-graz.at

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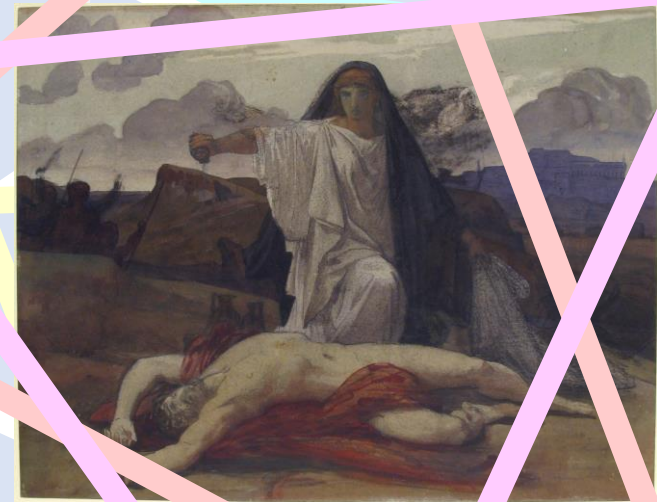
Bildquelle: Wikimedia, J.-E. Lenepveu: *Antigone Gives Token Burial To [...] Her Brother Polynices*, Metropolitan Museum of Art

DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft
FWF

Der Wissenschaftsfonds.

RITUALS AND WORLD RELATIONS: TYPES, QUALITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS

AUTUMN CONFERENCE



INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL
„RESONANT SELF-WORLD RELATIONS IN
ANCIENT AND MODERN SOCIO-RELIGIOUS PRACTICES“

11-13 October 2022

**UNIVERSITY
OF ERFURT**
Max-Weber-Kolleg

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GRAZ**

PROGRAMME

TUESDAY, 11 OCTOBER

Universitätsplatz 3, Aula (Main Building)

- 16:30 Registration**
- 17:00 Welcome of the Spokespersons of the IGS**
Wolfgang Spickermann, Irmtraud Fischer and Jörg Rüpke
- 17:15 *Ritual als Resonanzerfahrung* – Book Presentation and Discussion**
Jörg Rüpke, Erfurt
- 18:15 Break**
- 18:30 Lamentation Rites in Sophocles's *Antigone*. The Non-Negotiable in Political Space**
Claudia Horst
- 19:30 Break**
- 20:00 Dinner**

WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER – MORNING

Beethovenstr. 8, HS 111.21

- 9.00 The ABC of Ritual Literacy: An Exploration of the Power of Ritual between the Static and the Dynamic**
Gerald Klingbeil, Andrews University, MI
- 10:00 Presentations of the projects of the new doctoral researchers I**
Dina Bijelic, Lukas Jung, Nicole Navratil
- 10:45 Break**
- 11:00 Presentations of the projects of the new doctoral researchers II**
Florian Oppitz, Rupert Rainer, Emma Charlotte Weiher
- 11:45 Presentations of the Alumni*ae**
Winfried Kumpitsch, Gabriel Malli, Diana Pavel, Aaron Plattner, Ramón Soneira-Martínez, Raphaela Swadosch
- 13:15 Lunch**
- 14:00 Expert Rounds**

Mozartgasse 12, offices

WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER – AFTERNOON

Universitätsstr. 15, SZ 15.22

- 15:30 Coming to Terms with Tradition and Innovation in Mycenaean Religious Rituals? A Contextual Archaeology of Objects, Images and (Scarce) Texts from the Late Bronze Age Greek Mainland**
Melissa Vettors, Salzburg
- 16:30 Break**
- 16:45 Workshops** **SZ 15.22, SR 15.26, SR 15.39**
Irmtraud Fischer, Elena Malagoli; Marios Kamenou, Wolfgang Spickermann; Manuel Moser, Laerke Recht
- 17:45 Break**
- 18:00 Experiencing Baptism: Reconsidering the Wall Paintings in the Baptismal Room of the Domus Ecclesiae in Dura-Europos**
Richard DeMaris, Valparaíso University, IN
- 19:00 *Lucian of Samosata: On Funerals (Of Mourning)* / De luctu (*SAPERE*) – Book Presentation and Discussion**
Markus Hafner, Graz
- 19:45 Break**
- 20:00 Dinner**

THURSDAY, 13 OCTOBER

Universitätsstr. 15, SZ 15.21

- 8:30 Resonances of Interrituality: Ritual Infrastructures, Longue Durée, and the Aesthetics of Saint Veneration in Ancient Antioch and Present-day Antakya**
Jens Kreinath, Wichita State University, KS
- 9:30 Final Discussion**
- 10:15 Discussion about the Autumn Conference 2023**