International Graduate School
Conference of the International Graduate School, funded by DFG and FWF, with the first cohort of doctoral students. University of Graz in cooperation with the Max Weber Centre for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies, University of Erfurt, 16th to 18th October 2017.

Resonant Self–World Relations
in Ancient and Modern
Socio-Religious Practices
Opening Conference
at the University of Graz
16th to 18th October 2017

Venue
The conference is held at the University of Graz, in the Main Building, Universitätsplatz 3, 8010 Graz, first floor, right wing, room 01.18 (“Senatssitzungszimmer”). The signing ceremony on 17th of October will take place in the Aula.

Accommodation
Rooms for all participants are booked in the Hotel Weitzer, Grieskai 12-16, 8020 Graz (https://www.hotelweitzer.com/). You reach the hotel from the Central Station (Graz Hauptbahnhof) by tramline 1, 3, 6 or 7 to “Südtiroler Platz/ Kunsthaus”. From there, turn right and go along the Mur, past Hotel Wiesler, and another 70 metres to the hotel “Das Weitzer”. Tram tickets are available at ticket machines outside or inside the tram, € 2.20 per person. Otherwise try to share a taxi with your colleagues when arriving at Graz Central Station. Further information at http://verkehrs-auskunft.verbundlinie.at/bin/query.exe?L=vs_stvg.

When arriving by plane, you can use the airport shuttle service run by Grazer Verkehrsbetriebe. Get off at Griesplatz and go along Griesgasse to the hotel, € 2.20 per person. Further information at www.flughafen-graz.at (“Taxi & Shuttle”).

From the hotel to the venue
You can walk to the bus stop „Gebietskrankenkasse“ on the eastern side of the Mur and take the bus no. 31 directed to „Uni/ ReSoWi“, where you get off and, crossing the campus, arrive at the main building. Or you may walk to the Hauptplatz, take either tramline 4 or 5 to Andritz, getting off at “Keplerbrücke”, where you can take the bus no. 63 directed to “St. Peter Schulzentrum”, bus stop “Universität” (right in front of the main building), or bus no. 58 directed to “Häumtriech/Botanischer Garten”, getting off at “Mozartgasse”. Other courses check at http://verkehrs-auskunft.verbundlinie.at/bin/query.exe?L=vs_stvg.

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Outline of the conference’s aim

With this conference the International Graduate School “Resonant Self—World Relations in Ancient and Modern Socio-Religious Practices” starts its training programme with the first cohort of doctoral students.

The aim of the introductory conference is to provide a base for the research projects comparing the self—world relations that are established or reflected and sustained in social and especially religious practices in Mediterranean antiquity with those in the contemporary (late) modern period. By combining and confronting different methodological traditions – from Sociology, Biblical Studies and Classics – and different periods, the International Graduate School offers new perspectives for research in multiple ways.

Ritual practices have always been a crucial element of cultural research, for they provide a key to understanding differences in cultural belief systems and social orders. Thus, the differences and changes within circum-Mediterranean antiquity have been reconstructed as the differences between polytheistic and monotheistic rituals and beliefs, urban (polis) societies and autocracies. The central assumption of the research projects is now that these ritual practices have to be taken much more seriously and need to be analysed and understood as socio-religious practices establishing highly significant and particular relationships between self and world. They claim that in those ritual practices, particular persons, objects or places are endowed with a power that makes them resonant, i.e., responsive to the embodied subject, in particular ways. Processes of sacralisation configure and stabilise this kind of ‘resonance’.

This allows for new contextualisations of what have hitherto been considered isolated practices relating to objects, bodies, stories, space and the transcendent realm, but what is increasingly considered to be based in fundamental cognitive processes and expressive forms equivalent to intellectual beliefs.

Participants: Doctoral Students and Faculty Members of the IGS from the Universities of Erfurt and Graz (https://dk-resonance.uni-graz.at/de/das-doktoratskolleg/faculty/)

Guest Speakers: Teresa Morgan (Oxford) and Hubert Knoblauch (Berlin)