

# Beyond Church and State

## Frameworks of Ritualised Identification in Long Late Antiquity

3–4 July 2025, Freie Universität Berlin

THURSDAY 3 JULY	FRIDAY 4 JULY
<b>9.30:</b> Registration & Refreshments	<b>9.30:</b> Refreshments
<b>9.45:</b> Welcome & Introduction	<b>9.45: RITUALISED FRAMEWORKS OF COMMUNAL LIFE</b>
<b>10.00: IMPERIAL CEREMONIES IN NON-IMPERIAL CONTEXTS</b>	<b>Conor Whately</b> (University of Winnipeg): <i>Rituals and Roman Rank-and-File in Late Antiquity</i>
<b>Audrey Becker</b> (Université de Franche-Comté): <i>Becoming Emperor: Gestures and Political Ideology in Imperial Investiture Ceremonies</i>	<b>Hannah-Lena Hagemann</b> (Universität Hamburg): <i>'Do (Not) Pray Behind the Innovators': Ritual Prayer, Political Allegiance, and Community Formation in Early Islam</i>
<b>Vladimir Ivanovici</b> (University of Lugano): <i>Specular Authority: Episcopal Ceremonials as Reflections of Imperial and Divine Power in Early Byzantium</i>	<b>11.15:</b> Refreshments
<b>11.30:</b> Refreshments	<b>11.45: CROSSING RELIGIOUS BOUNDARIES</b>
<b>12.00: AUTHORITY, RITUAL, AND RULER-SUBJECT DYNAMICS</b>	<b>Maureen Attali</b> (Université Paris Nanterre): <i>Jews Visiting Tombs in Late Antiquity: From Roman Burial Practices to the Christian Cult of the Saints</i>
<b>Christian Rollinger</b> (Universität Trier): <i>The Two Suns of Empire. Church, State, and Ritual Conflict in Long Late Antiquity</i>	<b>Matthieu Pignot</b> (Université de Namur): <i>The Power of Conversion Rituals in Late Antique Italian Hagiography (c. 300–750 AD)</i>
<b>Damián Fernández</b> (Northern Illinois University): <i>'An Inquest before the Masses': Assemblies, Gatherings, and the Administration of Justice in Post Imperial Hispania</i>	<b>13.15:</b> Lunch
<b>13.30:</b> Lunch	<b>14.45: CEREMONIAL MAGIC AND MAGICAL CEREMONIES</b>
<b>15.00: CEREMONIAL REPUTATIONS AND REPUTATIONAL CEREMONIES</b>	<b>Joseph Emanuel Sanzo</b> (Università Ca'Foscari Venezia): <i>Liturgy as Magic: Performance, Materiality, and Protection in Late Antiquity</i>
<b>Michael Wuk</b> (Freie Universität Berlin): <i>Warring Alongside the Gods: Swearing Oaths and International Relations in Late Antiquity</i>	<b>Ágnes Tóthé Mihálykó</b> (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften): <i>The Church as Courtroom: Accessing Divine Justice in the Context of the Eucharist</i>
<b>Julia Winnebeck</b> (Universität Bonn): <i>A Bitter Pill to Swallow: The Religious and Socio-Legal Functions of Penance in Merovingian Gaul (c. 500–800)</i>	<b>16.30:</b> Response
<b>16.30:</b> Refreshments	<b>Finish by 17.00:</b> Refreshments
<b>17.00: RITUALS AND BUILT ENVIRONMENTS</b>	<b>20.00:</b> Dinner
<b>Max Ritter</b> (University of Silesia in Katowice): <i>From Groundbreaking to Inauguration: Rituals in Byzantine Building Culture between Sacred and Secular Realms</i>	
<b>Harry Mawdsley</b> (University of Durham): <i>Retained, Repurposed, or Relinquished? Public Entertainment Venues and Ceremonial Spaces in the Post-Roman West</i>	
<b>20.00:</b> Dinner	

Freie Universität Berlin



European Union Horizon  
Europe research and  
innovation programme/  
Marie Skłodowska-Curie  
grant agreement 101060038  
(RITPASS)

Location: Room 2202, Boltzmannstr. 3, 14195

Organiser: Michael Wuk. Contact: mwuk@lincoln.ac.uk