

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

Freie Universität



Berlin



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Location: Room 2202, Boltzmannstr. 3, 14195

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