GENDERING ASCETIC KNOWLEDGE IN CHRISTIANITY, JUDAISM, AND ISLAM

INTRA- AND INTERRELIGIOUS TRANSFERS AND TRANSFORMATIONS

International Conference
October 22–23, 2015
Freie Universität Berlin
Methodological Toolkits
Chair: Blossom Stefaniw

10.00–10.30 Almut-Barbara Renger, Tudor Sala, Alexandra Stellmacher | Gendering, Ungendering, and Transgendering Ascetic Knowledge: Prolegomena

10.30–11.00 Björn Krondorfer | Can Late Antiquity and Postmodernity Speak to Each Other? Taking the Leap with Critical Men’s Studies

11.00–11.30 Discussion

11.30–12.15 Coffee Break

Gendering and Transgendering Ascetic Knowledge among Jews and Muslims
Chair: Lennart Lehmhaus

12.15–12.45 Ada Rapoport-Albert | The Integrity of the Female as Body and Its Implications for Ascetic Practice in Rabbinic Judaism

12.45–13.15 Alexandra Cuffel | Holy/Dangerous Women: Transgendering and Imagining Women’s Spiritual Leadership among Jews and Muslims in the Middle East

13.15–13.45 Discussion

13.45–15.00 Lunch

Transgendering and Ungendering Ascetic Knowledge in Late Antique Christianities
Chair: Roberto Alciati

15.00–15.30 Kate Cooper, Conrad Leyser | The Thecla Tradition and the Transgendering of Ascetic Knowledge: Late Fourth-Century Asia Minor and North Italy

15.30–16.00 Christiane Zimmermann | Christian Women and Asceticism: A Case Study on Ancient Anatolia

16.00–16.30 Discussion

16.30–17.15 Coffee Break

Public Lecture
Chair: Almut-Barbara Renger

17.00–18.30 Susanna Elm | Bodies of Knowledge: Augustine and the Extra-ordinary

18.30 Dinner
Gendering Ascetic Knowledge in Byzantium
Chair: Roberto Alciati

10.00–10.30  Stavroula Constantinou | Monastic “Gynealogy”: The Maternal-Feminine Structure of Byzantine Women’s Asceticism
10.30–10.45  Discussion
10.45–11.15  Coffee Break

Ungendering Ascetic Knowledge in Early and Medieval Islam
Chair: Hannelies Koloska

11.15–11.45  Christopher Melchert | Early Female Muslim Renunciants (8th-9th Centuries CE)
11.45–12.15  Sara Sviri | “You and your husband are both on the same rung”: Extra-ordinary Women in Early Islamic Mysticism, Their Tales, Visions and Relationships
12.15–12.45  Discussion
12.45–14.00  Lunch

Transgendering Ascetic Knowledge in Twentieth-Century Islam
Chair: Almut-Barbara Renger

14.00–14.30  Angelika Neuwirth | Constructions of Martyrdom: A Case Study on Mahmud Darwish
14.30–14.45  Discussion
14.45  Final Discussion
Premodern asceticism in Christianity, Judaism, and Islam has traditionally been mapped out with clear-cut boundaries separating religions, cultures, and genders. Processes of intra- and interreligious transfer and transformation have been largely ignored.

The conference focuses on the role of gender in personal and impersonal transfers of knowledge between teachers and students, institutions and society, and different religions and cultures, in order to better understand the historical processes of knowledge transformation in asceticism. Invited speakers will apply this rethinking of gendered knowledge, along with the latest theoretical insights from gender and body studies, to crucial examples of asceticism in the premodern world. Our goal is to shed light on the interconnectedness of gender, ascetic training, and the transfer and transformation of religious knowledge both within and among the three monotheistic religions of the Mediterranean world from antiquity to the dawn of modernity.

We will explore these issues as well as how ascetic knowledge changed when it was transferred into different religions and cultures, focusing especially on the continuities, transformations, and discontinuities in how gender was conceptualized. We also ask how and to what degree processes of knowledge transfer and adaptation in these new religious and cultural environments reflect back on earlier traditions and what impact, if any, this reflection had on new traditions.

Seminarzentrum Room L 116
Otto-von-Simson-Str. 26
www.sfb-episteme.de