

FB Geschichts- und Kulturwissenschaften, Ägyptologisches Seminar

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EXPLORATIONS
IN COPTOLOGY

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The Veneration of Saints in Hymns from Late Antique Egypt

Abstract: The rise of the cult of saints in late antique Egypt has been carefully documented by Arietta Papaconstantinou in her seminal book. She has collected evidence for various forms of devotion: feasts, private invocations, shrines, and naming practices, and explored the spread of their veneration in the *chora*. But how did the saints enter the official liturgy of the church and especially its hymnography? This can be best followed through the extensive corpus of liturgical papyri, which show that the inclusion of saints in the local liturgies of the *chora* followed its own logic, different from what we can observe for other forms of devotion. How did the practice of singing hymns to saints unfold over the first millennium? Which saints were venerated and how were they addressed? How did these patterns relate to other cultic forms and to the hymnography in other parts of the Eastern Mediterranean? In my presentation I will explore the contribution of liturgical papyri to understanding of the cult of saints in late antique Egypt.

Thursday 27 May, 6:00 p.m. CET, via Webex

