

Newsletter “Beyond Canon” – July / August 2019

Dear Fellows and Friends,

July was quite a busy month for us in Regensburg with a conference, a workshop, wonderful guests and papers at our Fellows’ Lunches – and all the usual efforts at the end of an academic year. Before we head off to our summer break, we want to give you a brief update about our Centre.

1. Review: Activities of our Group in July

On the first day of July, our **Centre celebrated its official opening** with our [International Conference “Extracanonical Traditions”](#). With more than 20 speakers from 10 countries (amongst them 14 Fellows of our Centre), we gained impressive insights into the development of the Holy Land into a “sacred topography” (or even a “sacred geology”) through texts, rituals, and material culture. The proceedings will be published in the "Studien und Texte zu Antike und Christentum" series at Mohr Siebeck, Tübingen. We have attached Jan Bremmer’s summary and a few impressions from our Conference – hoping that you will enjoy the pictures!

From July 18-20, our Centre co-organised the [International Workshop "The History of the Byzantine Liturgy of the Hours and the Horologion"](#) with **Harald Buchinger’s Chair for Liturgical Studies** – with an outstanding list of participants. The workshop began with major methodological presentations by Stig Frøyshov, Stefano Parenti, and Georgi Parpulov, as well as individual texts presented by Natalia Smelova, Daniel Galadza, Gabriel Radle, Ramez Mikhail, and Alexander Lingas. The intense discussions over three full days emphasized the need to continue editing and publishing sources of the Horologion, and to work on a checklist of the earliest Byzantine Rite Horologion manuscripts, of which there are currently nineteen known manuscripts copied before 1100 CE.

In addition to these two major events, we heard a series of very interesting papers here during the last few weeks:

- Yii-Jan Lin (Yale): [“What is Creative Philology?”](#) (July 11)
- Reza Akbari (Imam Sadiq University, Iran): ["The God of the Philosophers – The God of the Holy Scriptures: Muslim and Christian Approaches"](#) (July 12, on invitation by Prof. Dr. Thomas Schärftl-Trendel)
- Haim Weiss (Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel): [" 'That Old Man Shames Us': Reading Old Age in Rabbinic Literature"](#) (July 23)

2. Preview: Activities in Winter Semester

We are currently working on our schedule for the Fellows' Lunches from October until February, with a paper almost every week so far. You will get the completed programme with our next newsletter issue in September.

Apart from that, we are organising two major events for the upcoming months:

The international workshop „The Apocryphal Acts of the Apostles in Late Antiquity: Tradition and Innovation” will take place from November 28-30, 2019 at our *Centre for Advanced Studies*

with participation of: Carl Johan Berglund (Uppsala), Jan Bremmer (*Beyond Canon* Fellow), Istvan Czachesz (Tromsö), Sible de Blaauw (Nijmegen), Kylie Crabbe (ACU Melbourne), Igor Dorfmann-Lazarev (*Beyond Canon* Fellow), Janet Downie (*Beyond Canon* Fellow), Mari Mamyán (*Beyond Canon* Fellow), Andreas Merkt (Regensburg), Tobias Nicklas (Regensburg), Cosmin Pricop (Bucharest), Jens Schröter (HU Berlin), Janet E. Spittler (*Beyond Canon* Fellow), Klazina Staat and Julie Van Pelt (Ghent), Luigi Walt (*Beyond Canon* Fellow), Joseph Verheyden (Leuven), Israel Muñoz Gallarte (Córdoba), Dariya Syroyid (Lvivs`ka Oblast), and Thomas J. Kraus (Zürich).

The international conference “Sharing Myths, Texts and Sanctuaries in the South Caucasus: Apocryphal Themes in Literatures, Arts and Cults From Late Antiquity to the Middle Ages” (organised by our Fellow Igor Dorfmann-Lazarev) will take place from February 25-27, 2020 in Regensburg

with participation of: Alikber Alikberov (Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow), Tereza Amryan (Yerevan State University), Nestan Chkhikvadze (National Centre of Ancient Manuscripts, Tbilisi), Tork Dalalyan (Institute of Oriental Studies, Yerevan), Robin Darling Young (Catholic University of America), Patrick Donabedian (Université de Provence, Aix-en-Provence), Igor Dorfmann-Lazarev (*Beyond Canon* Fellow), Jost Gippert (Universität Frankfurt), Zaruhi Hakobyan (Yerevan State University), Irma Karaulashvili (Ilia State University), Sergio La Porta (California State University, Fresno), Mari Mamyán (*Beyond Canon* Fellow), Lilit Mikayelyan (Yerevan State University), Antonio Panaino (University of Bologna), Tamara Pataridze and Véronique Somers (Université Catholique de Louvain), Hamlet Petrossyan (Yerevan State University), Stephen Rapp (Sam Houston State University, Huntsville), Michael E. Stone (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Arusiak Tamrazian (National Institute of Ancient Manuscripts of Armenia / Matenadaran, Yerevan), Abraham Terian (St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, Armonk, NY), Kevin Tuite (Université de Montréal), Edda Vardanyan (Yerevan State University).

3. Language courses for our Fellows

Our announcement of possible language courses in the last newsletter issue found a tremendous echo. In the meantime, two of our Fellows consented to teach courses: Tudor Sala will offer a **Coptic course** in December and Mari Mamyan an **Armenian course** next year.

4. Coordination office closed from August 15 – September 2

While for many of you the new academic year will start in a few weeks, our break is yet to come: Our **coordination office will be closed from August 15 to September 2**. Your e-mails will be answered as soon as possible once we have returned from our holiday.

Our next newsletter will appear in September. We wish you a pleasant time until then!

Best wishes,

Tobias Nicklas, Harald Buchinger, Andreas Merkt,

Ulrike Linder-Windbichler and Stephanie Hallinger

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