Interdisciplinary Conference, Regensburg, 2–5 July 2019

EXTRACANONICAL TRADITIONS AND THE HOLY LAND

Texts, Rituals, and Material Culture in Late Antique Palestine

Centre for Advanced Studies “Beyond Canon”
DFG-Kollegforschungsgruppe „Jenseits des Kanons“ (FOR 2770)
The Holy Land owes its unique importance for late antique Christianity to the biblical traditions connected with its places. Nevertheless, also extra-canonical texts contributed significantly to shaping the sacred landscape. Although the creation of the Christian Holy Land can be described as the mapping of the biblical territory, not only do some of the early local traditions appear to be connected with apocryphal sources; it is particularly noteworthy that throughout and well beyond late antiquity, the differentiation and development of the revered geography is heavily influenced by extra-canonical documents that complement or occasionally even contradict biblical indications. Along with the identification of local traditions, their translation, accumulation, conscious conflation or unconscious confusion occurs. Since the use of the holy sites consists in bodily performance and communicative symbolical representation of authoritative tradition, a complex interaction between texts, rituals, and material culture is to be observed. Places and realia can be real, historical, imagined or invented; competing religious traditions within Christianity and in the wider interreligious framework of post-biblical Judaism and early Islam contribute to the complexity.

Unlike the rabbinic concept of graded sanctity centred around the Temple and the city of Jerusalem, a Christian understanding of the Holy Land seems to be connected primarily with figures from biblical and apocryphal narratives. The programme of the envisaged conference will therefore be organised along biblical and parabiblical figures: patriarchs, kings, prophets and other individuals from the Hebrew Bible, Jesus and his family, and not least apostles and other early followers.

The conference is organised by the DFG-supported Centre for Advanced Studies “Beyond the Canon: Heterotopias of Religious Authority in Late Antique Christianity” in cooperation with the Centre for the Study of Christianity of the Hebrew University Jerusalem.
PROGRAMME

TUESDAY, 2 JULY

14.00 Opening of the “Centre Beyond Canon”: Prof. Dr. Udo Hebel, President of the Universität Regensburg
14.30 Tobias Nicklas: Opening Speech
15.00 Coffee
15.30 Günter Stemberger: “David in Rabbinic Tradition”
16.30 Christoph Markschies: “Das Heilige Land in den Prologen, Hypothesen und sonstigen Beigaben zu den antiken Ausgaben der kanonisch gewordenen Evangelien”
Reception

WEDNESDAY, 3 JULY

09.00 Andreas Merkt: “Fool on the Hill? Peter on Mount Tabor and the Paradoxes of Material Religion”
09.45 Tobias Nicklas: “Traditions about John the Baptist”
10.30 Coffee
11.00 Tony Burke: “Apocryphal Nazareth: The Childhood Home of Jesus in the Infancy Gospel of Thomas”
11.45 Thomas Karmann: “Die Geburtshöhle zu Betlehem, das Elternhaus Mariens und Panthera als Vorfahr Jesu. Außerkanonisches zur Herkunft Christi bei antiken Autoren aus Palästina”
12.30 Lunch
14.30 Coffee
15.00 Ora Limor: “Extra-Canonical Holy Places and their Fate”
15.45 Harald Buchinger: “Extracanonical Traditions in the Stational Liturgy of Jerusalem”
16.30 Coffee
17.00 Stephen Shoemaker: “Mary between Bible and Qur’an: Apocrypha, Archaeology, and the Memory of Mary in Late Ancient Palestine”
17.45 Ute Verstegen: “Marienorte in ihrer materiellen Ausprägung”
THURSDAY, 4 JULY

9.00  Jan Dochhorn: “Adams Grab auf Golgatha: Eine altkirchliche Haggada”
10.30  Coffee
11.00  Jörg Frey: “James, the Hero of Judaeo-Christianity”
11.45  Tamar Pataridze: “Vita Zosimi / History of the Rechabites”
12.30  Lunch
14.30  Coffee
15.00  Oded Irshai: “Eusebius of Caesarea's Sermon on the Occasion of the Consecration of the New Basilica in Tyre (315 CE): Sources and Non-Canonical Inspiration”
15.45  Osnat Emily Rance: “Holy Cartography Engraved with Blood: A New Appraisal of Eusebius of Caesarea’s ‘Martyrs of Palestine’”
16.30  Mari Mamyan: “Jews in the Armenian (Versions of) Apocryphal Gospels (the Gospel of Nicodemus and Infancy Gospel)”
17.30  Guided City Tour

FRIDAY, 5 JULY

9.00  Eyal Ben Eliyahu: “Beyond the Texts: The Spatial Perspective”
10.30  Coffee
11.00  Sergey Minov: “Story of Paul the Priest”
11.45  Lorne Zelyck: “Jericho Traditions in Early Christian Literature”
12.30  Lunch
14.30  Jan Bremmer: Concluding Perspectives