VENUE
CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES
"BEYOND CANON,"
UNIVERSITÄT REGENSBURG
UNIVERSITÄTSSTRASSE 31
SAMMELGEBÄUDE, SGLG 314

IMPRESSUM

Organisation: Centre for Advanced Studies “Beyond Canon,”
Universität Regensburg
93040 Regensburg

PD Dr. Igor Dorfmann-Lazarev, Research Fellow
Prof. Dr. Tobias Nicklas, Director general
Prof. Dr. Harald Buchinger, Director
Prof. Dr. Andreas Merkt, Director

Information and registration: stephanie.hallinger@ur.de

Photo: NASA image of the Caucasus region (© Jacques Descloitres, MODIS Land Rapid Response Team)

International Conference, Regensburg, 25-27 February 2020

SHARING MYTHS, TEXTS AND SANCTUARIES IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

Apocryphal Themes in Literatures, Arts and Cults from Late Antiquity to the Middle Ages

Centre for Advanced Studies “Beyond Canon,”
DFG-Kollegforschungsgruppe „Jenseits des Kanons“ (FOR 2770)
The aim of this conference is to inaugurate the study of the South Caucasus regarded as an organic cultural space. Over millennia, numerous peoples that have inhabited this region have preserved, or have gradually acquired, profound affinities. From the eighth century and until recent times, the South Caucasus was characterised by a highly discontinuous settlement of various ethnic, linguistic and religious groups across its expanses: Zoroastrians, Christians and Muslims; Abkhazians, Armenians, Caucasian Albanians, Georgians, Kurds and Turcic peoples lived in close neighbourhood with each other and with multiple, numerically smaller peoples of the Caucasian highlands. With a remarkable steadiness, various peoples occupied adjacent defiles or even inhabited diverse climatic zones within a single valley, as well as building neighbouring quarters of a single town. Multilingualism and close familiarity with the neighbours’ traditions were essential features of the South Caucasus.

Today, however, the South Caucasus is intersected by multiple state borders, a number of which remain permanently closed. These borders divide nations that during the twentieth century have largely lost their multi-ethnic and multilingual character. As a consequence, neighbouring cultures of the South Caucasus have often been treated in scholarship—not only to study the endurance of various motifs in time, but also to reconsider the multi-ethnic and multilingual character of the ‘lived religion’ of the South Caucasus. In their fluidity, they reflect protracted interactions between different peoples and blending of their different religious and mythological worlds. They allow us, therefore, not only to study the endurance of various motifs in time, but also to reconstruct bridges across linguistic and religious divides of the South Caucasus.

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP
SHARING MYTHS, TEXTS AND SANCTUARIES IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

Apocryphal Themes in Literatures, Arts and Cults from Late Antiquity to the Middle Ages

TUESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY
9.00 T. Nicklas and I. Dorfmann-Lazarev, Welcoming Address and Introduction
I. Apocrypha in Exegesis, in Visions and in Music
9.20 Michael E. Stone, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem: ‘The Second and Third Falls of Adam and Eve’
10.10 Jost Gippert, Frankfurt University: ‘Protevangelium of James in Georgian’
11.00 Coffee break
12.20 Mari Mamyany, Universität Regensburg: ‘The Armenian Infancy Gospel’
13.10 Lunch

II. The Presence of the Holy Land in the South Caucasus
14.30 Nestan Chkhikvadze, National Centre of Ancient Manuscripts, Tbilisi: ‘Les apocryphes dans les collections géorgiennes de la tradition de Jérusalem’
15.20 Coffee break
18.00 Dinner

WEDNESDAY, 26 FEBRUARY

III. Cultural Blending in Legends and Rituals
9.20 Alikber Aliibev, Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow: ‘Legends about the Wall of Iskander in Eastern Caucasus’
11.00 Coffee break
12.20 Irma Karaulashvili, Ilia State University, Tbilisi: ‘Stories Based on the Abgar Legend as Components of Medieval Armenian, (Albanian) and Georgian Narrative Sources’
13.10 Lunch
15.20 Coffee break

IV. Sacred Space and Shared Shrines (1)
15.50 Robin Darling Young, The Catholic University of America: ‘The Construction and the Use of the Hmayil (Enchanting Scroll) in Armenia During the Early Modern Period’
16.40 Tereza Amryan, Yerevan State University: ‘On Some Sanctuaries Shared by Yazidis and Armenians in the Armenian Highlands’
18.00 Dinner

Thursday, 27 February

IV. Sacred Space and Shared Shrines (2)
09.20 Tork Dalalyan, Institute of Oriental Studies, Yerevan: ‘Shrines Dedicated to Maštoc and Shared by Armenians, Yazidis and Muslims (With a Special Attention Drawn to the Regions of Naxżawan, Balu and Amarās)’
10.10 Kevin Tuite, Université de Montréal: ‘The Cult of St George and the Creation of Sacred Space in Svaneti and in the Georgian Highlands’
11.00 Coffee break

V. Visual Apocrypha and Apocrypha in the Arts
12.20 Edda Vardanyan, Yerevan State University: ‘Apocryphal and Mythological Motifs in the Vine Scroll Frieze of the Church of the Holy Cross at Alt’amar (10th c.)’
13.10 Lunch
14.30 Zarouhi Hakobyan, Yerevan State University: ‘St Thekla: the Iconographic Tradition and the Testimonies of Her Veneration in Late Antique and Early Medieval Armenia’
15.20 Coffee break
15.50 Lilit Mikayelyan, Yerevan State University: ‘Beyond the Canon: Archaic and Polyethnic Traditions in the Sculpted Images of Fabulous Creatures in Armenia and Georgia (10th–14th cc.)’
16.40 Michael E. Stone, Concluding remarks
18.00 Dinner