

Call for Applications: International Spring School

“The Material Dimension of Religions: Transcultural Approaches to Epigraphical and Archaeological Sources from Antiquity to the Middle Ages”

Dates: 5–9 March 2018

Location: University of Goettingen, Germany

Organizer: SFB 1136 Education and Religion (University of Goettingen)

Participation costs: no tuition fee; accommodation costs fully covered

Queries and applications: springschool.sfb1136@uni-goettingen.de.

Website: www.sfb1136.uni-goettingen.de.

Notwithstanding the importance of literary texts, the practice of religious cults and rituals is investigated through the evidence of material culture, from inscriptions, paintings, and statues to objects and buildings. However, it is challenging to cope with fragile, scattered, and often fragmentary documents, to study their settings, and to scrutinize their impact on worship and everyday life. Thus, the issue of the materiality of religions merits a scholarly treatment on its own.

The *Material Dimension of Religions* Spring School is aimed at graduate students and intends to examine theories and methods of investigating religions through epigraphical and archaeological sources in a transcultural and transhistorical approach. The schedule includes seven workshops on Ancient Greece, Imperial Rome, Late Antique Judaism, Early Christianity, Classical Islam, Christian Middle Ages, and Jerusalem as a transcultural place, and four keynote lectures on Greek epigraphy and religion, religion in the public space, the materiality of texts, and the city of Jerusalem as an example of coexistence and interaction of the materialities of religions.

The spring school will provide an intensive training for interpreting non-literary sources in a historical perspective. The participants will learn how to study religions from inscriptions and material culture. Furthermore, looking at the topography of cities like Rome and Jerusalem, the participants will increase the awareness of processes of interactions and exchanges between religious traditions in antiquity.

The academic programme consists of:

- study in interactive workshop groups; and
- plenary keynote lectures.

The workshops instructors and keynote lecturers are leading scholars in the field:

Greek Religion and Epigraphy: Eftychia Stavrianopoulou (Heidelberg)

Roman Religion and Epigraphy: Nicole Belayche (Paris)

Multilingualism and Inscriptions in Palestina: Werner Eck (Köln)

Christian Archaeology: Olof Brandt (Rome)

Late Antique Judaism; Jerusalem: Jürgen Zangenberg (Leiden)

Islam and Arabic Epigraphy: Ilkka Lindstedt (Helsinki)

Medieval Christian Epigraphy: Flavia de Rubeis (Venice)

Material Culture and the Practices of Religion: Thomas Meier (Heidelberg)

Religion in Public Spaces: Jörg Rüpke (Erfurt)

Social programme

Social activities will be arranged during the spring school. These include informal tours in the cities of Goettingen and Kassel.

Organiser

The organising committee is formed by Peter Gemeinhardt, Karin Gottschalk, and Irene Salvo. The Collaborative Research Centre *Bildung und Religion* is based at the University of Goettingen and is funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG). It explores the interplay between education and religion in ancient and medieval Mediterranean cultures in a comparative perspective. You can find more information about the research projects here: www.sfb1136.uni-goettingen.de.

Practicalities

The spring school will take place at the University of Goettingen, Germany, from the 5th to the 9th of March 2018. Participants will be expected to attend all sessions. The main language will be English.

Accommodation of successful applicants will be fully covered. A contribution to travel costs may be awarded to students who lack other funding opportunities upon application at the SFB 1136 Bildung und Religion.

How to apply

We welcome applications from graduate students of Classics, History, Archaeology, Theology, Judaic Studies, Arabic Studies, and related disciplines.

Preliminary requirements:

- a basic knowledge of at least one of the following languages: ancient Greek, Latin, Jewish Aramaic, Hebrew, Arabic.
- an interest at university level in history of religions, archaeology, or epigraphy.

Please send by Friday the 24th of November a full CV and an application letter in English or in German (max. 600 words) explaining your motivation for participating in the Spring School to: springschool.sfb1136@uni-goettingen.de.