

Friday, 10th of November 2017

1st Session, Chair: Katharina Waldner

09:00–09:45 | **Intellectualizing Religion in the  
Cities of the Empire**

Heidi Wendt

09:45–10:30 | **Faith in the City: The Concept and  
Practice of Pistis/Fides in Cities of  
the Late Roman Empire**

Teresa Morgan

10:30–10:45 | **Coffee break**

10:45–11:30 | **Religion and the City:  
Alternatives to Civic Religion**

Jörg Rüpke

11:30–12:30 | **Final discussion**

chaired by Rubina Raja and

Jörg Rüpke

12:45 | **Lunch**

## ORGANISATION

Prof. Dr. Rubina Raja

Prof. Dr. Jörg Rüpke

Dr. Dr. Emiliano Rubens Urciuoli

## CONTACT

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## FURTHER INFORMATION

[www.uni-erfurt.de/max-weber-kolleg/forschungsgruppen-und-stellen/forschungsgruppen-am-max-weber-kolleg/the-city-in-the-history-of-religion](http://www.uni-erfurt.de/max-weber-kolleg/forschungsgruppen-und-stellen/forschungsgruppen-am-max-weber-kolleg/the-city-in-the-history-of-religion)

## THE CONFERENCE IS FUNDED BY

Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies (University of Erfurt, Germany)

UrbNet: Center for Urban Network Evolutions (University of Aarhus, Denmark)

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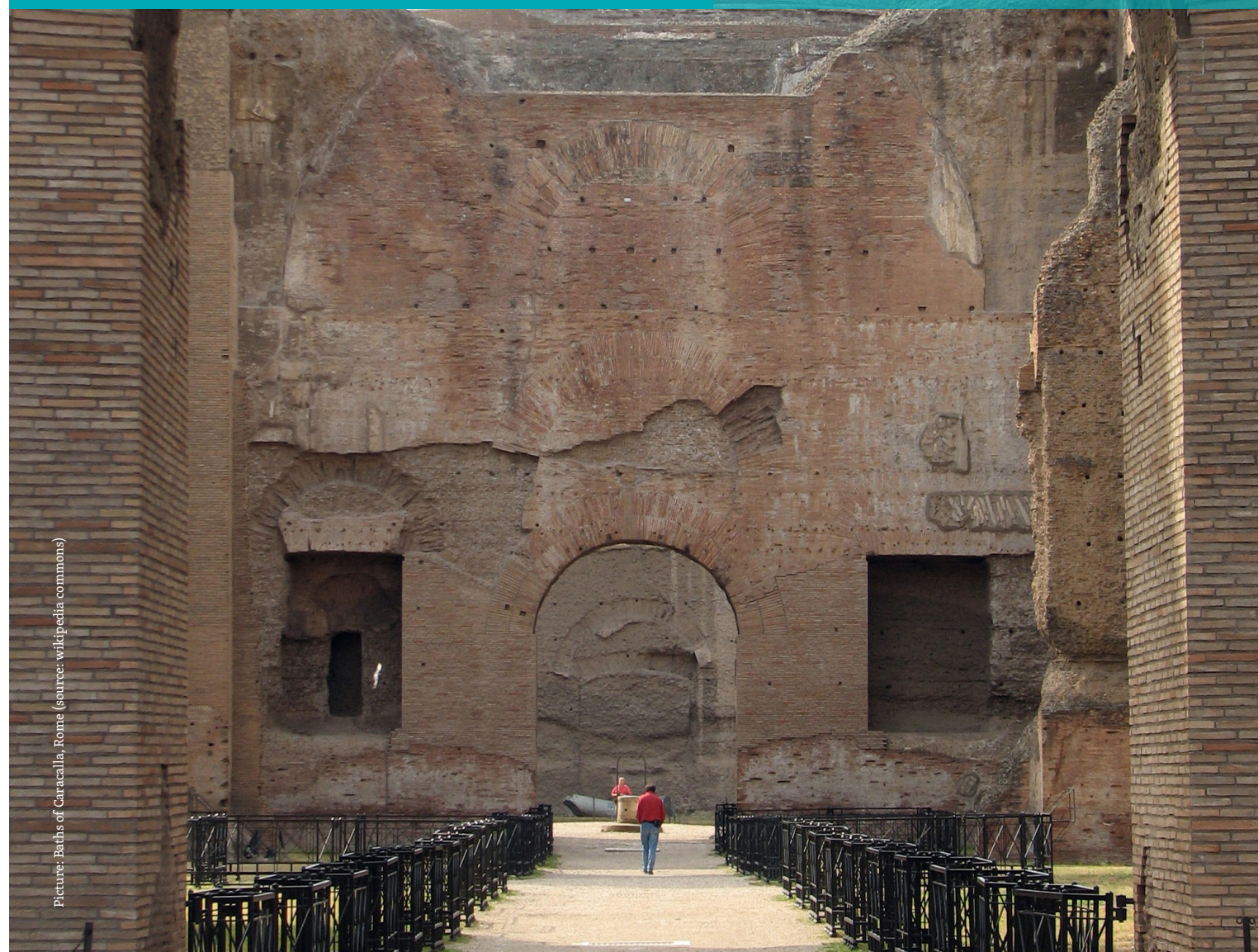


International conference:

# “Urban Religion in Late Antiquity”

8th–10th November | Augustinerkloster, Erfurt

Picture: Baths of Caracalla, Rome (source: wikipedia commons)



The role of religion in creating socio-spatial and temporal order in cities has been an important topic in research: from ceremonial centers and cities of Meso- and South America through not only Near Eastern and ancient Mediterranean, but also Chinese, Indian and medieval European cities. Historical research has reconstructed such functions in many instances, and recent sociological studies, above all research on migration, have inquired into processes of inclusion and exclusion, tolerance and competition caused or experienced by immigrating minorities that proffer different or identical religious identities. Yet some questions still need to be tackled. How is religion used by different agents to appropriate and 'craft' urban space over time? How do religious practices and imaginaries produce a transcending global that is different from other projections of the trans-urban? And how does the urban context change different or even competing practices of religious communication and the ensuing forms of sacralization? In addressing these questions, we do not suppose an easy evolutionary path. We rather assume high variability in the mutually productive relationship between the developments of urban-based religious practices and the developments of cities being confronted with, and building on, agents who use religious practices in different phases of the history of religion.

Within the wider framework of a larger comparative approach, this conference aims to focus on these processes in the historical context of the advanced imperial and late antique Mediterranean space (2nd century CE–8th century CE). This is a period of sustained change and ever new appropriation of urban spaces by ever different agents within clearly articulated and monumentalized built environments. We are interested in the individuals' making of urban space and in the processes of groupings following on, or directed against, such built environments. We are looking for archaeological evidence not only of new structures, but also of rebuilding, ignoring or actively avoiding spaces, as well as of creating

coherent or dis-coherent urban spaces by patterns of movements or marking in religious terms. We are searching for textual evidence for such strategies, as well as for imaginations of urban spaces, ritual practices, religious narratives or norms of re-interpreting and transcending them. We are as much interested in the mutual constitution as in the mutual critique of the urban and the religious in a global horizon.

## PROGRAM

### Wednesday, 8th of November 2017

**14.00** | **Welcome and introduction**  
by Rubina Raja and Jörg Rüpke

### 1st Session, Chair: Asuman Lätzer-Lasar

**14:15–15:00** | **The Children of Cain: Ecclesiastical Authority, Political Economy, and the Topography of Religion in Later Roman Empire**  
Clifford Ando

**15:00–15:45** | **Citification and Beyond: Looking for Cityspaces in Augustine's City of God**  
Emiliano Rubens Urciuoli

**15:45–16:15** | **Coffee break**

### 2nd Session, Chair: Emiliano Rubens Urciuoli

**16:15–17:00** | **Urban Religion in Late Antique Antiochia-on-the-Chrysorroas-Formerly-Called-Gerasa**  
Rubina Raja

**17:00–17:45** | **"The Gates of Houses, Courtyards, Towns, and Cities are all One" (Talmud Yoma): The City as Jewish Ritual Space in Late Antiquity**  
Charlotte Elisheva Fonrobert

**17:45–18:30** | **The Urbanisation of Sacred Spaces in Roman and Byzantine Syria**  
Michael Blömer

**19:00** | **Dinner**

### Thursday, 9th of November 2017

### 1st Session, Chair: Michael Blömer

**09:00–09:45** | **Pagan and Christian Responses to Crisis: Rituals of Thanksgiving in late Third and Fourth Century Rome**  
Michele Renee Salzman

**09:45–10:30** | **Citification of Magna Mater in Late Antiquity?**  
Asuman Lätzer-Lasar

**10:30–11:00** | **Coffee break**

**11:00–11:45** | **Roman Baths as Locations of Religious Practice**  
Dirk Steuernagel

**11:45–12:30** | **The City of the Dead or: The Making of a Cultural Geography**  
Lara Weiss

**12:45** | **Lunch**

### 2nd Session, Chair: Maik Patzelt

**14:00–14:45** | **Communication in a Changing World: Crisis Management, Networking and Bible Translations in the Letter Collection of Cyprian of Carthage**  
Annette Weissenrieder

**14:45–15:30** | **Rabbula of Edessa: Coming to Grips with a Proud City**  
Hartmut Leppin

**15:30–16:00** | **Coffee break**

**16:00–16:45** | **City of Prophecies: Constantinople in Late antique and Medieval Sources**  
Paroma Chatterjee

### Round table, Chair: Clifford Ando

**16:45–18:00** | **Discussing Urban Religion**  
Susanne Rau, Christopher Smith, Anna Sun

**19:00** | **Dinner**