

# Co-produced Rituals

Uncovering a Common Culture  
in the Pre-Modern  
Mediterranean

International Conference

2-3 April 2025

Haus der Universität  
Schlösslistrasse 5  
Bern, Switzerland

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Wednesday, 2. April 2025

**9:00 Introduction**

*Caroline Bridel, Bern Universität; Maureen Attali, Université de Fribourg/Université de Nanterre*

**Demons and Deviance**

**9:30 Divorcing Demons in Jewish Aramaic and Syriac: Translation, Scribal Practice, and Religious Contact in Late Antique Iraq**

*Ra'anan Boustan, Princeton University*

*Break*

**10:45 Co-Producing Curse Culture: Ritual Imprecation in Ancient and Medieval Judaism, Christianity, and Islam**

*Carson Bay, IAS Princeton*

**11:30 Chasing Clouds and Raising Storms: Technologies of Life or Markers of Deviance?**

*Majjastina Kahlos, University of Lisbon*

*Lunch Break*

**Funerary World**

**14:00 Co-Produced Images of Martyrdom: Suffering and Redemption on Sarcophagi in Late Antiquity**

*Sarah Hollaender, Graz University*

**14:45 “I Would Not Kiss You”: Haptic Relic Rituals and their Discontents among Late Antique Communities**

*Adam Bursi, Cornell University*

*Break*

**Monastic Views on Rituals**

**16:00 Regium to Diuinum to Monasticum: Late-Antique Promises of Monastic Enrolment and their non-Christian Inspiration**

*Michael Wuk, Freie Universität Berlin*

**16:45 Dominican Writers and the Definition of Islam through its Rituals**

*Pierre Courtain, Université de Nantes/Université de Louvain*

Thursday, 3. April 2025

**Places of Worship**

**9:00 The Early Christian Altar: Precedents and Particularities**

*Robin Jensen, University of Notre-Dame*

**9:45 Alternative Economies: Ancient Synagogue Coin Deposits Between Greco-Roman Religion and the Rabbis**

*Jocelyn Burney, University of Missouri*

*Break*

**11:00 Between Menorah and Minaret: A Case Study in Multivalent Religious Symbols**

*Shlomo Zuckier, IAS Princeton*

*Lunch Break*

**Festivals**

**13:30 Covered Continuity – the Joint Feast of the Roman New Year and Christian Epiphany**

*Elsa Lucassen, University of Amsterdam*

**14:15 Afikoman: One Riddle, Many Solutions**

*Israël Yuval, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

*Break*

**A Genetical Outlook**

**15:30 Jewish-Christian Relations in Antiquity and the Middle Ages: New Insights from Archeo-Genetics**

*Leonard Rutgers, Utrecht University*

**Medieval Water Rituals**

**16:15 Entangled Performative Details between Jewish Immersion Ceremonies and Christian Baptism in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries in Latin Europe**

*Neta Bodner, Open University Israel*

**17:00 Art and Ritual: Co-Production in a Jewish Ablution Basin**

*Ariel Fein, IAS Princeton*