



Gamla Synagogue, ca. 1st c. BCE – 1st c. CE, Dr. Anders Runesson

› Organisation

Project C2-24 of the Cluster of Excellence: “Integration and Diversification in the Judaism of Palestine during the Hellenistic-Early Roman Period (300 BCE–135 CE)”

Prof. Dr. Lutz Doering

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Dr. Andrew Krause

Project A2-10 of the Cluster of Excellence: “The Jewish Nomos between Normativity and Identity using the Example of Alexandria in the 1st-3rd Centuries A.D.”

Prof. Dr. Hermut Löhr

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› Venue

Hörsaalgebäude des Exzellenzclusters | Room JO 101
Johannisstraße 4, 48143 Münster

Keynote Lecture

Hörsaalgebäude des Exzellenzclusters | Room JO 1
Johannisstraße 4, 48143 Münster

Session „New Interpretations of Synagogue Art and Architecture“ (Wed 14.06.2017, 09:15–13:45)

Hörsaalgebäude | Room H2
Schlossplatz 46, 48143 Münster

› Registration

until 09.06.2017

Dr. Andrew Krause | ankrause@uni-muenster.de

A workshop of the **Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”** of the University of Münster. Some 200 academics from more than 20 disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and from around 14 countries deal with the relationship of religion and politics across epochs and cultures: from the world of ancient gods and Judaism, Christianity and Islam in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period to the current situation in Europe, America, Asia, and Africa. It is nationally the largest research association of its kind and of the 43 Clusters of Excellence in Germany, it is the only one to deal with religion. The German Federal Government and the Federal States support the project with 40.1 million euros in the Excellence Initiative’s second funding phase from 2012 to 2018.

Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”

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Picture Credit: Gamla Synagogue, ca. 1st c. BCE – 1st c. CE, Dr. Anders Runesson; Vince Musi/The White House, wikipedia

International Conference of the Cluster of Excellence

› Synagogues in the Hellenistic-Roman Period

New Finds – New Theories – New Methods

13. – 15.06.2017





Wheeled Ark Lintel, Capernaum Synagogue, ca. 4th c. CE, Dr. Anders Runesson

> Synagogues in the Hellenistic-Roman Period

In the last 25 years, there has been a drastic increase in the number of synagogues unearthed in Israel. Part of the reason for this increased archaeological data has been the broadening definition of Jewish assembly institutions due to their wide variance. However, such an increase in data means that critical attention must be paid to the new finds, both in order to question which should be included in this typology and to allow those that are included to refine our definitions. This critical engagement will allow us to gain greater clarity and to re-evaluate past reconstructions of the synagogue's development.

Just as archaeologists have continued to bring new data in the form of material cultures, historians and philologists have come to utilise new and more complex theoretical and methodological lenses through which to view the historical data and literary sources. Old texts are re-examined and re-assessed using productive new social and literary methods, which leads to a refined understanding of their meaning.

Finally, as historians clarify our understandings of synagogue development, questions regarding the political context and functions of this institution have become more ubiquitous. Given the interdisciplinary nature of this study – incorporating as it does archaeology, history, biblical studies, religion, linguistics, political science, etc. – regular interaction with various scholars is necessary in order to maintain current knowledge of the field as it stands and to understand the progression and insights of complementary scholarship and disciplines.

> Programme

Tuesday, 13.06.2017

New Finds

09:30–10:15 The Debate over the Dating of the 'Galilean'-type Synagogues: Khirbet Wadi Hamam as a Case-study | Uzi Leibner, Jerusalem

10:15–11:00 A 1st–2nd Century 'Private' Synagogue on the Top of Tel Rekhesh, Lower Galilee
Motti Aviam, Kinneret College

11:00–11:15 Coffee break

11:15–12:00 A Roman Era Synagogue at Khirbet Majdouliyah
Mechael Osband, Haifa

12:30–14:30 Lunch

Cultural Interactions and Influences in Diaspora Synagogues

14:30–15:15 The Rhetoric of Synagogue Space: Theoretical Considerations in the Study of Jewish Institutions in Literary Sources
Andrew Krause, Münster

15:15–16:00 Philo and the προσευχή: What Were They Doing in Second Temple Synagogues?
Jutta Leonhardt-Balzer, Aberdeen

16:00–16:15 Coffee Break

16:15–17:00 In Search of the Peticha: The Torah, the Prophets, and the Scriptures in the Synagogue and Beyond
Hermut Löhr, Bonn

18:00–19:30 Dinner

Keynote Lecture

20:00–21:00 The Synagogue in an Age of Transition, from the Second Temple Period to Roman Times: Recent Developments in Research
Zeev Weiss, Jerusalem

Wednesday, 14.06.2017

New Interpretations of Synagogue Art and Architecture

09:15–10:00 The Synagogue at Migdal: Between Localised Practice and Reference to the Temple
Lutz Doering, Münster

10:00–10:45 Thinking of the Temple: Allusions to the Temple in the Decoration of Synagogues and Tombs of the Early Roman Period
Orit Peleg-Barkat, Jerusalem

10:50–11:35 'Dress Codes' in the Murals of the Dura Europos Synagogue
Katrin Kogman-Appel, Münster

12:00–13:45 Lunch (Seminarraum IJD)

New Methods, New Theories

13:45–14:30 Rabbis, Non-rabbis and Synagogues: Theory and Reality | Ruth Langer, Boston

14:30–15:15 Prayer and the Second Temple Synagogue: Insights from the Dead Sea Scrolls
Daniel Falk, Penn State

15:30–15:45 Coffee Break

15:45–16:30 Meals in/and the Synagogue
Clemens Leonhard, Münster

16:30–17:15 Contextualizing the Magdala Stone: An Exercise in Liturgical Imagination
Judith Newman, Toronto

17:15–18:00 The Synagogue in Delos Revisited
Monika Trümper, Berlin

18:30–21:00 Social Programme and Dinner

Thursday, 15.06.2017

Legal and Political Contexts of the Early Synagogues

09:30–10:15 Jewish Organization in Roman Egypt
Kim Czajkowski, Edinburgh

10:15–11:00 Συναγωγή and προσευχή in Jewish and Non-Jewish Inscriptions | Markus Öhler, Wien

11:00–11:15 Coffee break

11:15–12:00 Synagogues as Associations: What Would it Mean?
Benedikt Eckhardt, Bremen

12:30–13:15 Concluding Discussion: Future Perspectives of the Study of Early Synagogues

13:15–14:30 Lunch