



International Summer School

Ideology, Power and Religious Change in Antiquity, 3000 BC – AD 600

Göttingen, Germany, 20–24 July 2015

In the modern world, political as well as religious leaders make use of ideological messages to legitimize and advertise their power. Especially during periods of transformation and change, it is important for leaders to demonstrate their strengths and capacities in order to unify their subjects. By presenting themselves as the right persons in the right place, they could win their subjects' loyalty and thus legitimize and safeguard their own positions. This practice is however not a modern invention, it is rooted in ancient traditions and habits.

Our summer school focuses on ideological messages communicated by leaders in the ancient world (Ancient Near East, Greece and Rome, c. 3000 BC – AD 600) during periods of religious change. The latter can be understood as periods in which new religions, specific religious factions, sects or cults rose, expanded or gained a position of dominance, thereby causing changes in or threatening existing social, religious and/or power structures. Which messages were communicated by central and local authorities as well as specific religious authorities in these epochs? What do these messages tell us about the nature of power exercised by leaders?

Aims:

1. The participants will be made familiar with different types of **communication processes** between leaders and subjects in the ancient world. Thus, on the one hand, we will discuss theoretical and controversial concepts such as ideology, representation, propaganda and power. On the other hand, we will investigate specific media by which leaders of different ancient cultures communicated with their peoples and the messages that were disseminated by these media.
2. We will address different aspects of **ancient religious history**. This means that specific religions, religious factions and cults as well as their relation to each other will be attended to.

3. Communication theories and practices will be linked to the history of religion by discussing the **interaction** between the course of religious history and the creation of ideology and thus the wielding of power at various levels and in different areas.

The summer school is specifically targeted at doctoral candidates and early postdocs. Each day will commence with a keynote lecture delivered by renowned scholars and ample opportunities for discussion afterwards. Keynote speakers are Paola Ceccarelli (Cambridge), Eckart Frahm (Yale), Olivier Hekster (Nijmegen), Carlos Noreña (Berkeley), and Piotr Steinkeller (Harvard). The afternoons will be dedicated to short presentations by participants based on papers circulated in advance. Select papers will be published.

Anyone interested in participating is kindly requested to apply with a CV, list of publications (if available), and an abstract of 500 words at maximum until 15 March 2015. Please use our portal to upload your application (https://s-lotus.gwdg.de/uni/uxgw/gsgg_ss_2015.nsf/application).

Accommodation is free for all participants. Reimbursement for travel costs is predictably available for a limited number of applicants. In case of further questions, do not hesitate to contact the organizers, Gösta Gabriel and Erika Manders, via iprca2015@uni-goettingen.de. For more information, see also <http://www.uni-goettingen.de/iprca2015>.

Gösta Gabriel and Erika Manders
Georg-August-Universität Göttingen
Graduate School of Humanities Göttingen
Friedländer Weg 2
37085 Göttingen
Germany