



GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT  
GÖTTINGEN IN PUBLICA COMMODA  
SEIT 1737

Seminar für Arabistik / Islamwissenschaft I

Fritz Thyssen Stiftung  
für Wissenschaftsförderung

## TABOOS IN TEXTS AND TABOOED TEXTS IN LATE ANTIQUITY AND EARLY ISLAM

GÖTTINGEN, 19.–21. FEBRUARY 2026

### Programme

**19 February 2026 (Thursday), Alte Mensa, (Wilhelmsplatz 3), Hall “Taberna”**

#### Introduction

14:15-14:45	Prof. Jens Scheiner Göttingen University	Welcome and Introduction
	Dr. Maxim Yosefi Göttingen University	

#### 1: Text-related Taboos, Chair: M.A. Sebastian Bitsch (Göttingen)

14:45-15:45	Dr. Thomas Benfey, Tübingen University	Restrictions and Prohibitions on the Circulation of Knowledge and Texts within the Zoroastrian Community
Coffee break		
16:15-17:15	Dr. Shlomi Efrati, KU Leuven	Prohibited Translations in Late Antique Judaism: Texts that must not be rendered and Renderings deemed forbidden
Coffee break		

#### 2: Keynote lecture, Chair: Prof. Jens Scheiner (Göttingen)

18:00-19:30	Prof. Christoph Marksches, President of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities	What Christians are not allowed to touch or eat – Taboo in Late Antique Christianity
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19:30	Conference dinner. Restaurant Bullerjahn, Markt 9
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**20 February 2026 (Friday), Alte Mensa, Saal (Wilhelmsplatz 3), Hall “Taberna”**

**3: Blood-related Taboos, Chair: Prof. Sebastian Günther (Göttingen)**

9:00-10:00	Prof. Emmanouela Grypeou, Stockholm University	Taboo of Human Sacrifice, Infanticide, and Cannibalism in Gnostic and Manichaeic sources
10:00-11:00	Dr. Götz König, Free University of Berlin	Blood, Sacrifice, and Morality: Taboo and the Discursive Histories of Sacrificial Practice in Zoroastrianism
Coffee break		
11:30-12:30	Dr. Nora K. Schmid, Tübingen University	Revenge and Retributive Justice in the Qur’an and Sīra Narratives
Lunch break		

**4: Taboos in Religious Discourse, Chair: Dr. Maxim Yosefi (Göttingen)**

14:00-15:00	Prof. Michal Bar-Asher Siegal, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	The Taboo of Christian Texts: Norms, Realities, and Rabbinic Readers in Late Antiquity
15:00-16:00	Prof. Zahra Mohagheghian, Göttingen University	The Gharānīq Narrative in the Context of Late Antiquity: Tabooing the Feminine Divine

19:00	Conference dinner. Café Botanik, u. Karspüle 1B
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**21 February 2026 (Saturday), Heyne-Haus (Am Papendiek 16)**

**5: Authority-related taboos, Chair: Prof. Zahra Mohagheghian (Göttingen)**

9:00-10:00	Dr. Hannelies Koloska, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem	Relics and Idols in Public Space: Taboo or Trophy? Al-Azraqī’s Reports on Displayed and Hidden Objects
10:00-11:00	Dr. Maxim Yosefi, Göttingen University	Permissible for All but Not for the Prophet: A Divine Taboo on Poetry Attributed to Muhammad
Coffee break		

11:15-12:00	Closing Remarks
Lunch	