workshop programme

Misgav Har Peled (Paris)
*Running at Twilight: Time and Space in the Talmudic Construction of Sabbath*

12.30 – 14.00
LUNCH

14.00 – 15.30
Session V
RITUALS AND SACRED TIME

Youval Rotman (Tel Aviv)
Sacred Time and Piety: Controlling Nature in Late Antique Judaism

Daniella Talmon-Heller (Beer Sheva)
Rites of Rajab: Private and Communal Islamic Devotions During a Sacred Month

15.30 – 16.00
DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

18.00
PUBLIC LECTURE
Johannes Gutenberg-Universität,
Georg Forster-Gebäude
Divna Manolova (Edinburgh)
Redefining Exactness in Late Byzantine Astronomy

Venue
Monday 11th July
Johannes Gutenberg-Universität
Infobox
Jakob-Welder-Weg 9
55128 Mainz

Tuesday 12th July
Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum
Forschungsinstitut für Archäologie
(im Kurfürstlichen Schloss)
Ernst-Ludwig-Platz 2
55116 Mainz

Public lecture
Johannes Gutenberg-Universität
Georg-Forster-Gebäude, Room 02-521
Jakob-Welder-Weg 12
55128 Mainz
THINKING ABOUT SACRED TIME
IN MEDIEVAL SOCIETIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST

This workshop will explore notions of sacred time by comparing cases within the different religions and cultures of the pre-modern Middle East. The idea that time is not homogenous—that some moments, days, or months are more privileged than others, and the sanctification of such times by special rites—seems to be a universal cultural phenomenon. Yet, the construction of time as sacred, the choice of the specific time units to set apart, and the means by which these are distinguished from profane time, are diverse and dynamic, and should be studied within their historical-cultural contexts.

Hence we wish to investigate the different meanings assigned to privileged time, and practices marking sacred time, in the late antique and medieval Middle East. Special focus will be given to the conceptualization of sacred time in theological, legal and devotional works, and to debates and questions pertaining to the sanctity of specific times. We would like to address the following questions: How could we conceptualize and identify the notion of sacred time in medieval societies? How was the notion of sacred time constructed in specific historical and cultural contexts? Which needs, of both individuals and communities, call for defining sacred time? What functions did it fill, and in what ways?

workshop programme

Monday 11th July
Johannes Gutenberg-Universität, Infobox
Opening Session

13.00 – 15.00
Session I
LITURGY AND SACRED TIME
Johannes Pahlitzsch (Mainz)
Introduction
Zachary Chitwood (Berlin)
Ophir Münz-Manor
(Open University of Israel)
The Early Byzantine Jewish Liturgical Calendar according to a Liturgical Poem by Elazar birabi Qilir (7th Century).

15.00 – 15.30
COFFEE BREAK

15.30–17.30
Session II
SACRED TIME AND INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS
Yehoshua Frenkel (Haifa)
Time and Social Boundaries: the Hanbalites of Damascus on Joint Events and the Call for Separation.
Myriam Wyssa (London)
The Coptic New Year and the Era of the Martyrs: A Celebration for All in Medieval Islamic Egypt.
Martin Lüstraeten (Mainz)
Commemorating Conflict: Neo-martyrs in the Tradition of the Melkite Synaxarion and the Arabic Typikon.

Tuesday 12th July
Römisch-Germanisches Zentrumuseum, Vortragssaal

9.00 – 10.30
Session III
MYSTICISM AND SACRED TIME
Pavel Basharin (Moscow)
The Problem of Time in Early Sufism
Ronit Meroz (Tel Aviv)
The Plasticity and Permeability of Messianic Time in the Kabbalah

10.30 – 11.00
COFFEE BREAK

11.00 – 12.30
Session IV
TIME, SPACE, MEMORY
Thomas Pott (Rome)
Creation, Memory and Reform.