

A remarkable number of studies on animal sacrifice in ancient Greek religion has appeared over the last two decades. These studies explore not only the variety of this ritual in cult, but also its significance in society, politics and literature. However, by focusing on just one particular ritual and by emphasizing its centrality, these works give the impression that other rituals that were integral elements of Greek ritual practice are less complex and matter less for the understanding of Greek religion and culture as a whole.

The aim of this conference is to contextualize sacrifice, by giving particular conceptual space to ritual actions that were both closely connected to animal sacrifice and practiced separately, such as, for instance, the burning of incense, purifications and food offerings.

Are the relationships between these rituals dynamic or static? Do certain ritual actions 'bond' more easily than others? How do different interconnections of rituals inform religious communication and religious experience? The conference tries to answer these questions, by taking into consideration inscriptions, archaeological evidence, art and literature. The conference also takes an interest in a comparative perspective and integrates viewpoints from Roman religion and religions of the ancient Near East.



Program online:
www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/e/relwiss/news/conference.html

ANIMAL SACRIFICE IN CONTEXT

Interactions and Interconnections of Rituals in Ancient Greek Religion



Venue

Institute of Religious Studies
Freie Universität Berlin
Fabeckstr. 23–25, 14195 Berlin

Room 2.2051

Organizer

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Freie Universität  Berlin

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Mit Unterstützung des:

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BERLINER ANTIKE-KOLLEG

CONFERENCE
19–20 OCTOBER 2023

THURSDAY, 19 OCTOBER

09.45 Registration

10.00 Welcome: Susanne Gödde

10.05 Introductory remarks: Sebastian Zerhoch

1.

NORMS, CONTEXTS AND INTERCONNECTIONS

(chair: Sebastian Zerhoch, Renate Schlesier)

10.15 Beate Dignas (University of Oxford)
Reflecting and Refracting the Meaning of Sacrificial Ritual: The Medium of Inscriptions

11.00 ————— Coffee break ————— 11.30

11.30 Irene Polinskaya (King's College London)
Sacrifice in the Temporal Context: Communal Mobilization in the Run-Up to Ritual Slaughter

12.15 Stella Georgoudi (École Pratique des Hautes Études Paris)
Sacrifice and Purification: Affinities and Divergences

13.00 ————— Lunch break ————— 15.00

2.

FOCUS: SETTING THE TABLE FOR THE GODS

(chair: Emrys Schlatter)

15.00 Gunnel Ekroth (Uppsala University)
Putting Food on the Table: A Study of the Iconography of Foodstuff

15.45 Saskia Peels-Matthey and Felix Budelmann (University of Groningen)
Imagining Divine Presence in the Theoxeny Ritual

16.30 ————— Coffee break ————— 17.00

3.

FOCUS: INCENSE BURNING

(chair: Marta Lietti).

17.00 Milette Gaifman (Yale University)
Incense Burners and Ritual Spaces in Greek Art of the Fifth Century BCE

17.45 Sebastian Zerhoch (Freie Universität Berlin)
Free Radicals: Incense as an Example of Ritual Interactions in Greek Religion

19.00 Dinner (restaurant)

FRIDAY, 20 OCTOBER

4.

LITERARY CONTEXTS

(chair: Susanne Gödde)

09.30 Rebecca Lämmle (University of Cambridge)
The Sacrifice on Thrinakia (Hom. Od. 12)

10.15 Athena Kavoulaki (University of Crete)
Entering the Ritual Web of Sacrifice: the Persistent Spell of Kinaesthetic Rites in Greek Drama

11.00 ————— Coffee break ————— 11.30

5.

ROMAN AND NEAR EASTERN CONTEXTS

(chair: Asja Müller, Sebastian Zerhoch)

11.30 Johannes Eber (University of Zurich)
Pars pro toto. The praefatio in Pompeian Cult Practices

12.15 Nils P. Heeßel (Philipps-Universität Marburg)
The Rich, the Poor, the Diviner and the Widow: The Social Aspect of Divining Materials in Ancient Mesopotamia

13.00 ————— Lunch break ————— 15.00

15.00 Götz König (Freie Universität Berlin)
On the Relationship between the Sacrificial Cult and the Fire Cult in Zoroastrianism

15.45 Elia Weber (Freie Universität Berlin)
Tracing Animal Sacrifice in the Zoroastrian 'Long Liturgy' in Antiquity

16.30 ————— Coffee break ————— 17.00

6.

BACK TO GREECE

(chair: Susanne Gödde)

17.00 Andreas Scholl (director, Antikensammlung, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin - SPK)
The Context of Animal Sacrifice on the Archaic Akropolis of Athens

17.45 Conclusion, Final remarks: Sebastian Zerhoch

19.00 Dinner (restaurant)