

Conference Organisation

Kirsten Schäfers
Lehrstuhl für Altes Testament
Katholisch-Theologische Fakultät
Ruhr-Universität Bochum
GA 7/150, Universitätsstraße 150
D-44780 Bochum
Tel.: 0049 (0) 234/32-24714
Fax: 0049 (0) 234/32-14046
E-Mail: numeriprojekt@googlemail.com
<http://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/at/mercur.htm>

The project is funded by the Mercator Research Center Ruhr:
www.mercur-research.de

Registration

Please register by April 4th, 2011 via the following e-mail address: numeriprojekt@googlemail.com

Fees

The attendance of the conference is free of charge. Meals can be purchased at the University canteen next to the Conference Center.

Accommodation

Accommodation will not be provided. Suggested hotels near the Ruhr-University:

Hotel Park Inn Bochum
Massenbergstr. 19–21
D-44787 Bochum
Tel. +49 (0) 234-969-0
Fax. +49 (0) 234-969-2222
info.bochum@eventhotels.com

Hotel Ibis Bochum Zentrum
Universitätsstr. 3
D-44789 Bochum
Tel. (+49)234/33311
Fax. (+49)234/3331867
H1440@accor.com

Hotel Aleppo
Nordring 30,
D-44787 Bochum
Tel. +49 (0) 234 58 83 80
Fax. +49 (0) 234 5 88 38 29
kontakt@hotelaleppo.de

Arrival



By plane and/or by train:

From Düsseldorf, Frankfurt am Main or Cologne Airport take the train to **Bochum Hauptbahnhof** (Central Station). At Bochum take the Subway **U35** towards Querenburg (Hustadt) and get off at stop **"Ruhr-Universität"** (Ticket required: Preisstufe A).

By car:

Motorway **A43**, interchange "Bochum-Witten", exit at "Bochum-Querenburg/Universität" (**exit no.19**). Universitätsstraße direction Universität/Zentrum, exit at **"Uni-Mitte"** about 2 km, free parking is signposted (P-Besucher).

The **Veranstaltungszentrum** (Conference Center, Mensa building, Floor 04, Room 1) is right behind the Audimax.



Mercator Research Center Ruhr

Eine Initiative der Stiftung Mercator und der Universitätsallianz Metropole Ruhr

TORAH IN THE BOOK OF NUMBERS



Conference within the MERCUR-Research Project

"Tradition and Redaction in the Book of Numbers and Their Impact on the Formation Process of the Pentateuch"

April 12th–13th, 2011

Ruhr-University Bochum
Veranstaltungszentrum, Saal 1

Front Page Illustration:

The Israelites at Kadesh: Dathan and Abiram Swallowed by the Earth (1470).
In: Biblia Pauperum, RMMW, Fol. 38v, 10 A 15. © Koninklijke Bibliotheek. National Library of the Netherlands.

While Numbers, the Fourth Book of Moses, has gained a mere peripheral interest in Pentateuchal discussions for quite a long time, the need for a redefinition of the role of this book has currently become more apparent. Contrary to the longtime underestimation, the so called priestly and post-priestly texts in the Book of Numbers play a decisive role in the formation processes of the Pentateuch.

The invigorated debate has triggered new questions as, for instance, the literary connection of the non-priestly texts with the narrative thread in the Book of Exodus, the endpoint of the Priestly Narrative at Mount Sinai or beyond, or the relation between the legal material in the Book of Numbers and the priestly laws in the Books of Exodus and Leviticus. While there is a growing consensus that the Book of Numbers has incorporated very late material, the redactional processes forming the Book of Numbers as part of the Pentateuch are still debated.

The international conference “Torah in the Book of Numbers” brings together the expertise of scholars committed to the indicated field of research. The forum offered by the conference will in this way facilitate discussion and advancement of partly dissenting positions. The papers will each focus on case studies which are related to main issues of the Pentateuchal debate: The priestly texts in the Book of Numbers, the priestly laws and their relation to the legal texts in the Book of Leviticus and the Book of Deuteronomy. These reexaminations of inner redactional processes in the Book of Numbers are committed to the main interest of the conference, which is to understand the Book of Numbers within the formation of the Pentateuch as Torah. With this fresh approach the conference aims at giving new stimuli for the recent exegetical discussion on the Pentateuch.

Tuesday, April 12th 2011

13.00	Introduction
13.30	“Egypt Nostalgia” and the Formation of the Book of Numbers Prof. Dr. Thomas Römer (Lausanne/Paris)
14.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
15.00	The Priestly Story of the Korah Rebellion – A New Proposal Prof. Dr. Baruch J. Schwartz (Jerusalem)
16.00	Source Stratification, Secondary Additions, and the Documentary Hypothesis in the Book of Numbers. The Case of Numbers 17 Prof. Dr. Joel Baden (Yale)
17.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
17.30	Discussion
20.00	<i>Dinner</i>

11.30	The Priestly Laws of Numbers and the Holiness Legislation – A Reassessment Prof. Dr. Christophe Nihan (Lausanne)
12.30	<i>Lunch break</i>
14.00	Priestly Laws in Numbers – Providing Continuity in the Main Drama of Israel's Missing Its Aim Prof. em. Dr. Horst Seebass (Bonn)
15.00	The Book of Numbers Read in a Horizon of a Postexilic Fortschreibung in the Book of Deuteronomy Prof. em. Dr. Dr. h.c. Eckart Otto (München)
16.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.30	Discussion
18.00	End of Conference

Wednesday, April 13th 2011

09.00	Numbers 32: The Problem of the Two and a Half Tribes and the Last Composition of the Book of Numbers Prof. Dr. Olivier Artus (Paris)
10.00	Complementary Reading of the Torah in the Priestly Texts of Numbers 15 Prof. Dr. Reinhard Achenbach (Münster)
11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>

The MERCUR-Research Project “Tradition and Redaction in the Book of Numbers and Their Impact on the Formation Process of the Pentateuch” is conducted by Prof. Dr. Christian Frevel (Ruhr-Universität Bochum) Prof. Dr. Thomas Pola (Technische Universität Dortmund) Prof. Dr. Aaron Scharf (Universität Duisburg-Essen)