

## The Text of the Priests – The Text of the Laity

Over the past few years, it has become evident in the studies of the Avesta that some of its once sharply distinguished textual and text-sociological categories have to be regarded as more fluid ones. Thus, the legitimacy of the formerly postulated rigid split of the Avestan texts into texts of the priests and texts of the laity is questionable to a certain extent. In a historical perspective, the texts of the so-called Avesta of the laity (the Xorde Avesta) are in themselves, at least in large parts, the remains of priestly liturgies. Therefore, the task that remains today is to describe of transmission of the Avesta as a concrete textual history. This history is based on the priests and the laity and on the interplay of both groups, but it also depends on the radical political and religious changes in the first millennium BC and AD.

It is the purpose of this workshop to examine the historical and systematic relation between the texts of the priests and those of the laity in Zoroastrianism. Furthermore, the workshop should also give an impetus for (more or less neglected) sociological research of the Zoroastrian religion. Last but not least, circumstances underlying the Zoroastrian textual materials should be compared with those of the other important religion in (late) antique Iran, Manichaeism.

## Thursday, 20 February 2014

- 10:00–10:30 **Welcome and Introduction**  
Volkhard Krech & Götz König
- 10:30–11:30 **Minors in Ancient Zoroastrian Rituals**  
Miguel Ángel Andrés-Toledo (Copenhagen)
- 11:30–12:00 Coffee Break
- 12:00–13:00 **The Neglect of the Priesthood in Economic Theories of Religion: The Case of Zoroastrianism**  
Kianoosh Rezania (Göttingen)
- 13:00–15:00 Lunch Break
- 15:00–16:00 **Parables as Didactic Literature for Manichaean Laity**  
Iris Colditz (Berlin)
- 16:00–17:00 **Did Manichaean Chosen Ones and Hearers Each have Their Own Books?**  
Desmond Durkin-Meisterernst (Berlin)
- 17:00–17:30 Coffee Break
- 17:30–18:30 **Liturgical and Exegetical Manuscripts of the Zoroastrian Long Liturgy**  
Alberto Cantera (Salamanca)
- 20:00 Dinner

## Friday, 21 February 2014

- 10:00–11:00 **Penance of Sins in Zoroastrianism in Historical Perspective**  
David Buyaner (Berlin)
- 11:00–12:00 **The Niyāyišn: History and Ritual Context**  
Götz König (Berlin, currently Bochum)
- 12:00–13:00 **General Discussion**

**DIRECTIONS**

**Public Transportation:**

Take the U35 towards Bochum Querenburg (Hustadt) from Bochum Hauptbahnhof (Central Station) and get off at the stop »Ruhr-Universität«. From there you turn right and cross the pedestrian bridge keeping left while you pass the university library. The FNO building is on your left-hand side.

**By Car:**

The quickest route is via the motorway junction Bochum/Witten, where the A43 and A44 meet. Simply take the exit Bochum-Querenburg, follow the signs "Ruhr-Universität" and then the (electronic) information boards.



**CONVENERS**

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**ORGANIZATION**

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**RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM**

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20-21 February 2014 | FNO 02/40-46

Conveners: Götz König

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