

Apocalypticism-Eschatology-Messianism in a Comparative Perspective

The purpose of the workshop is to explore the religious phenomena/speculations dubbed as apocalypticism, eschatology and messianism in different religions. While the three themes can be inter-related, they may also represent three very different types of speculation about quite diverse sets of issues. Thus, papers will focus on subjects that may deal with the 'apocalypse' in the original Greek sense of the term, i.e. a 'revelation', be those revelations of heavenly mysteries, secrets of nature or cosmos, or revelations of the future course of human history, sometimes couched in terms of a political/religious propaganda. Eschatology, then, usually refers to ideas/texts that predict the 'Last things' before the End of the world. These can be (usually disastrous) natural phenomena that precede the End of the world, again historical events, a succession of kings and/or priests etc., and more often than not such texts include also expectations of a so-called Messiah and/or Anti-Messiah (for example, Armilos, the Antichrist, or the Dajjal in Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions respectively). All these themes will be discussed in an inter-religious perspective.

Tuesday, 8 May 2012

Chair: Georgios Halkias

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| 09.30 | Introduction
Alexandra Cuffel (KHK/RUB) |
| 10.00 | Not 'If,' but 'When': Some Buddhist Visions of the End of the World
Stephen Berkwitz (KHK/RUB) |
| 10.45 | Messianism in China: Early Paradigms and Early Medieval Reinterpretations
Licia Di Giacinto (KHK/RUB) |
| 11.30 | The Revelations of Pseudo-Gregory the Theologian – a Syriac Apocalyptic Text from India
István Perczel (KHK/RUB) |
| 12.15 | Discussion |
| 13.00 | Lunch |
| <i>Chair: Alexandra Cuffel</i> | |
| 15.00 | The Mildest and the Wildest of Men: The Red Jews in Jewish and Christian Imagination
Rebekka Voß (University of Frankfurt) |
| 15.45 | Raymond Martini, the Jews and the Messiah
Görge Hasselhoff (KHK/RUB) |
| 16.30 | Discussion |
| 19.00 | Dinner |

Wednesday, 9 May 2012

Chair: Peter Halfter

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| 09.30 | The Apocalyptic Paradigm in the Historiography of al-Andalus: Medieval and Modern Perspectives
Anna Akasoy (KHK/RUB) |
| 10.15 | "The Other" in Coptic Apocalypses from the Islamic Period
Jos Van Lent (University of Urbino) |
| 11.00 | The Language of God: Some Brief Remarks on 'Revelation' in Islamic Philosophy
Olga Lizzini (Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam) |
| 11.45 | Discussion |
| 12.15 | Lunch |
| <i>Chair: Felicitas Schmieder</i> | |
| 14.00 | Someone Else's Apocalypse: Millennialism and the End Time in Early Spanish and Indigenous America
Adam Knobler (KHK/RUB) |
| 14.45 | The Origins of Islam and Apocalyptic Speculations in the Armenian Tradition
Zara Pogossian (KHK/RUB) |
| 15.30 | Red Apocalypse: The 'Book of the Way' of the Soviet Armenian Bard Yeghishe Charents and Hakob Kojoyan
James Russell (Harvard University) |
| 16.15 | Final Discussion |
| 19.00 | Dinner |

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.



Conference Organization

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