

DIRECTIONS

Public Transportation: Take the U35 CampusLinie towards *Hustadt* from the center of Bochum or Hauptbahnhof (central station) and get off at the station *Wasserstraße*. From there turn right and cross the street, then left cross the crossroads passing by the copy shop at the corner and continue for approx. 200 metres until you reach *Universitätsstraße 90a*.

By Car: The quickest route is via the motorway junction Bochum/Witten, where the autobahns A43 and A44 meet. Simply take the exit Bochum-Querenburg, follow the signs to *Bochum Zentrum* to the crossroads of *Universitätsstraße* and *Wasserstraße*. Take a u-turn left and continue this road for approx. 200 metres, until you reach *Universitätsstraße 90a*. Parking is possible in front and behind the building.



CONVENERS

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ORGANIZATION

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RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

**THE DESERT ORIGINS OF GOD:
 YAHWEH'S EMERGENCE AND
 THE MATERIALITY OF DESERT
 CULT IN THE SOUTHERN LEVANT
 AND NORTHERN ARABIA**

15 - 17 July 2019 | CERES Conference Room *Ruhrpott*
 Conveners: Juan Manuel Tebes & Christian Frevel

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 of Education
 and Research

The Desert Origins of God: Yahweh's Emergence and the Materiality of Desert Cult in the Southern Levant and Northern Arabia

This conference seeks to explore and contextualize the configuration of the varied desert cultic practices from the southern Levant and northern Arabia during the Late Bronze/Iron Ages that may have contributed to the emergence of the Yahwistic cult. Recent archaeological excavations in the Negev, southern Transjordan and Hejaz and new interpretations of old epigraphic and iconographic evidence are rapidly changing the biblical-based paradigm of the interactions between the desert cults and the Iron Age Levantine religions.

The conference adopts an interdisciplinary approach, assessing textual, archaeological, as well as epigraphic data. The papers presented here contribute in a unique way to big historical questions of the LBA/IA desert religions: Was there something unique in the desert cults? How were the religious experiences shaped by the interactions between the local rituals and the sanctuary cults that penetrated from the agricultural lands? The conference also touches the much wider debate of the role played by trade—in copper, incense, pastoral products—and cultural interconnections in the diffusion of religious ideas. It particularly explores how these data relate to those religious practices attested in Judah and Israel of the later Iron Age and beyond, thereby providing new insights into the prehistory of the Yahweh cult.

Monday, 15 July 2019

04:00 - 04:30 **Welcome Address & Introduction**

Tim Karis (Bochum)

04:30 - 04:45 **Introducing the Online-Journal *Entangled Religions***

Julia Reiker (Bochum)

_____ **Panel 1: The Origins of Yahweh in the Desert**

04:45 - 05:45 **Beyond Yahweh: The Materiality of Cult of the Iron Age Negev and Edom in the *Longue Dureé***

Juan Manuel Tebes (Buenos Aires)

05:45 - 06:45 **The Desert and the Formation of Early Israel**

Uzi Avner (Eilat)

07:00 **Dinner**

Tuesday, 16 July 2019

_____ **Panel 1: The Origins of Yahweh in the Desert (cont.)**

10:00 - 11:00 **The Midianite Hypothesis – A Current Evaluation of its Achievements and Limitations**

Martin Leuenberger (Tübingen)

11:00 - 11:15 **Coffee break**

_____ **Panel 2: The Southern Origins of Yahweh in Biblical Tradition**

11:15 - 12:15 **The Wilderness Traditions in the Hebrew Bible and the Origins of Yhwh**

Thomas Römer (Lausanne/Paris)

12:15 - 01:30 **Lunch**

01:30 - 02:30 **El Shadday, the Shed Gods and the Wilderness: A Reassessment**

Christophe Nihan (Lausanne)

02:30 - 03:30 **The Early History of God – Reflections on the Rise of Yahwism in Israel and Judah**

Christian Frevel (Bochum)

03:30 - 04:00 **Coffee Break**

_____ **Panel 3: New Perspectives from Egyptology, Archaeology & Iconography**

04:00 - 05:00 **Signs of Yahweh in Egypt?**

Racheli Shalomi-Hen (Jerusalem)

05:00 - 06:00 **Notes on God(s) in the Desert**

David Eisenberg-Degen (Beersheba)

06:15 **Dinner**

Wednesday, 17 July 2019

_____ **Panel 3: New Perspectives from Egyptology, Archaeology & Iconography (cont.)**

10:00 - 11:00 **Votive Gifts in Desert Shrines**

Angelika Berlejung (Leipzig)

11:00 - 11:15 **Coffee break**

11:15 - 12:15 **On Deserted Landscapes and Defeated Ostriches: Iconographical Perspectives on Yahwe's Desert Origins**

Katharina Pyschny (Bochum)

12:15 - 01:30 **Lunch**

01:30 - 02:30 **A Metallurgical Perspective on the Qenite Hypothesis**

Nissim Amzallag (Beersheba)

02:30 - 03:00 **Final Remarks**