

**Ancient Jewish and Christian Apocalypses:
Transfer of Knowledge and Genre Definition**

The conference aims at discussing how the literary genre “apocalypse” promoted specific domains of knowledge in Late Antiquity, such as eschatology, soteriology, angelology, demonology, ecclesiology, ethics and anthropology, and how it influenced Jewish and Christian concepts of the afterlife.

The colloquium is part of an ongoing research project that will eventually result in the publication of a new translation and commentary on all ancient apocalypses. Fifty-five texts have been selected based on the phenomenological definition of apocalyptic literature introduced by John J. Collins in 1979. These texts, composed up to the middle of the 8th century CE, have been distributed among forty philologists, historians, and theologians, who are examining them to determine what types of knowledge they transmit and how these types of knowledge are transformed by inclusion in the genre “apocalypse”. The definition of the genre will then be central to the conversation.

In addition to keynote lectures by John J. Collins, Martha Himmelfarb and Jane Baun, the conference will include four sessions focusing on different research questions:

1. Defining the Genre
2. Mapping Jewish and Christian Traditions
3. Identifying Characteristics of Late Apocalypses
4. Transmission of Knowledge in Apocalyptic Literature.

Each participant will discuss his or her text in at least one of the sessions, providing initial answers to the proposed questions in a short talk. It is expected that a modified definition of “apocalypse” and an inventory of the types of knowledge reflected in early and late apocalyptic texts will emerge by the end of the conference.

**Collaborative Research Centre “Episteme in Motion:
Transfer of Knowledge from the Ancient World to the Early
Modern Period” (SFB 980)**

Humboldt University Berlin
Department of Theology
Chair of Ancient Church History

Further information
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and Christian Apocalypses**
Transfer of Knowledge
and Genre Definition

International Conference, 14–15 November 2014



FRIDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2014

Heilig-Geist-Kapelle, Spandauer Straße 1, 10178 Berlin

09.00–09.15 Conference Opening and Welcome

First Panel: 09.15–13.00

Defining the Genre

Chair: Christoph Markschies

09.15–10.00 Keynote Lecture
John J. Collins (Yale Divinity School)
The Genre Apocalypse Reconsidered

10.00–10.30 Discussion

10.30–11.00 Short Papers

11.00–11.30 Coffee Break

11.30–12.00 Enrico Norelli (University of Geneva)
Why Did Early Believers in Jesus Write Apocalypses?

12.00–12.30 Emmanouela Grypeou
(Humboldt University, Berlin)
*Talking Skulls: On Some Personal Accounts on
Afterlife and Their Place in Apocalyptic Literature*

12.30–13.00 Short Papers

13.00–14.00 Lunch

14.00–14.30 Coffee

Second Panel: 14.30–18.45

Mapping Jewish and Christian Traditions

Chair: Florentina Badalanova-Geller

14.30–15.15 Keynote Lecture
Martha Himmelfarb (Princeton University)
*Eschatology and Empire: A Parting of the Ways
for Jewish and Christian Apocalypses?*

15.15–15.45 Discussion

15.45–16.15 Short Papers

16.15–16.45 Coffee Break

16.45–17.15 Johannes Reinhart (University of Vienna)
The Slavonic Apocalypse of Abraham

17.15–17.45 Bernd J. Diebner (University of Heidelberg)
*Is It Legitimate to Consider the Book of Ezekiel
as Apocalyptic Literature?*

17.45–18.15 Break

18.15–18.45 Short Papers

SATURDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2014

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Burgstraße 26,
Theologische Fakultät, Room 117

Third Panel: 09.00–12.45

Identifying Characteristics of Late Apocalypses

Chair: Emiliano Fiori

09.00–09.45 Keynote Lecture
Jane Baun (University of Oxford)
*“Forth Out of His Treasure Things New and
Things Old” (Matthew 13:52): Knowledge
Transfer between Late Antique and Medieval
Apocalypses in the Byzantine Sphere*

09.45–10.15 Discussion

10.15–10.45 Short Papers

10.45–11.15 Coffee Break

11.15–11.45 Lutz Greisiger (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
*Some Ethno- and Geographical Eschata from
7th Century Middle-Eastern Apocalyptic
Narratives in Latin Sources*

11.45–12.15 John Carey (University of Cork)
*The Concealment and Disclosure of Knowledge in
the Old Irish In Tenga Bithnua*

12.15–12.45 Short Papers

12.45–14.00 Lunch

14.00–14.30 Coffee

Fourth Panel: 14.30–18.00

Transmission of Knowledge in Apocalyptic Literature

Chair: Jens Schröter

14.30–15.00 Emiliano Fiori (Humboldt University, Berlin)
*Death and Judgment in the Apocalypse of
Paul: Old Imagery and Monastic Reinvention*

15.00–15.30 Daniele Tripaldi (University of Bologna)
*Edfu and the Oriens: Transmission of Ancient
Egyptian Lore in Two Coptic Apocalypses*

15.30–16.00 Short Papers

16.00–16.30 Break

16.30–17.00 Short Papers

17.00–18.00 Concluding Remarks
Christoph Markschies (Humboldt
University, Berlin)

Short papers will be delivered by

Florentina Badalanova-Geller (Berlin)
Cordula Bandt (Berlin)
Alessandro Bausi (Hamburg)
Klaus Berger (Heidelberg)
Peter Busch (Heidelberg)
Jan Dochhorn (Aarhus)
Lutz Doering (Münster)
Judith Hartenstein (Koblenz-Landau)
Uta Heil (Erlangen-Nürnberg)
Andreas Heiser (Ewersbach)
Matthias Henze (Houston)
Nestor Kavvas (Tübingen)
Jutta Leonhardt-Balzer (Aberdeen)
Julian Petkov (Heidelberg)
Karl Pinggéra (Marburg)
Uwe-Karsten Plisch (Berlin)
Jens Schröter (Berlin)
Loren Stuckenbruck (München)
Harald Suermann (Bonn)
Claudia Tiersch (Berlin)
Emanuela Valeriani (Rome)
Vadim Vitkovsky (Berlin)
Gregor Wurst (Augsburg)
Claudio Zamagni (Geneva)