

## workshop programme

Misgav Har Peled (Paris)

*Running at Twilight: Time and Space in the Talmudic Construction of Sabbath*



**12.30 – 14.00**

LUNCH

**14.00 – 15.30**

**Session V**

**RITUALS AND SACRED TIME**

Youval Rotman (Tel Aviv)

*Sacred Time and Piety: Controlling Nature in Late Antique Judaism*

Daniella Talmon-Heller (Beer Sheva)

*Rites of Rajab: Private and Communal Islamic Devotions During a Sacred Month*

**15.30 – 16.00**

**DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

**18.00**

**PUBLIC LECTURE**

Johannes Gutenberg-Universität,  
Georg Forster-Gebäude

Divna Manolova (Edinburgh)

*Redefining Exactness  
in Late Byzantine  
Astronomy*



**FRÜHE KONZEPTE  
VON MENSCH  
UND NATUR**

Graduiertenkolleg 1016

Kurfürstliches Schloss /  
Römisch-Germanisches  
Zentralmuseum



**Venue**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July**

Johannes Gutenberg-Universität

Infobox

Jakob-Welder-Weg 9

55128 Mainz

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July**

Römisch-Germanisches

Zentralmuseum

Forschungsinstitut für

Archäologie

(im Kurfürstlichen Schloss)

Ernst-Ludwig-Platz 2

55116 Mainz

**Public lecture**

Johannes Gutenberg-Universität

Georg-Forster-Gebäude, Room

02-521

Jakob-Welder-Weg 12

55128 Mainz

## SACRED TIME in Medieval Societies of the Middle East



Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz

Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum

Mainz

**11<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

Workshop organized by Johannes Pahlitzsch,

Youval Rotman, Daniella Talmon-Heller

ZIS

Zentrum für  
Interkulturelle  
Studien MAINZ

JGU  
JOHANNES GUTENBERG  
UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ

Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität  
Münster  
Orient und Globalität

RGZM

THINKING ABOUT

## SACRED TIME

IN MEDIEVAL SOCIETIES  
OF THE MIDDLE EAST

This workshop will explore notions of sacred time by comparing cases within the different religions and cultures of the pre-modern Middle East. The idea that time is not homogenous – that some moments, days, or months are more privileged than others, and the sanctification of such times by special rites – seems to be a universal cultural phenomenon. Yet, the construction of time as sacred, the choice of the specific time units to set apart, and the means by which these are distinguished from profane time, are diverse and dynamic, and should be studied within their historical-cultural contexts.

Hence we wish to investigate the different meanings assigned to privileged time, and practices marking sacred time, in the late antique and medieval Middle East. Special focus will be given to the conceptualization of sacred time in theological, legal and devotional works, and to debates and questions pertaining to the sanctity of specific times. We would like to address the following questions: How could we conceptualize and identify the notion of sacred time in medieval societies? How was the notion of sacred time constructed in specific historical and cultural contexts? Which needs, of both individuals and communities, call for defining sacred time? What functions did it fill, and in what ways?

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### Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July

Johannes Gutenberg-Universität, Infobox  
*Opening Session*

**13.00 – 15.00**

#### Session I

##### LITURGY AND SACRED TIME

Johannes Pahlitzsch (Mainz)  
*Introduction*

Zachary Chitwood (Berlin)

*The Rhythms of Eternal Life: Sacred Time and Liturgical Commemoration in the Byzantine World.*

Ophir Münz-Manor  
(Open University of Israel)

*The Early Byzantine Jewish Liturgical Calendar according to a Liturgical Poem by Elazar birabi Qillir (7th Century).*



**15.00 – 15.30**  
COFFEE BREAK

**15.30 – 17.30**

#### Session II

##### SACRED TIME AND INTER-COMMUNAL RELATIONS

Yehoshua Frenkel (Haifa)

*Time and Social Boundaries: the Hanbalites of Damascus on Joint Events and the Call for Separation.*

Myriam Wyssa (London)

*The Coptic New Year and the Era of the Martyrs: A Celebration for All in Medieval Islamic Egypt.*

Martin Lüsttraeten (Mainz)

*Commemorating Conflict. Neo-martyrs in the Tradition of the Melkite Synaxarion and the Arabic Typikon.*

### Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July

Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum,  
Vortragssaal

**9.00 – 10.30**

#### Session III

##### MYSTICISM AND SACRED TIME

Pavel Basharin (Moscow)

*The Problem of Time in Early Sufism*

Ronit Meroz (Tel Aviv)

*The Plasticity and Permeability of Messianic Time in the Kabbalah*



**10.30 – 11.00**  
COFFEE BREAK

**11.00 – 12.30**

#### Session IV

##### TIME, SPACE, MEMORY

Thomas Pott (Rome)

*Creation, Memory and Reform.*

