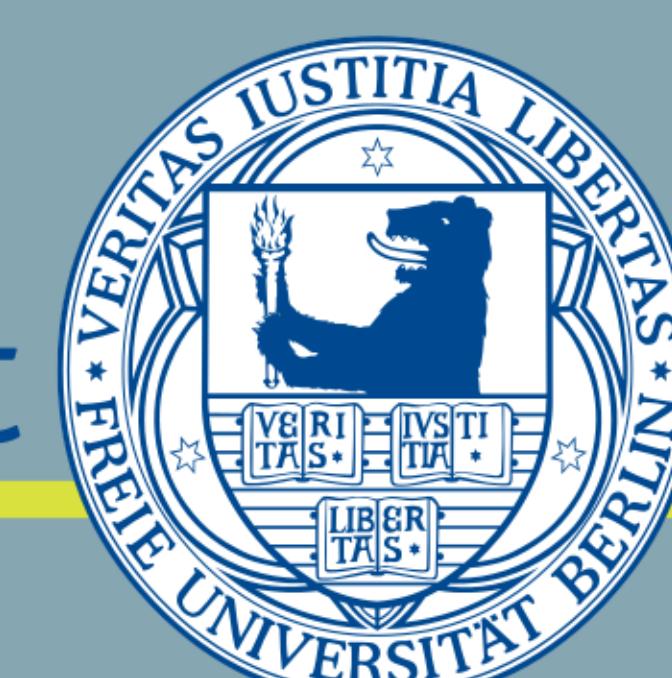# MAKING SENSE OF THE OATH IN LATE ANTIQUITY AND THE EARLIER MIDDLE AGES

RELIGIOUS ACT, SOCIAL BOND, HOLY SACRAMENT

International Conference

Freie Universität Berlin

15 - 17 Dec 2016

Image: Mosaic at the Monastery of Lady Mary in Beth Shean. Courtesy of the Penn Museum, Image #238727

Thursday 15 Dec 2016
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

14:00 **STEFAN ESDERS** (Freie Universität Berlin)

I. THE CHRISTIAN OATH IN ROMAN SOCIETY

14:30 **BERND KOLLMANN** (Universität Siegen)
Jesus' Teaching on Oaths in its Ancient Context

MOSHE BLIDSTEIN (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
Religious Authority and the Cancellation of Oaths and Vows in the Roman Empire

16:30 **KEVIN UHALDE** (Ohio University)
The Shape of Early Christian Fidelity: Tertullian on Swearing and Repentance

NICHOLAS WHEELER (University of Toronto)
Two Cases of Perjury: The Fourth-Century Origins of the Canonical Norm against Perjury in the Latin Church

Friday 16 Dec 2016
II. OBLIGATIONS, PROMISES, VOWS AND OATHS: REDEFINING SOCIAL RELATIONS IN AN AGE OF TRANSITION

09:00 **SUSANNA ELM** (University of California at Berkeley)
Condicio – Religious Bonds and Social Acts in Augustine

CLAUDIA RAPP (Universität Wien)
Promise – Prayer – Contract – Oath: Religious Frameworks and Legal Norms for Social Interactions in Early Byzantium

11:00 **ANDREW MARSHAM** (University of Edinburgh)
Oath and Covenant in the Qur'an

JAMIE WOOD (University of Lincoln)
Oath-Taking in Early Medieval Iberia: Contextualising 'Pactual' Monasticism

III. FIDELITY, OATH-TAKING AND NARRATIVE JUSTICE: THE CAROLINGIAN EMPIRE AND AFTER

14:00 **JENNIFER R. DAVIS** (The Catholic University of America / The American Academy in Berlin)
Re-imagining the Oath during the Reign of Charlemagne

15:40 **MAYKE DE JONG** (Universiteit Utrecht)
"Fides" after the Battle of Fontenoy (25 June 841): Nithard and Paschasius Radbertus

HEIKO BEHRMANN (Freie Universität Berlin)
Oath-Taking and Perjury in the Annals of St. Bertin: Tracing the Political Thought of Hincmar of Rheims

17:30 **IAN WARD** (Princeton University)
The End of the Carolingian Oath of Loyalty in the Tenth Century

THEO RICHES (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster)
Differentiating Sacred and Profane in the Eleventh-Century Oath: A Bishop's Job, But Does Anyone Have to Do it?

Saturday 17 Dec 2016
IV. FRAMING THE OATH IN EARLY MEDIEVAL THEOLOGY, EXEGESIS AND CANON LAW

09:00 **OWEN PHELAN** (Mount St. Mary's University)
Oaths and Bishops in the Ninth Century

GERDA HEYDEMANN (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften / Freie Universität Berlin)
"Ego autem dico vobis non iurare omnino": The Prohibition to Swear (Matthew 5:33-37) in Carolingian Exegesis

11:00 **STEFAN ESDERS** (Freie Universität Berlin)
Dissolving the Oath (7th - 11th centuries)

CONCLUSION

11:45 **KATE COOPER** (University of Manchester) / **CONRAD LEYSER** (University of Oxford)

Conference Venue
Freie Universität Berlin
Holzlaube
Room 2.2058 and 2.2059
Fabeckstr. 23-25
14195 Berlin

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