

Christian Papyri and Daily Life in the Roman Empire: Insights from Ancient Documents

This workshop will explore the Christian papyri from the Roman Empire as key artifacts and documents that can shed light on daily life in antiquity. By analyzing these ancient documents participants will exchange their views on the lives of early Christian communities, interactions and development of worship. Some of the main questions seeking for answers will be: What do papyri reveal about the private and public lives of early Christians; reversely, how do these documents and Christian literature contribute to our understanding of Roman legal and social systems? What can we learn about the nature of religious conflict, tolerance, and coexistence in the Ancient Mediterranean from these sources? This workshop is generously funded by the Princeton-Humboldt Strategic Partnership Initiative.

Contact: lajos.berkes@hu-berlin.de

Venue (for both days):

Theologische Fakultät
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Burgstraße 26 10099 Berlin
Room 206

4 July (Friday)

14:00 *Welcome, Introduction*
J. Schröter, L. Berkes

Finds and Archives – Old and New

14:30–15:00 *The Papas Herakleides Papyrus at Berlin, P.Berol. 8508*
AnneMarie Luijendijk (Princeton)
15:00–15:30 *A New Coptic Document in Greek Script: Possible Implications*
Conrad Theilemann (HU Berlin/Halle)
15:30–16:00 *Reconfiguring the Coptic Wizard's Hoard as an Archive*
Elizabeth Hane (Princeton)

16:00–16:30 Coffee Break

Ritual Power

16:30–17:00 *Concepts of Illness in the Greek Magical Papyri*
Anamika Wehen (HU Berlin)
17:00–17:30 *Scribal Practice in the Magical Formularies on Papyrus*
Sofia Torallas Tovar (Princeton)
17:30–18:00 *"By the Topos and Its Power!" Coptic Documentary Evidence for the Cult of Local Guardian Angels*
Frederic Krueger (FU Berlin)

18:30 Reception at the faculty

5 July (Saturday)

Legal Documents

- 9:30–10:00 *Til Demons Do Us Part: A Divorce Document from Fourth Century Egypt*
Melissa V. Yorio (Princeton)
- 10:00–10:30 *Bound by Faith, Bound by Law: Suretyship and Christian Morals in Late Antique Thought*
Lucia Waldschuetz (Princeton)
- 10:30–11:00 *Words Like "Filthy Rags", a Mouth Like a "Tomb with White-washed Outside while Inside Full of Cadaver Bones". Arrows from the Arsenal of Holy Scriptures in the P.Budge Hearing*
Sebastian Richter (FU Berlin)

11:00–11:30 Coffee Break

Literary Culture

- 11:30–12:00 *Christian Books from the Antinoopolis Excavations of the Egypt Exploration Fund (1913–1914)*
Brent Nongbri (Oslo)
- 12:00–12:30 *Reconstructing the Lacunae in the So-Called Epistula Apostolorum: Some Examples*
Vittorio Secco (HU Berlin)
- 12:30–13:00 *"Unless You Fast from the World": Reflections on P.Oxy. 5575, the Gospel of Thomas, and Ancient Gospel Literature*
Konrad Schwarz (HU Berlin)

13:00–14:00 Lunch

Amulets

- 14:00–14:30 *Too Many Amulets? MPER N.S. IV 23 Revisited*
Juan Chapa (Navarra)
- 14:30–15:00 *Amulets, Apocrypha, Writing Exercises? Case Studies in Amulet Identification*
Lajos Berkes (HU Berlin)
- 15:00–15:30 *Amuletic Prayers in Late Antique Christianity*
Matthew Andrews (Princeton)

15:30–16:00 Coffee Break

Everyday Life

- 16:00–16:30 *Spiritual Motherhood: Women, Community, and Prayer in Christian Papyrus Letters*
Elena Chepel (HU Berlin)
- 16:30–17:00 *Under My Roof: Contracted Labor and Household Composition in the Roman-Egyptian World*
Mikayla Barreiro (Princeton)

17:00–18:00 **Final Discussion**

18:30– Reception at the faculty