



Organisers

Annette Schellenberg, Universität Wien
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Epistemology of the Ancient Fertile Crescent

Reflection on knowledge is often assumed to origin in the formation of Greek philosophy since pre-Socratic times. Based on this insight, earlier cultural stages in the ancient Near East, including ancient Israel, are described as archaic. In these “archaic cultures”, reflections on the principles of knowledge and its documentation in written sources are said to have hardly existed. Against this view, new approaches to the study of epistemologies in these cultures have emerged in the recent years. The aim of the conference “Epistemology of the Ancient Fertile Crescent” is to bring these new approaches into dialogue to create a concise picture of epistemological processes in the cultures of this region.

Programme

June 22, 2022 (Wednesday)

1.00pm	<i>Pre-conference Lunch</i>
2.00pm	Words of Welcome
2.15-3.15pm	Jan Dietrich (Aarhus) – Epistemologies of the Ancient Mediterranean: Characteristics and Comparisons
3.15-4.15pm	Katharine J. Dell (Cambridge) – “Even Though Those Who are Wise Claim to Know, They Cannot Find it Out.” (Eccl 8:17): A Pendulum of Epistemological Perspectives in Ecclesiastes, as Contextualized in Greek Culture
4.15–4.45pm	<i>Coffee Break</i>
4.45-5.45pm	Mark Sneed (Lubbock) – The Relationship Between Qohelet’s Anthropology and His Epistemology
5.45-6.45pm	Thomas Wagner (Wuppertal) – Cognitive Domains and Cultic Rituals: Shared Understanding and Individual Perception
7.00pm	<i>Dinner</i>

June 23, 2022 (Thursday)

9.00-10.00am	Francesca Rochberg (Berkeley) – Cuneiform Knowledge and Natural Knowledge
10.00-11.00am	Hindy Najman (Oxford) – Concepts of Nature in Second Temple Judaism: A Philological and Philosophical Exploration
11.00–11.30am	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.30–12.30am	Eva Cancik-Kirschbaum (Berlin) – Ancient Epistemologies in First Philologies
12.30–1.30pm	<i>Lunch Break</i>

- 1.30–2.30pm **Jaco Gericke** (Vanderbijlpark) – “Come Let us Reason Together” (Isa 1:18): The Comparative-Philosophical Question of Epistemological Commensurability and the Search for Justification Criteria in the Old Testament’s Second-Order Religious Language
- 2.30–3.30pm **Dru Johnson** (New York) – Ritual Epistemology in the Hebrew Bible
- 3.30–4.00pm *Coffee Break*
- 4.00–5.00pm **Annette Schellenberg** (Wien) – “For the Lord Gives Wisdom” (Prov 2:6): Old Testament Notions about the Involvement of God in the Cognition Processes of Humans
- 5.00–6.00pm **Karen Gloy** (Luzern) – Hypotaxis versus parataxis: A Discussion of Plato with the Ancient Near Eastern Way of Thinking
- 6.00–7.00pm *Dinner*
- 7.00–8.00pm **Marc Van De Mieroop** (New York City) – What is Knowledge? A Babylonian Answer (Public Lecture)
- 8.00pm *Reception*

June 24, 2022 (Friday)

- 8.30–9.30am **Christoph Horn** (Bonn) – The Epistemology of Wisdom in Ancient Neoplatonism
- 9.30–10.30am **Ludwig Morenz** (Bonn) – Reading a readers perspective: Ambiguity and the art of reading in MK-Egypt. A case study of Ankhu (stela Liege I/630) – a free floating individual?
- 10.30–11.00am *Coffee Break*
- 11.00–12.00am **Douglas Yoder** (Los Angeles) – The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil: A Case Study in Comparative Epistemology
- 12.00–13.00am **Esther Heinrich-Ramharter** (Wien) – Formal Aspects of the Tun-Ergehen-Connection in the Book of Job
- 13.00–13.30am Final Discussion and Farewell

Venue

The conference will take place at the conference center ‘Auf dem Heiligen Berg’ in Wuppertal (<https://www.aufdemheiligenberg.de>). The participation fee is **€150.00**. The fee includes lunch and dinner at the conference center’s restaurant. Single rooms are available for **€79.00**, double rooms for **€94.00** per night including breakfast. To register and to book a room, please contact Thomas Wagner by email (twagner@uni-wuppertal.de).

Traveling information

By Train and Bus

Mainstation Wuppertal: Look for the bus station. It is directly accessible from track 1. From the other tracks you can use the underpass. Take bus no. 643 “Kirchliche Hochschule” to the final stop (15 min.). The final stop is located on the premises of the *Tagungshaus*. Alternatively, take bus no. 612 or no. 622 until the stop “Loher Bahnhof”. From there it’s a 20 minutes walk to the *Tagungshaus*. On weekdays between 6 am and 9 pm, the busses run about every 20 minutes.

By Car

Address for navigation systems: Missionsstraße 9, 42285 Wuppertal.

Parking spaces are available for free on the back side of the conference center.

