



## 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)

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| 2.00pm      | Words of Welcome  |
| 2.15-3.00pm | <b>Jan Dietrich</b> (Aarhus) – Epistemologies of the Ancient Mediterranean: Characteristics and Comparisons   |
| 3.00-3.45pm | <b>Christoph Horn</b> (Bonn) – The Epistemology of Wisdom in Ancient Neoplatonism   |
| 3.45–4.15pm | <i>Coffee Break</i>   |
| 4.15-5.00pm | <b>Katharine J. Dell</b> (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 |
| 5.00-5.45pm | <b>Mark Sneed</b> (Lubbock) – The Relationship Between Qohelet’s Anthropology and His Epistemology  |
| 6.30pm      | <i>Dinner</i>   |

#### June 23, 2022 (Thursday)

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| 9.00-9.45am   | <b>Francesca Rochberg</b> (Berkeley) – Cuneiform Knowledge and Natural Knowledge   |
| 9.45-10.30am  | <b>Hindy Najman</b> (Oxford) – Concepts of Nature in Second Temple Judaism: A Philological and Philosophical Exploration   |
| 10.30–11.00am | <i>Coffee Break</i>  |
| 11.00–11.45am | <b>Tanja Pommerening</b> (Marburg) & <b>Annette Imhausen</b> (Frankfurt) – New ways of thinking about Bodies of Knowledge in Ancient Egypt                           |
| 11.45–12.30am | <b>Annette Schellenberg</b> (Wien) – “For the Lord Gives Wisdom” (Prov 2:6): Old Testament Notions about the Involvement of God in the Cognition Processes of Humans |

<i>12.30–2.00pm</i>	<i>Lunch Break</i>
2.00–2.45pm	<b>Eva Cancik-Kirschbaum</b> (Berlin) – Ancient Epistemologies in First Philologies
2.45–3.30pm	<b>Alexandra von Lieven</b> (Münster) – Wordplay and Similar Epistemological Strategies in Ancient Egypt
<i>3.30–4.00pm</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
4.00–4.45pm	<b>Nili Shupak</b> (Haifa) – Doubts about Traditions and Conventions in the Egyptian and Biblical Wisdom Literature
4.45–5.30pm	<b>Jaco Gericke</b> (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
<i>6.00–7.00pm</i>	<i>Dinner</i>
7.00–8.00pm	<b>Marc Van De Mieroop</b> (New York City) – What is Knowledge? A Babylonian Answer (Public Lecture)
<i>8.00pm</i>	<i>Reception</i>

June 24, 2022 (Friday)

9.00–9.45am	<b>Esther Heinrich-Ramharter</b> (Wien) – Formal Aspects of the Tun-Ergehen-Connection in the Book of Job
10.00–10.30am	<b>Douglas Yoder</b> (Los Angeles) – The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil: A Case Study in Comparative Epistemology
<i>10.30–11.00am</i>	<i>Short Coffee Break</i>
11.00–11.45am	<b>Dru Johnson</b> (New York) – Ritual Epistemology in the Hebrew Bible
11.45–12.30am	<b>Thomas Wagner</b> (Wuppertal) – Cognitive Domains and Cultic Rituals: Shared Understanding and Individual Perception
12.30–1.00pm	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](mailto: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.

