

**Ancient Jewish and Christian Apocalypses:  
Transfer of Knowledge and Genre Definition**

The conference aims at discussing how the literary genre “apocalypse” promoted specific domains of knowledge in Late Antiquity, such as eschatology, soteriology, angelology, demonology, ecclesiology, ethics and anthropology, and how it influenced Jewish and Christian concepts of the afterlife.

The colloquium is part of an ongoing research project that will eventually result in the publication of a new translation and commentary on all ancient apocalypses. Fifty-five texts have been selected based on the phenomenological definition of apocalyptic literature introduced by John J. Collins in 1979. These texts, composed up to the middle of the 8th century CE, have been distributed among forty philologists, historians, and theologians, who are examining them to determine what types of knowledge they transmit and how these types of knowledge are transformed by inclusion in the genre “apocalypse”. The definition of the genre will then be central to the conversation.

In addition to keynote lectures by John J. Collins, Martha Himmelfarb and Jane Baun, the conference will include four sessions focusing on different research questions:

1. Defining the Genre
2. Mapping Jewish and Christian Traditions
3. Identifying Characteristics of Late Apocalypses
4. Transmission of Knowledge in Apocalyptic Literature.

Each participant will discuss his or her text in at least one of the sessions, providing initial answers to the proposed questions in a short talk. It is expected that a modified definition of “apocalypse” and an inventory of the types of knowledge reflected in early and late apocalyptic texts will emerge by the end of the conference.

**Collaborative Research Centre “Episteme in Motion:  
Transfer of Knowledge from the Ancient World to the Early  
Modern Period” (SFB 980)**

Humboldt University Berlin  
Department of Theology  
Chair of Ancient Church History

**Further information**  
[www.antikes-christentum.de](http://www.antikes-christentum.de)

**Contact**  
Emiliano Fiori ([embfiori@gmail.com](mailto:embfiori@gmail.com))  
Stefanie Rabe ([stefanie.rabe@hu-berlin.de](mailto:stefanie.rabe@hu-berlin.de))



Front page: detail from Ms. neerl. 2290, fol. 93v ©akg-images

**Ancient Jewish  
and Christian Apocalypses**  
Transfer of Knowledge  
and Genre Definition

International Conference, 14–15 November 2014



## FRIDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2014

Heilig-Geist-Kapelle, Spandauer Straße 1, 10178 Berlin

09.00–09.15 Conference Opening and Welcome

### First Panel: 09.15–13.00

#### *Defining the Genre*

Chair: Christoph Markschies

09.15–10.00 Keynote Lecture  
John J. Collins (Yale Divinity School)  
*The Genre Apocalypse Reconsidered*

10.00–10.30 Discussion

10.30–11.00 Short Papers

**11.00–11.30 Coffee Break**

11.30–12.00 Enrico Norelli (University of Geneva)  
*Why Did Early Believers in Jesus Write Apocalypses?*

12.00–12.30 Emmanouela Grypeou  
(Humboldt University, Berlin)  
*Talking Skulls: On Some Personal Accounts on Afterlife and Their Place in Apocalyptic Literature*

12.30–13.00 Short Papers

**13.00–14.00 Lunch**

**14.00–14.30 Coffee**

### Second Panel: 14.30–18.45

#### *Mapping Jewish and Christian Traditions*

Chair: Florentina Badalanova-Geller

14.30–15.15 Keynote Lecture  
Martha Himmelfarb (Princeton University)  
*Eschatology and Empire: A Parting of the Ways for Jewish and Christian Apocalypses?*

15.15–15.45 Discussion

15.45–16.15 Short Papers

**16.15–16.45 Coffee Break**

16.45–17.15 Johannes Reinhart (University of Vienna)  
*The Slavonic Apocalypse of Abraham*

17.15–17.45 Bernd J. Diebner (University of Heidelberg)  
*Is It Legitimate to Consider the Book of Ezekiel as Apocalyptic Literature?*

**17.45–18.15 Break**

18.15–18.45 Short Papers

## SATURDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2014

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Burgstraße 26,  
Theologische Fakultät, Room 117

### Third Panel: 09.00–12.45

#### *Identifying Characteristics of Late Apocalypses*

Chair: Emiliano Fiori

09.00–09.45 Keynote Lecture  
Jane Baun (University of Oxford)  
*“Forth Out of His Treasure Things New and Things Old” (Matthew 13:52): Knowledge Transfer between Late Antique and Medieval Apocalypses in the Byzantine Sphere*

09.45–10.15 Discussion

10.15–10.45 Short Papers

**10.45–11.15 Coffee Break**

11.15–11.45 Lutz Greisiger (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)  
*Some Ethno- and Geographical Eschata from 7th Century Middle-Eastern Apocalyptic Narratives in Latin Sources*

11.45–12.15 John Carey (University of Cork)  
*The Concealment and Disclosure of Knowledge in the Old Irish In Tenga Bithnua*

12.15–12.45 Short Papers

**12.45–14.00 Lunch**

**14.00–14.30 Coffee**

### Fourth Panel: 14.30–18.00

#### *Transmission of Knowledge in Apocalyptic Literature*

Chair: Jens Schröter

14.30–15.00 Emiliano Fiori (Humboldt University, Berlin)  
*Death and Judgment in the Apocalypse of Paul: Old Imagery and Monastic Reinvention*

15.00–15.30 Daniele Tripaldi (University of Bologna)  
*Edfu and the Oriens: Transmission of Ancient Egyptian Lore in Two Coptic Apocalypses*

15.30–16.00 Short Papers

**16.00–16.30 Break**

16.30–17.00 Short Papers

17.00–18.00 Concluding Remarks  
Christoph Markschies (Humboldt University, Berlin)

#### **Short papers will be delivered by**

Florentina Badalanova-Geller (Berlin)  
Cordula Bandt (Berlin)  
Alessandro Bausi (Hamburg)  
Klaus Berger (Heidelberg)  
Peter Busch (Heidelberg)  
Jan Dochhorn (Aarhus)  
Lutz Doering (Münster)  
Judith Hartenstein (Koblenz-Landau)  
Uta Heil (Erlangen-Nürnberg)  
Andreas Heiser (Ewersbach)  
Matthias Henze (Houston)  
Nestor Kavvas (Tübingen)  
Jutta Leonhardt-Balzer (Aberdeen)  
Julian Petkov (Heidelberg)  
Karl Pinggéra (Marburg)  
Uwe-Karsten Plisch (Berlin)  
Jens Schröter (Berlin)  
Loren Stuckenbruck (München)  
Harald Suermann (Bonn)  
Claudia Tiersch (Berlin)  
Emanuela Valeriani (Rome)  
Vadim Vitkovsky (Berlin)  
Gregor Wurst (Augsburg)  
Claudio Zamagni (Geneva)