

IN THE GRIP OF THE SUPERNATURAL: DEPENDENCIES ABOVE, WITHIN, AND BEFORE US

CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 28–30, 2021
ONLINE VIA ZOOM

hosts the Cluster of Excellence “Beyond Slavery and Freedom”, which aims to overcome the binary opposition of “slavery versus freedom”. We approach the phenomenon of slavery and other types of strong asymmetrical dependency from methodologically and theoretically distinct perspectives.

The conference is looking to explore the connection between the phenomenon of dependency and the realm of the supernatural (God, angels, demons) in late antique and early medieval Christianity. In most ancient cultures heaven and earth are seen as forming one large hierarchical pyramid. This vision is shared by Christianity: there was no strict demarcation between the natural world and the realm of the supernatural; instead, the physical and metaphysical realities (which were, of course, perceived by our natural faculties in different ways) were seen as forming part of an all-encompassing view of the universe. In this universe clear structures of dependency existed which crossed the borders between the physical and the metaphysical, both linking and organizing heaven and earth. The conference intends to study these structures in greater detail and thus to enhance our knowledge of dependencies in the ancient and early medieval world.

We intend to explore the topic in three separate yet interlinked panels.

**Bonn Center for Dependency and
Slavery Studies (BCDSS)
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**University of Bonn
Online via Zoom**

CONTACT

Conference Organizers:

Prof. Dr. Wolfram Kinzig, BCDSS and Faculty of Protestant Theology, University of Bonn
Dr. Julia Winnebeck, BCDSS, University of Bonn
Dr. Maria Munkholt, Faculty of Protestant Theology, University of Bonn

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Please **register** for the conference
by September 21, 2021 via [email](#).

We will send you a link for the conference so that you can join the Zoom meeting. Please visit our [conference website](#) for more information.



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Tuesday, September 28, 2021

3:30 – 4:00 PM (CEST) – Welcome

PANEL I: Dependencies above Us: Masters and Servants in Heaven

4:00 – 4:30 PM

'On earth as in heaven': The Impact of Divine Hierarchies on Political Theory in Late Antiquity

Peter van Nuffelen
(Ghent University)

4:30 – 5:00 PM

'You are my son – today I have begotten you.' (Psalm 2,7): Dependencies between God and King in Hebrew Bible Traditions

Markus Saur
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)

5:00 – 5:30 PM – Discussion

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

9:00 – 9:30 AM

Dieu peut-il créer par lui-même ou a-t-il besoin d'un médiateur? Un sujet de controverses anti-ariennes et anti-païennes

Marie-Odile Boulnois
(École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris)

9:30 – 10:00 AM

Christ as Servant in Late Antique Commentaries on the Epistle to the Philippians

Wolfram Kinzig
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)

10:00 – 10:30 AM – Discussion

10:30 – 11:00 AM – Coffee Break

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

PANEL II: Dependencies within Us: Supernatural Agency and Human 'Enslavement' in Christian Anthropology

11:00 – 11:30 AM

Demonology, Medicine, Ethics, or Pastoral Care? John Chrysostom's Letter to Stageirios

Ulrich Volp
(University of Mainz)

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Gifted by God and Tempted by the Devil: The Jura Monks, their Network, and the Supernatural World

Rahel Schär
(University of Bern)

12:00 – 12:30 PM – Discussion

12:30 – 3:00 PM – Lunch Break

3:00 – 3:30 PM

Disciplining Evil: The Devil in Early Medieval Monastic Rules

Albrecht Diem
(Syracuse University)

3:30 – 4:00 PM

Under Attack from Within: Theories of Self-governance according to the Egyptian Ascetic Tradition of Late Antiquity

Maria Munkholt
(University of Bonn)

4:00 – 4:30 PM – Discussion

4:30 – 5:00 PM – Coffee Break

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

PANEL III: Dependencies before Us: Christian Life on the Eve of Doomsday

5:00 – 5:30 PM

Heavenly Hope and Earthly Aspiration in Second-Century Christianity

Markus Bockmuehl
(University of Oxford)

5:30 – 6:00 PM

'Hell hath no fury': Female, Disabled, and Enslaved Bodies in Early Christian Hells

Meghan Henning
(University of Dayton)

6:00 – 6:30 PM – Discussion

Thursday, September 30, 2021

9:00 – 9:30 AM

'To Prevent Perpetual Pains in the Future': Penance – Ticket to Heaven or Medium of Legal and Social Control?

Julia Winnebeck
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)

9:30 – 10:00 AM

Judgment, Death, and Devotion: Visions of the End-time in Late Antique Asceticism

Veronika Wieser
(Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute for Medieval Research)

10:00 – 10:30 AM – Discussion

10:30 – 11:00 AM – Coffee Break

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Final Discussion