

24.04.2028 9:00-13:30
 JGU Mainz Wallstr. 7

 Anmeldung Organisation & Information
 Prof. Dr. Dorothea Erbele-Küster /
 Gender, Diversity und Biblische Literaturen FB01
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Isabelle Nowinkel.

(JGU Mainz)

"Isotta Nogarola's Letters and Her Dialogical Work *De pari aut impari Evae atque Adae peccato* in the Context of Female Authorship in Renaissance Humanism: A Philosophical-Theological Close Reading".

My interdisciplinary dissertation aims to establish the Italian humanist Isotta Nogarola (1418–1466) as a woman writer—and in particular as a philosopher, theologian, and exegete—in the history of European philosophy and theology. Isotta Nogarola's extant Latin letters represent one of the first female contributions to the *Querelle des femmes*, the early modern debate on gender. Her major theological and philosophical work, the so-called dialogue *De pari aut impari Evae atque Adae peccato* ("On the Equal or Unequal Sin of Eve and Adam"), constitutes one of the earliest defenses of women authored by a woman. Through a critical reading of Genesis 2–3, Isotta challenges the ancient and medieval reception of the story of Eve and the assumption of Eve's greater guilt. Drawing on biblical, philosophical, and patristic sources, she reframes traditional arguments and turns them against established interpretations. While she formally adheres to the conventional concept of gender derived from the biblical figures of Adam and Eve, she simultaneously undermines the premise of female weakness and ignorance through a double-voiced discourse. By means of close reading, I argue that Isotta not only contends for Eve's lesser guilt but also interrogates the category of "sin" as applied to Eve's actions and to the so-called "Fall" in Genesis 3. My analysis demonstrates that Isotta's dialogical work aims to deconstruct prevailing constructions of gender and to ground the equality of men and women in the order of divine creation.

Dorothea Erbele-Küster

(JGU Mainz)

Desire Unfulfilled, Desire Fulfilled: Eve and the Shulammitte in Po/ethical and Cultural-Anthropological Perspective

The biblical female protagonists—Eve and the Shulammitte—are both defined by desire. Eve's desire is triggered by the tree in the garden of Eden and its coveted fruit, which bestow the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 3:6). In the Christian reception history female curiosity and desire have been read as hubris and sin. By juxtaposing Eve's and the Shulammitte's desires, the lecture will revisit that historical and theological dominant interpretation and will foreground alternative readings of desire. Eve remains marked by desire even after she leaves the garden. While her longing for a counterpart is left unfulfilled—according to the curse pronounced in Genesis 3—the Shulammitte's desire in the Song of Songs is reciprocated by her beloved.

Argyro Delidakis

(University of Oslo)

Submitted Dissertation Title: The Transgressive Heroine with a Thousand Faces: Situating the Scriptural Eve in Greek and Arabic Receptions

Paper Title: Agents of the Fall: Eve, Satan, and the Distribution of Agency in Primordial Couple Literature

This paper argues that late antique and medieval Adam and Eve narratives recalibrate gendered agency in the Fall by redistributing "who does what" between Satan and Eve. Rather than fixing Satan as instigator and Eve as transgressor, these texts shift the actantial functions of the subject, object, sender, receiver, helper, opponent, through which agency is narratively produced. Tracing how these roles migrate between Satan and Eve across Greek, Latin, Syriac, Ethiopic and Arabic versions show that "Adversary" and "Temptress" are not stable identities but flexible narrative positions through which each tradition negotiates temptation, culpability, and piety.

Alina Röbke

(JGU Mainz)

Artistic Research: Mother Maiden Whore (2021)

Mother, Maiden, Whore (2021) is a triptych of large-scale ink drawings on raw cotton. The three titular terms, drawn from my mother's handwriting, are scaled across monumental surfaces through variations in placement and line weight. The work renders the persistent structuring of female figures along the categories of mother, virgin, and whore — a typology traceable from biblical texts to contemporary popular culture — perceptible as weight. Eve operates as an originating figure in whom femininity, guilt, and motherhood converge.

Dissertation Project: The Serpent as Visual Code

My Project examines the serpent as a culturally variable and ideologically unstable symbol. Drawing on Roland Barthes' semiotics of myth, I trace how the serpent's symbolic charge is produced and displaced across traditions. The serpent appears as a threshold figure between order and chaos, knowledge and prohibition, the sacred and the abject — an ambivalence that Christian reception history progressively narrows.



Mensch Frau^e forscht

Reception History of EVE

24.04.2026

Freitag, von 9:00 bis 13:30 Uhr
JGU Mainz Wallstraße 7

mit Beiträgen von

Argyro Delidaki (University of Oslo), Alina Rübke (JGU Mainz),
Isabelle Vowinkel (JGU Mainz), Dorothea Erbele-Küster (JGU Mainz)

Anmeldung Organisation & Information zum Workshop
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