

From – often large scale – animal sacrifices to gladiatorial shows, from fighting in wars to accidents, from slaughter of animals for meat consumption to the actual consumption of animal blood, from bloodletting as medical therapy to menstruation in cramped living conditions, blood flowed rather freely in the ancient world and seeing – often large quantities of – blood must have been a common occurrence in the daily lives of the peoples of the ancient Mediterranean. This led to blood and the ties it created to be topics in different areas of ancient daily lives – and the meaning of blood and blood ties in each of these areas must have seen mutual interferences. However, these different contexts have so far been the objects of specialist studies that only rarely share their results with each other.

It is the aim of this conference to rectify this situation – by bringing together scholars from different research areas, it is hoped to offer a deeper understanding of how, when and why blood and blood ties were topics in ancient discourse. To understand this is particularly pertinent at a time when new methodologies such as DNA research seem to be able to offer ‘biological’ solutions for questions of identity and ethnicity – while anthropological studies maintain that identity and ethnicity are social constructs. Before these modern debates can go forward, it is essential to ascertain what the ancient Greek and Romans actually thought about blood and blood ties and how multiple layers of meaning mutually influenced each other – in other words: What was the power of blood in the Greek and Roman world?

Organization

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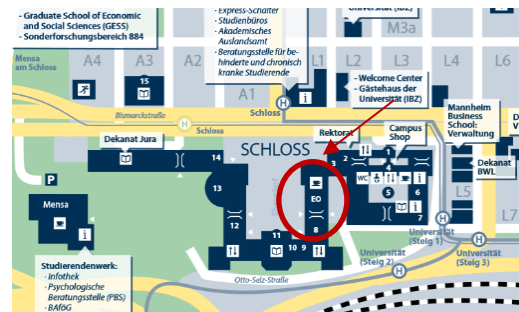
For further information, registration for in-person participation or Zoom-link for a digital participation **please contact**

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Venue

EO 162
1st Floor, East Wing, Schloss
(through entrance Ehrenhof Ost)

University of Mannheim
Mannheim, Germany



Supported by:



The Power of Blood – Blood and Blood Ties in Greek and Roman Discourse

International Conference at the
University of Mannheim, Germany

June 13th to 15th 2024



Thursday, 13.6.2024

13.30 Welcome and Introduction

Section 1: Blood that flows

13.45 Jan Timmer, Bonn: Ein besonderer Saft? – Blut bei den medizinischen Fachschriftstellern der römischen Kaiserzeit

14.30 Teun Tieleman, Utrecht: Galen on the Power of Blood: Science, Folklore, Ideology

15.15 Meghan Poplacean, New Haven: Body as Earth, Blood as Nourishment in Roman Thought and Religion

16.00 *Coffee break*

16.15 Carlo Pelloso, Verona: Virgina, Virginius and Appius. Or how to curse the tyrant by shedding sacrificial blood (*online*)

17.00 Bruno Bleckmann, Düsseldorf: Die Ablehnung des blutigen Opfers durch Konstantin

Friday, 14.6.2024

Section 2: Blood that binds

9.30 Werner Eck, Cologne: Fern der Heimat und doch mit ihr verbunden? Zur Herkunft der Frauen von Auxiliarsoldaten (*online*)

10.15 Emily Kearns, Oxford: Blood and bloodlines in the Greek world before Aristotle (*online*)

11.00 *Coffee break*

11.15 Sabine Müller, Marburg: Kinship ties in Argead politics (*online*)

12.00 Angelika Kellner, Mannheim: Blood is Thicker Than Water. Family Ties and Trees in Greek Antiquity

12.45 *Lunch break*

Section 3: Blood that sets apart

15.00 Carlo Arrighi, Bologna: Il sangue prima delle parole: le espressioni dello scontro tra Roma e i barbari (*online*)

15.45 *Coffee break*

16.00 Christian Laes, Manchester: The voices of blood and disgust in the Aesop Novel

Saturday, 15.6.2024

9.00 Kendra Eshleman, Boston: 'An Orator by Descent': On the (Un)importance of Blood Ties to the Second Sophists

9.45 Christian Hervik Bull, Bergen: Cleansing and defiling blood in the *Panarion* of Epiphanius of Salamis and his Gnostic Opponents

Section 4: Blood that pays

10.30 Julia Hoffmann-Salz, Mannheim: Dripping and Drenching? Blood on the battle field and in the arena

11.15 *Coffee break*

11.30 Karen E. Klaiber Hersch, Philadelphia: Revolutionary Blood: Tanaquil and Brutus

12.15 Laurence Totelin, Cardiff: Blood suckers and milk in the Greek and Roman antiquity (*online*)

13.00 Jessica Lamont, New Haven: Blood, Death, and Greek Ritual Practice (*online*)

13.45 Final Discussion