



MONDAY LECTURES | SOSE 2025

IN RELIGIOUS, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

RESEARCH BUILDING "WELTBEZIEHUNGEN" | C19.00.02/03

05.05.2025 | 14:15-15:45 | CORINNE BONNET

WHERE DO THE GODS LIVE? (3): DIVINE ECOLOGY: TO LIVE ON, IN OR BELOW THE EARTH

The link between the gods and the Earth has been the subject of outdated theories in the historiography of religions about an alleged Mother Erath or Great Mediterranean Goddess. Likewise, the bipartition between "Olympian" gods and "chthonian" gods was the subject of a profound revision. However, the earth is a fundamental space for human life, and even for the survival of the social communities. Its surface, its thickness and everything that is found in the depths, under the earth, constitute spaces inhabited by a whole series of divine powers, with which it is strategic to interact. This seminar will therefore provide the opportunity to explore the "earthly" dimension of the space of the gods, between Ge and the gods who receive the remains of deceased men, the innumerable powers which link or attach to the earth or to the netherworld in the defixiones, or Poseidon and the Semitic El qn 'rš, the gods who hold or shake the earth. The earth is also connected with oaths and different symbolic rituals. And last but not least, the earth is experienced and narrated as an ancestral, even autochthonous space, where ancestral gods live "forever" and convey the collective memory of a longue durée human and divine history.

05.05.2025 | 16:15-17:45 | CORINNE BONNET

WHERE DO THE GODS LIVE? (4): POLIS RELIGION: HOW NOT TO THROW OUT THE BATH WATER WITH THE BABY

The concept of polis religion has been the subject, in recent decades, of quite radical criticism. However, as the Urban Religion project shows, the city is a particularly dense space in divine presences, in rituals, in monuments... How can we today thematize the relationship between the gods and the city, understood as a political entity, in the Greek world and beyond? In what spaces and in what socio-political, institutional or informal contexts do the gods intervene? We will focus here on their presence at the gymnasium, at the prytaneum, at the assembly and at the tribunal, at the agora, at the theatre, at the borders, at the crossroads, in the garrisons, in the palaces, in the libraries... What does this omnipresence of the gods do to human inhabitants in daily life and in the very functioning of political life? Do these questions, considered on the scale of a city or an empire, call for different answers? How is the collective and individual dimension of religious practices inscribed in space, through concrete communication devices? Here too, the reflection will be based on specific case studies, mainly in Greece and in the Near East.