

Private Material Religion across Cultures

ICS postgraduate and early career symposium
Senate House, Malet Street, London
6–7 June 2024



ICS INSTITUTE OF
CLASSICAL
STUDIES | SCHOOL OF
ADVANCED STUDY
UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

Room G11, Ground Floor, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU

Thursday 6 June

From 9.30 registration and welcome morning tea

Panel 1: Private religion in the pre-classical Mediterranean and Near East (10.30–12.30)

Raquel Robbins (University of Toronto), 'Living with the Dead: Evidence of Ancestor Commemoration Rituals in Domestic Spaces of Old Babylonian Ur'

Paulina Wandowicz (University College London), 'Mapping the dynamics and boundaries between private and state material religion in second millennium BCE Egypt'

Athina Gerochristou (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens), 'Creating Memory: Mortuary Rituals and Domestic Cult in the 7th-6th Mill. BC Eastern Mediterranean' (*remote presentation*)

Vera Gonçalves (CHAM, NOVA University), 'Snake gods in Ešnunna household contexts: Depictions and symbolic meanings on cylinder seals (c 2350 - 2150 BC)'

LUNCH (12.30–1.30)

Panel 2: Private religion in the Greek-speaking world (1.30–2.30)

Hannah Smagh (Pennsylvania State University), 'Performing Civic Identity: Social Belonging and Ritual at Domestic Altars' (*remote presentation*)

Katerina Apokatanidis (University of Toronto), 'The Materiality of the Orphic Tablets: A Case-Study from Pelinna'

BREAK (2.30–2.45)

Panel 3: Romans and community organizations (2.45–3.45)

Alex Antoniou (University of Glasgow), 'Privately worshipping the emperor: *Collegia*, corporate identity and emperor worship'

Timothy Smith (University of Oxford), 'Worship in the workplace: cult spaces in collegial *scholae* in Ostia'

AFTERNOON TEA (3.45–4.15)

Panel 4: Roman magic and curses (4.15–5.45)

Nicole Iu, Institute of Classical Studies, 'Types of material ritualistic agency on "the body" in Roman society'

Charlotte Spence, University of Exeter, 'Curse Tablets Across the Ancient and Late Antique Mediterranean World: Evidence for Traditional or Private Ritual Practice?'

Sophia Taborski, Cornell University, 'Curse Tablets in the Temple of Magna Mater and Isis in Mainz'

BREAK (5.45–6)

Keynote (6–6.45)

Stuart McKie (Open University), 'Magic and religion in Roman households: assemblages of power'

CONFERENCE DINNER AT LOCAL PUB (7.30)

Friday 7 June

INFORMAL LUNCH AT LOCAL CAFÉ (from 12–1.30)

Panel 5: Home and family in late antiquity (1.30–3.00)

Grace Stafford (University of Vienna), 'Women and Material Religion in Late Antiquity: Personal Piety or Family Values?'

Caroline Bridel (Universität Bern), 'Visiting the Grave, from Banquets to Martyrs. "Private Religion" in the Catacombs of Rome'

Mattias Brand (Universität Zürich), 'No Place Like Home? A Material Approach to Religion in the Home'

AFTERNOON TEA (3–3.30)

Panel 6: Afterlives (3.30–4.30)

Alessia Boschis (University of Udine – DIUM (Dipartimento di Studi umanistici e del patrimonio culturale)), 'The People of the Cross: Religious Practices in 13th-century Armenia through Travel Literature. A study-case' (*remote presentation*)

Adél Ternovác (University of Reading), 'Crux Gemmata: Engraved Gems on a Processional Cross from Esztergom, Hungary'

Conference end. Optional of informal group pub trip.