

BEYOND CANON_



IMPRESSUM

Organisation: Centre for Advanced Studies "Beyond Canon_"
Universität Regensburg
93040 Regensburg

Prof. Dr. Tobias Nicklas, Director General "Beyond Canon_"
Prof. Dr. Luigi Walt, Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"

Information
and registration: lwalt@unior.it

Image: Choregos and actors, Roman mosaic. From the House of the Tragic Poet
(VI, 8, 3). Pompeii. Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli, inv. 9986.
Photo: Marie-Lan Nguyen (2011). Source: Wikimedia Commons

VENUE

Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"
Palazzo Du Mesnil, Via Chiatamone, 61
80121 Naples

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Cimarosa
Via Domenico Cimarosa, 29
80127 Napoli

Interdisciplinary Workshop, Naples, 08–10 May 2024

MASKS, MIMES, MIRACLES... AND MYSTERIES

Retelling and Performing Sacred Stories in Late Antiquity

Centre for Advanced Studies "Beyond Canon_"
Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"

INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP

MASKS, MIMES, MIRACLES... AND MYSTERIES

Retelling and Performing Sacred Stories in Late Antiquity

Communitas breaks in through the interstices of structure, in liminality; at the edges of structure, in marginality; and from beneath structure, in inferiority.
(Victor Turner)

What kind of social agents were expected to tell or stage a 'sacred' story in Late Antiquity? In front of what kind of audience were they used to perform, by what means, and in what circumstances of time and space? What do we know about their everyday life, their performing techniques, or their material culture? Did their performances always aim to educate and entertain, or could they serve as an expression of cultural resistance as well? What were the interests at stake in performing narratives about gods, heroes, or superhuman beings? And what was the role played by popular actors and storytellers in defining the intellectual and religious landscape of late ancient Mediterranean societies?

Starting from all these questions, the present workshop aims to focus the analysis on 'low' and non-elite forms of reproduction, performance, and reception of myths and sacred stories in Late Antiquity, for instance in folktales, mimes and pantomimes, mythological farces or ritual dramas. Special attention will be paid to the use of alternative sacred stories, not only from the perspective of the main traditions in which they were produced, but also from the perspective of different rival and competing traditions. In both cases, examination of such material will make an innovative contribution to our understanding of ancient popular theatre and storytelling as 'heterotopias of religious authority' – as 'other spaces' in which religious authority could be challenged, subverted, and evaded or, conversely, mirrored, mimicked, and confirmed. No less relevant will be to determine the extent to which extra-canonical narrative and theatrical traditions may have led, in Late Antiquity, to the creation and reshaping of specific literary genres, contributing to dynamics of religious and cultural competition.

WEDNESDAY, May 8, 2024

16:30–17:00: **Institutional Welcome**

17:00–18:15: **Keynote Lecture**
Richard Beacham (King's College, London): *Living Theatre: Theatricalised Patrons, Painting, Piety, and Performance in the Ancient Roman House*

THURSDAY, May 9, 2024

09:00–13:00: Morning Session

Laura Feldt (University of Southern Denmark): *The Narrative Arts of Marvels, Metamorphoses, and Mysteries: The Fantastic in Ancient Religious Narratives*

Jan N. Bremmer (University of Groningen): *Horror Stories in Phlegon of Tralles between Tradition and Innovation*

11:00–11:30 COFFEE BREAK

Giovanni B. Bazzana (Harvard University): *Exorcism and Performance in Christian Apocryphal Literature*

Haim Weiss (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev): *From the Land of the Dead and Back: The Miracle of Returning Reviving in Rabbinic Stories*

13:00–15:00 LUNCH

15:00–18:15: Afternoon Session

Costas Panayotakis (University of Glasgow): *Theatricality and Religion in the Graeco-Roman Mime and in Petronius' Satyricon*

Luigi Walt (Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"): *The Passion of the Christ-Mime: Popular Theatricality from Paul the Mimic Fool to Genesius the Converted Actor*

16:30–17:00 COFFEE BREAK

Laura S. Lieber (Duke University / Universität Regensburg): *Performing Esther in Antiquity*

Francesca O. Bellino (Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"): *Retelling and Performing the Stories of the Prophets in Arabic Popular Literature*

DINNER at Trattoria San Ferdinando

Friday, May 10, 2024

09:30–12:30 Morning Session

Stefan Alkier (Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main): *Walking on the Sea in the Gospels and in Herbert Achternbusch's "Das Gespenst": Intertextual and Intermedial Interpretations*

Harald Buchinger (Universität Regensburg): *Liturgy – Retelling and Performing Sacred Stories as Mystery*

11:00–11:30 COFFEE BREAK

Tobias Nicklas (Universität Regensburg): *Concluding Remarks and Future Prospects*

FINAL DISCUSSION

13:00–15:00 LUNCH

15:00: Guided Tour in Naples