

Contact

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In order to attend online or in presence, please
register by **Dec. 6, 2024** with
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More: www.romanislam.uni-hamburg.de

The world of nation-states and secular salvation ideologies (Communism, Socialism, National Socialism, Fascism, etc.) is presently being shattered by imperial powers, states and proto-states, all of which refer to salvation religions, Evangelical America, Orthodox Russia, Orthodox Israel, and the Islamic State. The assurance of political religion contributes to current wars, global migration, and the creation of new societies in the West, including the Islamic world.

The transcultural dynamics of empires with salvation religions of Middle Eastern origin are not yet well understood and are often taken for granted: The Roman, Islamic, and Spanish empires all seem paradigmatic for our understanding of empire. Subsequent empires and political regimes all drew, in one way or another, on the common heritage of the Roman, Islamic, and Hispanic cultures. They all brought with them a dominant imperial language and a dominant, if not exclusive, salvation religion. These set them apart from other imperial traditions in Asia and Africa. More strikingly, they led to a complete transformation of their colonial subjects, who had other religions and languages to begin with. The new religion and language became an inseparable part of identity: Spanish and Catholicism in the Americas, Romance languages and Roman Christianity in Western Europe and the Mediterranean, Arabic language and Islam in most of the Middle East and North Africa.

In pursuing these comparative questions, we must include the roots: the Sasanian Empire with Zoroastrianism and Persian, and even the Assyrian Empire in some regards. There are obvious differences between the three paradigmatic empires. The Roman Empire was invigorated by Christianity, Islam rose with the Empire, while in the Spanish Empire, Catholicism was an established religion in the "Old World" at the time of the conquest. One empire was maritime, the other was primarily land-based, and the third was oceanic.

Comparing them allows for a better understanding of the elements of their transformative power. The workshop will compare approximately the first 300 years of each empire, when they functioned as an almost unified imperial body, before entering a state of "umbrella empire" or their complete dissolution, as in the case of the Americas.



A Family of Empires of Salvation Religions – The First 300 Years

University of Hamburg
Dec. 12–13, 2024

HYBRID WORKSHOP



RomanIslam – Center for Comparative Empire
and Transcultural Studies (Early Islam)



Thu., Dec. 12, 2024 AS-Saal, ESA 1, Hamburg

9.00 Registration

9.20 **Stefan Heidemann (University of Hamburg)**
Welcome and Introduction

A Family of Empires

9.45 **Jane Burbank (New York University)**
Russia: A Member of the Family? Orthodoxy vs. Eurasia – A Key Note



10.45 **Stefan Heidemann (University of Hamburg)**
The Second Imperial Paradigm of the West: The Islamic Empire

11.00 Coffee Break

11.15 **Peter Fibiger Bang (University of Copenhagen)**
Situating Romanization in the Family of Empires and Salvation Religions

12.00 **Garth Fowden (University of Cambridge)**
'Sasan après Sasan'



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12.45 Lunch Break

Imperial Religions

13.45 **Claudia Tiersch (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin)**
Civitas dei as civitas terrena? Bishops and Political Administration in Late Roman Empire

14.30 **Jonathan Brockopp (Pennsylvania State University)**
Salvation Religion, Imperial Religion: The Case of Heresy in North Africa

15.15 Coffee Break



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15.30 **Javier Francisco (University of Freiburg)**
Evangelization – A Mixed Bag of Imperial Geopolitics

16.15 **Frederik Schulze (University of Cologne)**
Empire, Religion, and Local Administration in Northern Peru (1750–1820)

17.00 Concluding Remarks



Taq Kasra/ The Arch of Ctesiphon, CC BY-SA 4.0

17.20 End of Day One

19.30 Dinner

Fri., Dec. 13, 2024, AS-Saal, ESA 1, Hamburg

Imperial Rules and Practices

9.00 **Stefan Heidemann (University of Hamburg)**
Opening

9.15 **Shervin Farridnejad (University of Hamburg)**
Zoroastrian Universal Salvation: Ideology of Power and Religion in Late Antique Iran

10.00 **Kurt Franz (University of Hamburg)**
Religion or Faith? The Not-so-Islamic Early Empires of the Arabs

10.45 Coffee Break



Remarks and Notes



12.30 **Peter Fibiger Bang (University of Copenhagen),
Stefan Heidemann (University of Hamburg) and
Stefan Rinke (Freie Universität Berlin)**
Round Table Discussion – Results and Outlook

13.00 Conference Lunch

11.00 **Eugenio Garosi (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität
München)**
The Grammar of Empire: Documentary Evidence
for Arabic Scribal Training in the Early Islamic
Period

11.45 **Stefan Rinke (Freie Universität Berlin)**
The Empire and Its Elites: The Case of Spanish
America

