

**Water and Religious Life in the Roman and Late Antique Near East
A Two-Day International Workshop at Durham University
Tuesday 22nd – Wednesday 23rd March 2016**



Co-organised by the Departments of Archaeology and Classics & Ancient History.

Held under the auspices of the Centre for the Study of the Ancient Mediterranean and the Near East.

Generously supported by:

Institute of Advanced Study, Durham

Dr Sarah Semple, Durham

Ritual, Religion, Belief and Place Research Group, Durham

Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Durham

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Tuesday 22nd March 2016: Institute of Advanced Study

- 6:30pm Veronica Strang, Durham
Hydrotheological Cycles: water serpent beings and religious spatio-temporalities
- 7:15pm Drinks reception

Wednesday 23rd March 2016: Department of Classics and Ancient History

- 9:15am Welcome and introduction
- 9:30am Session One. Chair: James Corke-Webster, Durham
- Stephen Humphreys, Durham
Beyond Baptism: A Consideration of Christian Sacralisation of Water in the Near East
- Rick Bonnie, Helsinki
Moving Beyond Homogeneity: On Jewish Experiences of Purification Rituals in Early Roman Galilee
- Ine Jacobs, Oxford
Water on display in Late Antiquity? A survey of contexts, continuity and disruption

- 11:10am Coffee
- 11:40am Session Two. Chair: Rune Rattenborg, Durham
- Allison Lee, Durham
Water and the Ad-Deir Plateau: Resolving Issues of Reutilisation
- Julian Richard, KU Leuven
Urban oases or sacred pools? A few thoughts on the deeper meaning(s) of nymphaea in the Roman East
- Rubina Raja, Aarhus
The Gardeners of the Upper Valley. The importance of water to urban (religious) life in Gerasa
- 1:20pm Lunch
- 2:50pm Session Three. Chair: Donald MacLennan, Durham
- Eris Williams Reed, Durham
Ecological approaches to religious continuity: pagans, Jews and Christians at Baniyas
- Dominic DalGLISH, Oxford
Continuity as response: the significance of water between the god of Doliche and Jupiter Dolichenus
- Lucinda Dirven, Amsterdam
Water, Fish and Rituals in Lucian's De Dea Syria. Continuity and Change of Mesopotamian Traditions
- 4:30pm Coffee
- 5:00pm Roundtable. Chair: Ted Kaizer, Durham
- 5:30pm Break
- 7:30pm Dinner