

Relevance, Context, and Subject of the Conference

Creation is recognized also by humanities scholars as an increasingly relevant topic because of the ecological and climate crisis. The fact that such a high percentage of outstanding scholars in the field accepted the invitation so quickly attests to this observation. The challenges for biblical exegesis on the topic are twofold: first, to analyze and understand best possible the ancient sources within their contexts, and second, to discuss the purview and validity of the formative texts of Judaism and Christianity for current debates.

Early Christian concepts of creation can only be understood within the context of early Jewish reflections on the topic, as the Mainz research project Creation in the Gospel of John also demonstrates (funded by the DFG, see <https://gepris.dfg.de/gepris/projekt/428143557>). To date, there are a number of texts from early Judaism and early Christianity in which the aspects of creation have been overlooked in scholarship. The conference will address some of these research desiderata. The conference is also linked to the Mainz research center Ethics in Antiquity and Christianity (e/ac, see www.ethikmainz.de), which addresses the implicit ethics of ancient texts and their possible value for current debates. The hermeneutical avenues, which are developed within the e/ac, will provide the frame for debating such issues of relevance.

The conference aims to explore similarities and differences both between various ancient sources and between these ancient texts and contemporary discourses.

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Register by May 26, 2022

Conference Room:

Senatssaal (7th floor)
Naturwissenschaftliches Institutsgebäude
Johann-Joachim-Becher-Weg 21
55128 Mainz

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Creation Conference

(June 2–4, 2022)

Creation Concepts and
Creation Care in Early
Judaism,
Early Christianity,
and Beyond

e/ac

Ethics in Antiquity
and Christianity

Creation Conference Program

Thursday, June 2

Orientation

12:30	Welcome
13:00–13:45	Ruben Zimmermann (Mainz) Introduction
13:45–14:30	Dirk Evers (Halle-Wittenberg) Creation, Nature and Cosmos. Definitions and Basic Considerations
14:30–15:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>

Section 1: Early Judaism

15:00–15:45	Barbara Schmitz (Würzburg) Creation Theology in <i>3 Maccabees</i> ? An Analyses of the Lexeme κτι-
15:45–16:30	Daniel M. Gurtner (Ontario, CA) The Corruption of Creation in <i>2 Baruch</i>
16:30–17:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
17:00–17:45	Kristin De Troyer (Salzburg) God and Creation in <i>Greek Esther</i>
18:00	<i>Dinner on Campus</i>

Friday, June 3

Section 2: Early Christianity

9:00–9:45	Christof Landmesser (Tübingen) Paul's Theology of Creation
9:45–10:30	Mirjam Jekel (Mainz) Greening John. Aspects of an Eco-hermeneutical Reading of the Fourth Gospel
10:30–11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:00–11:45	Alison G. Salvesen (Oxford) Works of Creation in the <i>Odes of Solomon</i> and Other Early Syriac Traditions
11:45–12:30	Joseph Verheyden (Leuven) Creation in the <i>Shepherd of Hermas</i>
12:30–14:30	<i>Lunch Break and Coffee</i>
14:30–15:15	Zacharias Shoukry (Mainz) No Planet B! Creation in the <i>Didache</i>

Section 3: Hermeneutics

15:15–16:00	Adele Reinhartz (Ottawa) The Reception of Biblical Creation Motifs in Contemporary Film Culture
16:45–18:30	<i>Guided Tour in Mainz</i>
18:45	<i>Dinner (Zum grünen Kakadu)</i>

Saturday, June 4

Section 3: Hermeneutics

9:00–9:45	David G. Horrell (Exeter) Why and How Should We Speak of 'Creation'?
9:45–10:30	Barbara Rossing (Chicago) Creation Care and the Apocalypse. New Heaven, New Earth, and Indigenous Readings of "Water is Life"
10:30–10:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
10:45–11:30	Angela Standhartinger (Marburg) Creation and Gender
11:30–12:15	Torsten Meireis (Berlin) The Garden of Life and the City of Hope. A Christian Public Theological Take on the Ethics of Sustainability
12:15–12:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>

Concluding Reflections

12:30–13:00	Final Discussions
13:00	End of the Conference
13:15	<i>Lunch on Campus</i>