

DIVINE AND HUMAN DEPENDENCIES IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST AND THE OLD TESTAMENT

WORKSHOP
MAY 13 – 14, 2022

hosts the Cluster of Excellence "Beyond Slavery and Freedom", which aims to overcome the binary opposition of "slavery versus freedom". We approach the phenomenon of slavery and other types of strong asymmetrical dependency from methodologically and theoretically distinct perspectives.

Asymmetrical dependencies, esp. strong asymmetrical dependencies, substantially determine social relationships and interactions in the Ancient Near East (ANE) and in the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible (OT/HB). This basic feature not only characterizes human relationships but also the interactions between divine and human beings. In the ANE, these social, political and religious fields can neither be separated nor be discriminated neatly. Instead, religious, political and social norms, rationales, metaphors and actions intertwine and the fields interact constantly. At the same time, (strong) asymmetrical dependencies take very different forms and are operative on many different levels of society. The workshop will bring together scholars from the fields of ANE-Studies, Egyptology, Iconography and OT/HB Studies in order to work on these questions in a transdisciplinary perspective. Textual and material/iconographic sources from the ANE (i. a., Egypt, Mesopotamia, Ugarit, Israel/Palestine) will be analysed from various methodological angles.

Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies (BCDSS) University of Bonn

Niebuhrstraße 5
D-53113 Bonn
dependency@uni-bonn.de
www.dependency.uni-bonn.de

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University of Bonn
Bonner Universitätsforum
Heussallee 18-24
D-53113 Bonn

CONTACT

Conference Organizers:

Ulrich Berges, BCDSS, University of Bonn
Kirsten M. Schäfers, BCDSS, University of Bonn

Jan Hörber, Event Coordinator

events@dependency.uni-bonn.de
+49 228 73 62945

Please **register** for the conference

by May 2, 2022 via [email](#).

Please visit our [conference website](#) for more information.



Friday, May 13, 2022

9:00 – 9:15 AM – **Welcome and Introduction**

Ulrich Berges & Kirsten M. Schäfers,
BCDSS, University of Bonn

Panel I: Dependency and human relations in the ANE

9:15 – 9:55 AM

Between divine and human dependency: People dedicated to gods (a-ru-a) in Babylonia during the Ur III Period, 21st century B.C.

Vitali Bartash
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)

10:00 – 10:40 AM

Dependency and/or agency: Re-reading the relations between Egyptians and Canaanites during the Middle Bronze Age in SW Sinai

Ludwig Morenz
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)

10:40 – 11:10 AM – Coffee Break

11:10 AM – 11:50 AM

Discussion of the papers; collection of outcomes and further questions for the workshop

Chair: Ulrich Berges
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM – Lunch Break

Panel II: Iconographic perspectives on divine and human dependencies

1:30 – 2:10 PM

The meaning of the Egyptian iconography of strong dependencies and its biblical impact

Thomas Staubli
(University of Fribourg)

2:15 – 2:55 PM

Iconography of dependency: Asymmetrical relations among deities and between divine and human beings in the Ancient Near East and the Hebrew Bible

Izaak de Hulster
(University of Göttingen)

Friday, May 13, 2022

3:00 – 3:30 PM – Coffee Break

3:30 – 4:10 PM

Gestures of asymmetrical dependency in iconographic and biblical perspective

Katharina Pyschny
(Humboldt-University of Berlin)

4:15 – 5:00 PM

In formam deorum: Patroness-protégé relationships in Roman mythological portraits of couples

Sarah Hollaender
(Humboldt-University of Berlin)

5:05 – 5:50 PM

Discussion of the papers; collection of outcomes and further questions for the workshop

Chair: Kirsten M. Schäfers
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)

7:30 PM Conference Dinner (only for speakers and organizers)

Saturday, May 14, 2022

Panel III: Specifications of human and divine dependencies in ANE and OT/HB sources

9:00 – 9:40 AM

Dependencies between humans and gods in the Ancient Near East: forms and functions

Jan Dietrich
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)

9:45 – 10:25 AM

Needy gods and divine agency in the OT/HB and in the ANE

Kirsten M. Schäfers
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)

Saturday, May 14, 2022

Panel III: Specifications of human and divine dependencies in ANE and OT/HB sources

10:30 – 11:00 AM – Coffee Break

11:00 – 11:45 AM

Discussion of the papers; collection of outcomes and further questions for the workshop

Chair: Ulrich Berges
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)

12:00 – 1:30 PM – Lunch Break

Panel IV: Dependency, liberation, and justice in the OT/HB

1:30 – 2:10 PM

“Are not you Israelites the same to me as the Cushites?” – declares YHWH. “Did I not bring Israel up from Egypt, the Philistines from Caphtor and the Aramaeans from Kir?” (Amos 9:7a): Liberation and obligation in the Biblical hermeneutics of law

Reinhard Achenbach
(University of Münster)

2:15 – 2:55 PM

The difficult relationship of dependency and justice in the OT

Ulrich Berges
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)

3:00 – 3:30 PM – Coffee Break

3:30 – 4:30 PM

Discussion of the papers; collection of outcomes and further questions for the workshop.

Wrap up and final discussion

Chair: Ulrich Berges & Kirsten M. Schäfers
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)