

14.30 – 15.50	Two Types of Magic in One Tradition? A Cognitive-historiographical Case Study on the Interaction of Narratives and Ritual Performance <i>Dirk Johannsen (Basel)</i>
	English Pageant Fictions of the Interwar Period <i>Jan Rupp (Heidelberg)</i>
15.50 – 16.20	Angelic Perspective: The Book of Tobit and its Presentation in Media <i>Fletcher DuBois (Heidelberg)</i>
16.20 – 16.50	COFFEE
16.50 – 17.30	INTERIM DISCUSSION
17.30 – 18.50	Ritual, Narrative, Commemoration – The Case of the Mevlevi Rituals in Cyprus <i>Béatrice Hendrich (Gießen)</i>
	Alevi Ritualisation-in-Conflict: Participating in Counter-Narrations of ‘Radical Humanness’ in the Poetry of East-Anatolian Bards <i>Brigitte Schulze & Kemal Dağlı (Frankfurt)</i>
19.30	DINNER

FUNDING:

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P R O G R A M

Ritual and Narration
November 17-18, 2011

CONVENORS:

Prof. Dr. Vera Nünning & Prof. Dr. Gregor Ahn
Collaborative Research Centre “Ritual Dynamics”

It has been argued that rituals and stories share certain characteristics, but the nexus between them has not as yet been sufficiently addressed. What precisely is the relationship between 'ritual' and 'narration'? What are the stories that rituals tell, or that are told about them? Who does the story-telling in or about rituals, and to what ends? Drawing on various disciplinary perspectives as well as new approaches in narratology, this conference seeks to explore systematically forms and functions of narrativity in/and rituals. It will proceed from a number of guiding questions such as:

What is the connection between narrations and rituals? Are they similar in terms of structure? Where do they intersect, what do they share? To what extent are rituals shaped by narrative structures?

What role does narrativity play in rituals and in representations of ritual? What is the role of narrative strategies in media representations of rituals? To what extent do even non-fictional texts and other historical sources make use of narrative elements and strategies – i.e. documents which record and describe rituals?

These questions constitute a broad thematic focus, which accommodates more theoretical or methodological contributions as well as in-depth case studies. Bringing together narratology and ritual studies promises new insight into the workings of 'ritual dynamics'. Moreover, applying narratological concepts may be useful to analyse how rituals are received, experienced and perceived in terms of the senses (by taking in experiential and cognitive approaches from narratology). Finally, transgeneric and intermedial approaches may help research on rituals to open up to a wide spectrum of media and genres in which rituals are represented.

Thursday, November 17

14.30 – 14.45	OPENING & INTRODUCTION <i>Vera Nünning & Gregor Ahn (Heidelberg)</i>
14.45 – 15.45	On the Narrativity of Rituals: Interfaces between Narratives and Rituals and their Potential for Ritual Studies <i>Vera Nünning & Ansgar Nünning (Heidelberg/Gießen)</i>
15.45 – 17.00	Eventfulness vs. Repetition: Narrativity and Ritual <i>Marie-Laure Ryan (Denver/Colorado)</i>
17.00 – 17.30	COFFEE
17.30 – 18.50	Between Political Practice and Narrative Strategies: Representations of the King's Council in Medieval Courtly Epic Poetry <i>Merle Marie Schütte (Münster)</i> Ritual and Narrative in Political Rituals <i>Stefanie Hammer (Erfurt)</i>
19.30	DINNER

Friday, November 18

10.00 – 11.00	Narrating Sacrifice in Roman Asia Minor: Between Reality, Symbolic Representation and Mythology <i>Günther Schörner (Wien)</i>
11.00 – 11.30	COFFEE
11.30 – 13.30	Story Sharing: Narrative, Rituals and Community Building <i>Roy Sommer (Wuppertal)</i> Ritual and Narrative in Early South Asia: The Case of the Sanskrit Mahābhārata <i>James M. Hegarty (Cardiff)</i>
13.30 – 14.30	LUNCH