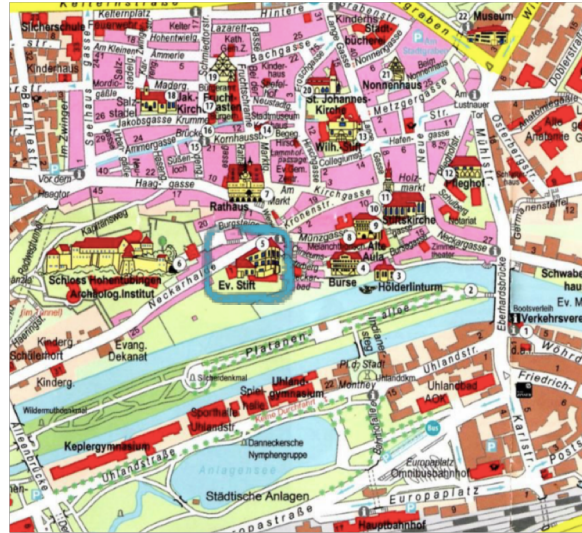


## EUSEBIUS, PORPHYRY, AND AUGUSTINE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR INTERPRETATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

The focus of the conference will be the authors from the individual projects and their struggle for interpretational sovereignty. In their writings, Eusebius, Augustine, Porphyry, and Sossianus Hierocles all refer to people or texts that they use as legitimizing figures or negative foils for their theological or philosophical concepts. Consequently, each author presents himself as having the knowledge to correctly interpret and understand the authors or texts under consideration. For example, Porphyry can correctly interpret the oracular texts and the images of the gods, while Eusebius and Augustine embed quotations from philosophical writings in their works and often use them for their polemic against pagan religious practices. Furthermore, Sossianus Hierocles uses Apollonius of Tyana in his attempt to refute the Christian religion.

The divine dimension of the people and texts that have just been mentioned allows the authors to use them to legitimize their writings by appealing to them as higher authorities. Furthermore, since their audience identified with these authorities and viewed them as representatives of their own order, they also can have the function of maintaining an order (and are, therefore, also useful for subverting it). In line with the wider meaning of the German *Ordnungen*, orders are conceptualized in the CRC 923 as arrangements of elements that are related to each other in a certain way and that structure social groups or even whole societies. In light of this definition, it is possible to identify figures and arguments in literary contexts that are used to construct (and deconstruct) orders. The goal of the conference is first of all to examine the potential of people or texts to be used as points of reference from various perspectives (Christian and non-Christian). The second aim is to consider these points of reference as components of an order and to analyze their function as coping mechanisms in the "re-ordering" process. More information (in German) on the model can be found here:

<https://www.uni-tuebingen.de/en/research/core-research/collaborative-research-centers/sfb-923/scientific-profile/modell-re-ordering.html>



### CONFERENCE VENUE:

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[www.sfb923.uni-tuebingen.de](http://www.sfb923.uni-tuebingen.de)



PROJECT G01: PLATONISM AND CHRISTIANITY IN LATE ANTIQUITY

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE EUSEBIUS, PORPHYRY, AND AUGUSTINE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR INTERPRETATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

MARCH 14-16 2019  
EVANGELISCHES STIFT  
TÜBINGEN

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

### THURSDAY, MARCH 14

14.00 Arrival

14:15–14:30

**Irmgard Männlein-Robert und Volker Drecoll**

*Greeting and Introduction*

14.30–15.15

**Wolfram Kinzig (Bonn)**

*Die Ausbreitung des Christentums als Humanisierungsprozess: Eusebios verteidigt die Neuheit seiner Religion*

15.15–16.00

**Sabrina Inowlocki Meister (Tel Aviv)**

*Eusebius' Creation of a New 'Order of Books'*

16.00–16:30 Coffee Break

16.30–17.15

**Benjamin Gleede (Tübingen)**

*Eusebius, Augustin und der Versuch einer christianisierenden Deutung des platonischen Timaios*

17.30 Dinner

19.30

Evening Talk:

**Gillian Clark (Bristol)**

*Melius sapuit iste Porphyrius: Augustine Appropriates Porphyry*

Afterwards: Weinstube

### FRIDAY, MARCH 15

9.30-10.15

**Mark Edwards (Oxford)**

*The Image of Egypt in the Early Constantinian Era*

10.15–11.00

**David DeMarco (Tübingen)**

*Augustine and Porphyry on the Wisdom of the Hebrews and Chaldeans*

11.00 Coffee Break

11.30-12.15

**Irmgard Männlein-Robert (Tübingen)**

*Religion, Theology, Cosmology: The Platonist Porphyry on Statues of Gods*

12.30 Lunch Break

14.30–15.15

**Irini-Fotini Viltanioti (Leuven)**

*Porphyry's Harmonisation of Plato's and Aristotle's Views on the Divisibility of the Soul (Περὶ τῶν τῆς ψυχῆς δυνάμεων Fr. 253 Smith)*

15.15–16.00

**Giovanni Catapano (Padua)**

*Pagan Classics against Pagan Critics of the Gospels. Augustine's Argument in De Consensu Evangelistarum, Book 1*

16.00 Coffee Break

16.30–17.15

**Johannes Brachtendorf (Tübingen)**

*Wie ist Platons Timaios zu interpretieren? Augustins Streit mit den Neuplatonikern über den Anfang der Zeit (civ. XI 3-6)*

17.15-18.00

**Volker Drecoll (Tübingen)**

*Augustine and Porphyry on Sacrifice*

19.30 Conference Dinner

### SATURDAY, MARCH 16

9.30–10.15

**Gretchen Reydam-Schils (Notre Dame)**

*Nemesius' Use of Porphyry*

10.15–11.00

**Lisa Neumann (Tübingen)**

*Eusebius gegen Hierokles im Kampf um Deutungshoheit*

11.00 Coffee Break

11.30–12.15

**Sébastien Morlet (Paris)**

*Eusebius and Augustine on theologia tripartita: A Comparison Essay*

12.15-13.00

**Giuseppe Muscolino (Catania)**

*The Chaldean Oracles as a Possible Source for Porphyry's Philosophia ex oraculis*

13.00

*End of Conference*