

Geography and Religious Knowledge

In the premodern world, geographical knowledge was influenced by religious ideas and beliefs. The conference seeks to analyse, how the religious character of geographic knowledge in the period from ca. 1150 to 1550 lingered on in classical as well as new forms of presenting geography.

'Religious knowledge' can be defined as forms of knowledge that develop by referring to seemingly unchanging revelatory or canonical traditions and texts. Thus, religious knowledge is not static, but evolves through continued actualisation.

To open up a comparative perspective, case studies of Latin-Christian works are complemented by examples of the Arabic-Islamic geographic tradition. The focus lies on sources that combine texts with cartographic depictions, be it maps of the known world or of its parts or regions. This approach ties in with recent developments in the history of cartography, i.e. analysing maps not isolated from their manuscript context, but in close connection to it.

The contributions of the conference aim to show to what extent the religious framing and coining of geographical knowledge continued and changed since the twelfth century. Secondly, the comparative perspective is intended to capture traditional peculiarities as well as transcultural exchange processes between the Arab-Muslim and the Latin-Christian world. Thirdly, the uniformity/variety of forms of representation (text and image) and transmission (different variants) of a given case study is taken into account. On the basis of these premises, the conference is designed to bring together leading experts, to take up current perspectives of research, to deepen the understanding of the examples analysed and thus to provide strong impulses for further studies.



Contact

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Figures
Cover: Psalter-Map (c.1260), London, British Library, Add Ms 28681, fol. 9r.
Backside: al-Ishtakhrī's *Kitāb al-masālik wa-al-mamālik* (1193), Leiden,
University Library, Cod. Or. 3101, fol. 4b–5a.

Geography and Religious Knowledge in the Premodern World (1150-1550)

International Conference | Tübingen, 11-12 April 2019
Schloss Hohentübingen, Fürstensaal

EBERHARD KARLS
UNIVERSITÄT
TÜBINGEN



DFG
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Conference Programme



Thursday | 11 April 2019

09.00 h Christoph Mauntel
Introduction

Chair: **Heidrun Eichner** (Tübingen)

I: Geographic Concepts and Their Religious Content

09.15 h Karen Pinto (Boise)
What is 'Islamic' About Islamic Maps?

10.00 h Christoph Mauntel (Tübingen)
The T-O Map and its Religious Connotations
– A Circumstantial Case

10.45 h Coffee Break

II: The Holy Land and its Place in Latin-Christian Geography

11.15 h Ingrid Baumgärtner (Kassel)
The Geography of the Holy Land. Burchard of Mount Sions's Text and the Extant Maps

12.00 h Emmanuelle Vagnon (Paris)
When Religious Topography Meets the Geography of the Humanists: the *Tabula moderna Terrae Sanctae* in the 15th Century

12.45 h Lunch Break

Chair: **Ellen Widder** (Tübingen)

III: Traditional Knowledge in New Forms?

14.00 h Stefan Schröder (Helsinki)
Changing World Views and Religious Concepts of the Past – Meaning and Function of the Early 14th-Century 'Transitional Maps'

14.45 h Felicitas Schmieder (Hagen)
The Globe as *Mappa Mundi*? Reflections on Terrestrial Globes from Around 1500

15.30 h Coffee Break

IV: Representing the World in Arab-Islamic Geography

16.00 h Nadja Danilenko (Berlin)
What's Lord Got to Do With It? Grasping the Islamicate World Through al-Iṣṭakhrī's *Book of Routes and Realms*

16.45 h David King (Frankfurt)
Islamic Sacred Geography - The World about the Kaaba (Folk Astronomy) and the World about Mecca (Mathematical Geography) – Newly-Discovered Medieval Traditions

Friday | 12 April 2019

Chair: **Steffen Patzold** (Tübingen)

V: Representing the World in Latin-Christian Geography

09.00 h Nathalie Bouloux (Tours)
Ordering and Reading the World: The Maps in Lambert of Saint-Omer's *Liber Floridus*

09.45 h Cornelia Dreer (Kassel)
Knowledge, Faith and Pragmatism – The Maps in Ranulph Higden's *Polychronicon*

10.30 h Coffee Break

VI: Locating and Narrating Religion(s) and Sacrality

11.00 h Jean-Charles Ducène (Paris)
Al-Idrīsī, the Geography and the Religions

11.45 h Kurt Franz (Tübingen)
Divinity in Yāqūt's *Lexicon of Peopled Places*: A Reduction

12.30 h Final Discussion