

Conference Organizers

Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann and
Dr. Everett Messamore
Heidelberg Center for American Studies

Location

Heidelberg Center for American Studies
Curt und Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais
Hauptstraße 120
D-69117 Heidelberg

Please pre-register with Everett Messamore:
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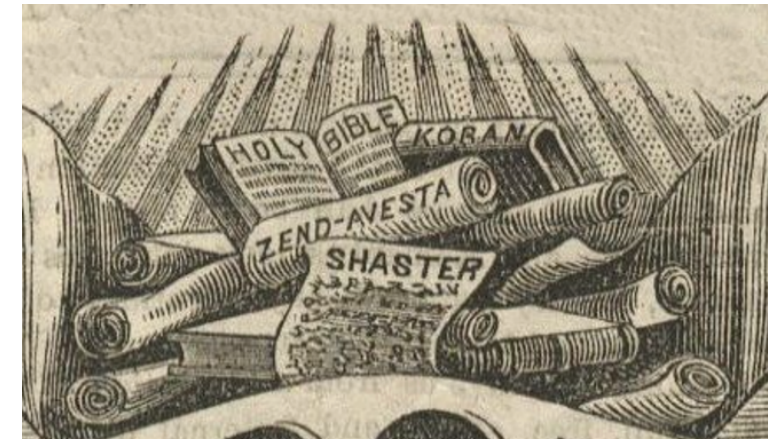
This conference will be held in a hybrid format, with a limited, on-site audience and virtual participation through online attendance. If you are interested in participating virtually, please pre-register to receive the Zoom-link.

All times are Central European Summer Time (CEST).

Sponsored by the German Research Foundation as part of the DFG Research Unit “De/Sacralization of Texts” (FOR 2828).

DFG Deutsche
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Heidelberg Center
for American Studies



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“By the Mouth of His Holy Prophets”:
Sacred Discourse in Nineteenth-Century
America

May 25-27, 2023

Heidelberg Center for American Studies
Curt und Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais
Hauptstraße 120

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Evening lecture and welcome reception
18:15

Laurie Maffly-Kipp (Washington University in St. Louis): “‘Many Shall Come in My Name’: The Dangers of False Scriptures in America’s Era of Divine Utterance”

Friday, May 26, 2023

Panel 1
9:30 - 11:00

Introductory Remarks

Seth Perry (Princeton University): “Lifting the Chair You’re Standing On: Theorizing Scripturalization in the Nineteenth Century”

Panel 2
11:30 - 13:00

David Holland (Harvard Divinity School): “Inspiration, Identity, and the Question of Canon: The Case of Seventh-Day Adventism”

Claudia Jetter (EZW Berlin): “‘The Zion of Enoch’: Disentangling the Dynamic Interrelation between Sacred Discourse and Believers’ Resonance in Early Mormonism”

Panel 3
14:30 - 16:00

Everett Messamore (University of Heidelberg): “‘Given on Spiritual Authority’: Revelatory Tensions in Spiritualist Alternative Gospels”

Douglas Winiarski (University of Richmond): “Taking the Measure of Revelation: Shaker Spirit Cities”

Panel 4
16:30 - 18:00

Tisa Wenger (Yale Divinity School): “‘He Has Not Instructed Them by Books’: Divine Authority on Kiikapoi Lands”

Jacob Dorman (University of Nevada): “German Cabbalistic Grimoires and American Black Hebrew Israelites”

Saturday, May 27, 2023

Panel 5
9:30 - 11:00

Arthur Versluis (Michigan State University): “Nineteenth-Century Esoteric Scriptural Production: Thomas Lake Harris’s Exoteric and Esoteric Sacred Discourse”

Julian Strube (University of Vienna): “Scripture and Knowledge within Exchanges between the USA, Europe, and Bengal”

Panel 6
11:30 - 13:00

Michael Altman (University of Alabama): “Found in Translation: Sanskrit Texts in Nineteenth-Century America”

Julia Dolkovski and Louise Neubronner (University of Tübingen): “Religious Particularism and Shintō’s ‘Japanese Bible’: American Perspectives on Kami Worship in the Nineteenth Century”

Panel 7
14:30 - 16:00

Angelika Zirker and Matthias Bauer (University of Tübingen): “Aura and Precision: The Sacralization of Language in Emily Dickinson”

Philipp Löffler (University of Heidelberg): “‘A Newborn Bard of the Holy Ghost’: Sacramental (Re)Mediation in Emerson and Channing”

Panel 8
16:30 - 18:00

Jan Stievermann (University of Heidelberg): “German Inspirationists and their Contribution to America’s Scriptural Productivity”

David Komline (Western Theological Seminary): “Mainstream Protestants and New Revelations in 19th-Century America”

Concluding Remarks and Future Plans
18:15 - 19:00

Moderator: Mark Valeri (Washington University in St. Louis)

Farewell reception