

# Rurality and religion.

Places and networks of religion  
in rural areas of Roman Italy, Gaul,  
and the Northern Provinces



**PROGRAM OF  
THE CONFERENCE**

**6<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup>  
May 2024**

**Meerscheinschlössl**  
Mozartgasse 3, 8010 Graz

**FWF** Österreichischer  
Wissenschaftsfonds

**ÖAW** AUSTRIAN  
ACADEMY OF  
SCIENCES

**Fritz Thyssen Stiftung**  
für Wissenschaftsförderung



UNIVERSITAS SCIENTIARUM SZEGEDIENSIS  
UNIVERSITY OF SZEGED



Austrian  
Archaeological  
Institute



# Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**14:30 – 15:00**    **Get together/Registration**

**15:00 – 15:15**    **Introduction. Greetings from the director of the IGS.  
Greetings from the organisers**

**15:15 – 16:15**    **Keynote: John Scheid (Paris)**  
*Civitas and religiones.* The creation of religious obligations for new civitates according to examples from the Northwestern provinces

**16:15 – 16:45**    **COFFEE BREAK**

## **I. SECTION: WHAT IS A RURAL SANCTUARY?**

### **TERMINOLOGY, METHODOLOGY, TYPOLOGY**

Chair: Katharina Rieger (Graz)

**16:45 – 17:15**    **Cristina-Georgeta Alexandrescu (Bucharest)**  
Religion in the countryside of Northern Moesia Inferior – a re-evaluation of the written and iconographical evidence.

**17:15 – 17:45**    **Astrid Schmölder (Bamberg)**  
From the mountain to the city – relationships between rural and urban sanctuaries within the religious landscape of Aguntum

**17:45 – 18:15**    **COFFEE BREAK**

**18:15 – 18:45**    **Nirvana Silnovic (Vienna)**  
Rural? Spaces of Mithras cult in the Roman province of Dalmatia

**18:45 – 19:15**    **Günther Moosbauer (Straubing)**  
Religion in den ländlichen Gebieten der Provinz Raetien

**20:00**    **DINNER**

## Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024

### II. SECTION: NEW FINDS: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL

**AND EPIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE** Chair: Wolfgang Spickermann (Graz)

- 09:00 – 09:30** **Manfred Lehner (Graz)**  
Possible settings of continuity in rural sacred places. Archaeological hints from the Eastern Alps
- 09:30 – 10:00** **Christa Ebnöther (Bern) – Janka Istenič (Ljubljana) – Vesna Tratnik (Ljubljana)**  
Sacred places off the beaten track. Sacred places in rock shelters in Zillis GR (Switzerland) and Godič (Slovenia) in comparison
- 10:00 – 10:30** **COFFEE BREAK**
- 10:30 – 11:00** **Bernhard Schrettle (Graz)**  
Rural – Suburban or even urban? The sanctuary on the Frauenberg hill near Leibnitz / Styria
- 11:00 – 11:30** **Elisabeth Waldhart (Innsbruck)**  
Somewhere in the middle of nowhere? Two rural sacred sites in a high alpine environment as natural places
- 11:30 – 12:00** **Barbara Kainrath – Gerald Grabherr (Innsbruck)**  
Pimp up my shrine – The modification of the rural sanctuary in Lienz in Roman times
- 12:00** **LUNCH**

### III. SECTION: SPACING RELIGION: THE ROLE OF SPATIAL CONCEPTS FOR RURAL SANCTUARIES

Chair: Csaba Szabó (Szeged)

- 14:00 – 14:30** **Nadežda Gavrilović Vitas (Belgrade)**  
Contextualizing rural sacral spaces and sanctuaries in Roman Central Balkans
- 14:30 – 15:00** **Szilvia Biró (Szombathely)**  
Roman gods in the countryside – rurality in the religious life of the Pannonian vici
- 15:00 – 15:30** **Dan Deac (Zalau) – Radu Zagreanu (Bistrita)**  
Religious communication in the countryside of Dacia Porolissensis
- 15:30 – 16:00** **COFFEE BREAK**
- 16:00 – 17:00** **Keynote: Daria Pezzoli-Olgiati (Munich)**  
Placing religion: In researching religion space matters
- 19:00** **DINNER**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

**IV. SECTION: COMMUNITIES AND NETWORKS OF RELIGION**

**IN THE COUNTRYSIDE**

Chair: Gabrielle Kremer (Vienna)

**09:00 – 09:30 Leif Scheuermann (Trier)**

Transport and religion in rural Noricum

**09:30 – 10:00 Audrey Ferlut (Lyon)**

Rural sanctuaries dedicated to spring and water and/or healing deities in the *Tres Galliae* and the Germanic provinces: structures, communities, networks, and social agency

**10:00 – 10:30 COFFEE BREAK**

**10:30 – 11:00 Peter Scherrer (Graz)**

Who built and maintained rural sanctuaries in the Roman Empire?

**11:00 – 11:30 General discussion/Concluding remarks**

**AFTERNOON: EXCURSION**

**ORGANISERS:**

**Institute of Classics, IGS „Resonant Self-World Relations“**

University of Graz, Austria | Anna-Katharina Rieger, Wolfgang Spickermann

**Austrian Archaeological Institute, Department of Classical Studies**

Austrian Academy of Sciences | Gabrielle Kremer

**Department of Religious Studies**

University of Szeged, Hungary | Csaba Szabó