

# About:

River courses, straits and gorges have always formed natural obstacles. Depending on the topographical situation, it was necessary to cross them. Various options were developed in Antiquity such as fords, ferries, or bridges. The type of crossing is related to the natural conditions as well as the technical knowledge. Moreover, it is determined by the demands. For example, crossings can be built for temporary or permanent purposes. They thus form parts of roads and of the infrastructure but their functions and meanings reach beyond that, as written and material sources show.

Likewise, rivers and other obstacles are ascribed various meanings, for example religious ones due to river deities. This can also influence the significances of a crossing. Thus, in addition to physically existing crossings, these are also used as metaphors from philosophical or theological points of view, as for the transition from life to death. For all of these aspects approaches from spatial theory carry special relevance.



## Organization

Anna Falke, M.A.

[annafalke@uni-muenster.de](mailto:annafalke@uni-muenster.de)

Florian Neitmann, Mag. Theol.

[florian.neitmann@uni-muenster.de](mailto:florian.neitmann@uni-muenster.de)

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WWU Internationalisation Fund



Workshop

## Bridges in Antiquity

29.07.-30.07.2022



# Programme:

## Friday, 29th July

- 09:00-09:15: ANNA FALKE & FLORIAN NEITMANN (UNIVERSITY OF MÜNSTER): Welcome
- 09:15-10:00 MICHAEL BOCH (UNIVERSITY OF MÜNSTER): A phenomenology of the Bridge
- 10:00-10:45 ROBERT KADE (HU BERLIN): Bridges over troubled etymologies - On the lexical semantics of crossing rivers
- 10:45-11:00 Break
- 11:00-11:45 FLORIAN NEITMANN (UNIVERSITY OF MÜNSTER): No bridges over Troubled Waters. On the Absence of the Word "Bridge" and the Motive of the Crossing of Natural Obstacles in Ancient Jewish Literature
- 11:45-12:30 LUCA VOLPI (SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME/DAI BERLIN): Where to Cross the Tigris River. Dynamics of Mobility across Riversides in the Area of Northern Mesopotamia
- 12:30-14:00 Lunch
- 14:00-14:45 THIAGO PIRES (UNIRIO/UNIVERSITY OF MINHO): Sublician Bridge and the Transtiberim. The urban intersections between Rome and the alterity

- 14:45-15:30: MORITZ REINÄCKER (TU BRAUNSCHWEIG): Brückenbau im Römischen Reich um das erste Jahrhundert vor Christus. Bauwissen und Bau-technik der Keilsteinbrücken im römischen Italien am Beispiel des Ponte di Nona, des Pons Fabricius, des Ponte die Augusto in Narni und den Brücken des Aostatals
- 15:30-16:00 Break
- 16:00-16:45 MARCO MENNA (UNIVERSITY OF ZÜRICH): Why are there (almost) no bridges in the Aeneid?
- 18:00 Dinner

## Saturday, 30th July

- 09:00-09:45 ALEKSANDAR SIMIC (UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE): Bridging the Danube - Challenges and Significance
- 09:45-10:30 ANNA FALKE (UNIVERSITY OF MÜNSTER): Roman bridges in the cities of the Decapolis
- 10:30-11:00 Break
- 11:00-11:45 MARTINA BIAMINO (UNIVERSITY OF GENOA): Justinian's bridges and the emperor as a bridge. Procopius of Caesarea's De Aedificiis V, 3

- 11:45-12:30 GIULIO MARESCA (SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME): For Souls but not for people? The Role of Bridges in Sasanian Iran between religious and archaeological issues
- 12:30-13:30: Lunch
- 13:30-14:15 ANDREW PETERSEN (UNIVERSITY OF WALES): Antique, Medieval and Ottoman Bridges in Iraq
- 14:15-15:00 Final Discussion

### Location:

Lecture Building of the Cluster of Excellence "Religion and Politics"

JO 101, Johannisstraße 4  
48143 Münster

### Via Zoom:

Meeting ID: 641 3280 0763

Passcode: 731413

