

KNAW Masterclass 2015

Textual Diversity in Context

30 October 2015, 9.00-14.00

The Trippenhuis, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW),
Amsterdam

Call for Applications – deadline 15 April 2015

Texts and textual analysis are still a much discussed topic in social and cultural research. Foundational arguments on textual analysis have contested the role of language and logocentric expressions, however the study of religious cultures seems to be strongly text-coded, and indeed the study *of* and *on* texts has always been crucial in the academic research and teaching of religion. Up to date scholarship have, however, discussed ‘text’ predominantly within one specific religious tradition, with the effect that ‘text’ has been debated within the boundaries of one religious identity and not from an inter-religious and inter-cultural perspective. Furthermore, texts have been assessed only seldom through an interdisciplinary perspective that sets the ‘textual’ in relation and dispute with the ‘extra-textual’ (such as rituals and material culture).

The Masterclass *Textual Diversity in Context* will be held by three scholars of religious texts/textuality: Angelo Cattaneo (New University of Lisbon, Portugal); Hindy Najman (University of Oxford, UK); Fabio Rambelli (University of California Santa Barbara, USA). The Masterclass is generously sponsored by the KNAW, and organized by three scholars from the University of Groningen: Sabrina Corbellini (Medieval History/History of Reading in Premodern Europe), Mladen Popović (Hebrew Bible and Early Judaism, Qumran Institute) and Stefania Travagnin (Religion in China, Centre for the Study of Religion and Culture in Asia). Sabrina Corbellini, Mladen Popović and Stefania Travagnin will serve as chairs and facilitate the discussion with the attending PhD Students.

In the masterclass ‘text’ will be assessed theoretically and methodologically in three different contexts through three short lectures:

1. Text in Verbal Context [lecture by Hindy Najman]
2. Text in Ritual Context [lecture by Fabio Rambelli]
3. Text in Material Context [lecture by Angelo Cattaneo]

The three lectures will be followed by a discussion with the PhD students who will be asked to relate their own research to the theoretical paradigms proposed in the lectures, and thus further reflect on the methodological basis of their object of study.

Interested PhD students should submit (1) a short summary of their PhD research (500 words), and (2) a short statement of why this Masterclass would be beneficial to their work (300 words) via email attachment to Stefania Travagnin (s.travagnin@rug.nl) by 15 April 2015; email subject should say ‘KNAW Masterclass 2015’ and the text of the email

should include name, affiliation and contact details of the PhD student, as well as the name of the supervisor,

Selected PhD students will be notified by 30 April 2015. The Masterclass is free of charge, and coffee and lunch will also be provided by the KNAW.

The Masterclass will follow a three-day Akademie Colloquium, also generously sponsored by the KNAW, on the subject *Making Sense of Religious Texts: Patterns of Agency, Sinergy and Identity*. This Colloquium will gather scholars who are in different fields and work *on* texts and *with* texts, in order to provoke a debate on textuality that goes across religious traditions and academic disciplines. This debate on 'text' will be organised around the following five key issues: (1) modality (of texts), (2) authority (of/on texts), (3) practice (visualizing and ritualizing texts), (4) materiality (texts as objects) and (5) transmission (translation and transmission of texts).

PhD students who also want to attend the conference must register in advance and not later than 30 September 2015 by sending an email to Stefania Travagnin; email subject should say 'KNAW Akademie Colloquium 2015 - Registration', and the text of the email should include name, position, affiliation and contact details. Registration fee for PhD students for the entire conference is € 75; the fee covers conference attendance and coffee breaks. Payment will be made by credit or debit card at the registration desk on the first day of the conference.