

Surely many of you have already seen the first announcement of the 22nd IAHR congress in Dunedin, New Zealand, next year (23-29 August 2020) and the call for paper. So I contact you as I plan to organise a panel on "Hierarchy and Dependency in Manichaeism". Just to inform you in general, but not for the panel or your papers in detail, the idea of arranging such a panel in Dunedin is related to my co-operation with the cluster of excellence "Beyond Slavery and Freedom. Asymmetric Dependencies in Pre-modern Societies" at the University of Bonn (cf. <https://www.dependency.uni-bonn.de/en/program>). I think, to discuss "dependencies" within Manichaeism can be an interesting topic which fits well to the programme of the IAHR conference. My preliminary abstract of the panel (later I have to shorten the text due to the maximum upload of 150 words for the panel) shortly describes my ideas.

Abstract: Hierarchy and Dependency in Manichaeism

The twofold social structure of Manichaeism with the "chosen ones" (electi) and the "hearers" (auditores) is well known and we have a good number of references to hierarchical ranks – starting with the head of the religion to 12 teacher, 72 bishops and 360 presbyter. But also functionaries like musicians, writers and painters play an important role within the religion.

This panel will discuss how hierarchy leads to dependency – with strong or sometimes soft aspects. How unchangeable are social roles and positions due to various hierarchical structures? What does the (theologically inferior) status of hearers related to the chosen ones mean for the social situation of hearers? What is their relation to the world – and to material benefits and the way of living in a material world? What kinds of servitude or even slavery might exist in Manichaeism – with some Manichaeans being at least "worldly" servants or even slaves as property of others? What means "free" (Middle Persian azad) or "bound" (Middle Persian bandag) in spiritual symbolism and what is the consequence for social life in everyday settings?

These are just a few questions to investigate the connections between hierarchy and dependency which have not been researched in a broader sense in Manichaean studies. The various papers should mainly focus on Iranian and Central Asian Manichaeism, but for comparison reason also contributions from "western Manichaeism" are welcome. Thus the proposed panel will surely bring new insight for to Manichaean studies.

Steps for procedure:

If you have already checked the web page of the conference (cf. <https://www.iahr2020.kiwi/call-for-papers-programme/>), you know the clear regulations of applying for a panel. As I organise (and chair) the panel, I have to apply for it, but I need many details from you: The panel can be made up with 6 papers at the most – my own and 5 from you as my co-panellists. The allotted time is 120 minutes for all. That means, for each paper only 15 minutes are available for presentation, in order to have time at least von one (1) question or short (!) comment.

To organise the panel in a good way and follow successfully the regulations of the conference (for blind review and acceptance of the suggested panel) I ask you to keep to the following time table.

a) It is necessary that you send your proposal of a paper to me

(mhutter@uni-bonn.de) no later than 25 October 2019 with a preliminary title (and a few notes / keywords as explanation of the title).

b) Ten days later, I give you a response (maybe including questions, comments) if some topics are similar to each other so that those people can have a quick exchange with each other to avoid topics in a double way. That information I send in an open email to all 6 speakers – so you see the others' email addresses in order to get easily in contact with each other if you want or if it seems useful to you.

c) Sending you this preliminary list of titles, I ask you to send your own abstract of your paper with only (!) 150 words as maximum (see conference page) to me until 20 November 2019 – as a MS-Word document.

d) Then I will submit all the panel (that is one abstract in general and six abstracts of the individual papers) via the conference page online for review, hoping for a positive reply within four weeks (hopefully, as mentioned at the conference page).

e) As soon as the panel is accepted, I inform you and you can fix your flight in early 2020 and do your individual steps of early bird registration etc.

I think the panel fits well to the general description of the conference theme which mentions institutions and marginalization, but also patterns of dominance and subjugation. When submitting the panel, I will suggest to the organisers that in my opinion the panel should be added to the area "historicizing and embodying" or to the area "interpreting and comparing".

I am looking forward to positive responses from your side. In case of questions, do not hesitate to contact me directly (mhutter@uni-bonn.de).