

The DFG-network **CHRONOS. Soziale Zeit in den Kulturen des Altertums** applies the sociological concept of 'social time' to the cultures of the ancient world (3000 BC – AD 600). Chronological systems such as eras or calendars not only reflect but also shape the cycles and rhythms of political, economic and cultural life, and in this way offer insights into how societies worked and social groups understood themselves.

The conference **Social time in the ancient world: Rhythms and rituals** aims to investigate how people in the ancient world structured and perceived time through the regular repetition of certain acts, such as religious ceremonies, economic activities, political acts and mundane practices.

24 May 2018, 17h10 (UB Doelenzaal)

**Prof. Dr. Walther Sallaberger** (München)

**Royal years and cultic month names: The social relevance behind the counting of time in Early Mesopotamia**

In Mesopotamia as elsewhere in the ancient world, years were named after rulers, months after festivals and seasonal activities. Concentrating on the second half of third millennium BCE, this contribution will demonstrate how the calendar system affected each single member of society. The practice of naming years after royal deeds can be regarded as a most powerful way to disseminate the political agenda and the calendrical festivals involved many more people than just cultic personnel.

25 May 2018, 17h10 (UB Doelenzaal)

**Prof. Dr. James Ker** (Philadelphia)

**Hidden rhythms: Rituals of the routine in Roman time**

This paper sketches out modern approaches to thinking about both rhythms and rituals, using Eviatar Zerubavel's *Hidden Rhythms* (1981) as a point of departure. It studies Roman literary accounts of activities repeated on a daily basis, especially instances where we can compare and contrast simultaneous activities in different social domains. Various ways to theorize and characterize these instances will be explored, including what it means to refer to 'everyday rituals'.

#### Location:

University of Amsterdam  
University Library, Doelenzaal  
Singel 425  
1012 WP Amsterdam

This conference is open to the public.  
We kindly request to register before 21 May 2018.

#### Contact:

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#### Homepage:

<http://www.chronos.humanities.uva.nl/>



**CHRONOS**

Soziale Zeit in den Kulturen des Altertums

DFG Wissenschaftliches Netzwerk

# Social time in the ancient world: Rhythms and rituals

Public conference of the  
DFG-network *CHRONOS. Soziale Zeit  
in den Kulturen des Altertums*

**24-26 May 2018**

University of Amsterdam

**DFG** Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft

**GOETHE**  
  
**UNIVERSITÄT**  
FRANKFURT AM MAIN



**UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM**

## Thursday 24 May 2018 (Doelenzaal)

15.00-15.30 Registration and coffee

15.30-15.45 Welcome

### I. Rhythms and rituals in Mesopotamia

Moderator: R. Färber

15.45-16.20 *Daliah Bawanypeck (Frankfurt/Main):*  
Dealing with diseases: Time in healing rituals and other medical texts

16.20-16.55 *Tim Brandes (Mainz):* Rhythms of kingship - Social time and Mesopotamian kingship in the 1st millennium BC

Keynote lecture:

17.10-18.10 *Walther Sallaberger (München):*  
Royal years and cultic month names: The social relevance behind the counting of time in Early Mesopotamia

19.00 Dinner

## Friday 25 May 2018 (Doelenzaal)

### II. Calendrical rituals in ancient Egypt

Moderator: R. Gautschy

9.00-9.35 *Victoria Altmann-Wendling (München):* Celebrating the Moon: Lunar ritual cycles in ancient Egypt

9.35-10.10 *Alexa Rickert (Heidelberg/Tübingen):*  
Annual rhythms. The ritual on New Year's day in the temple of Hathor at Dendera (Upper Egypt)

10.10-10.30 Break

### III. Calendrical cycles in the Greco-Roman world

Moderator: K. Schieman

10.30-11.05 *Filippo Battistoni (Innsbruck):*  
Social and astronomical times in the Antikythera mechanism

11.05-11.40 *Sofie Remijsen (Amsterdam):*  
The timing of Greek sporting festivals

11.40-12.15 *Ilaria Bultrighini (London):*  
Θεῶν ἡμέραι: the seven planets as week gods in the Roman Empire

12.15-13.45 Lunch

### IV. Calendrical festivals in literary texts

Moderator: M. Baumann

13.45-14.20 *Christoph Berner (Göttingen):*  
Rhythms of liberation: Release year, sabbatical year and yobel year as biblical concepts of social time

14.20-14.55 *Anke Walter (Newcastle):*  
Ovid and the festive calendar of exile: the festival of Bacchus in *Tristia* 5.3

14.55-15.30 *Christian Badura (Berlin):*  
Ovid's *Fasti* and the cycles of the Roman calendar

15.30-15.50 Break

### V. Rhythms in Greek and Roman daily life

Moderator: S. Remijsen

15.50-16.25 *Laura Willer (Heidelberg):*  
Time specifications in invitations

16.25-17.00 *Roland Färber (Frankfurt/Main):*  
Tax rhythms and collection rituals in the Hellenistic world

Keynote lecture:

17.10-18.10 *James Ker (Philadelphia):* Hidden Rhythms: Rituals of the routine in Roman time

19.00 Dinner

## Saturday 26 May 2018 (Potgieterzaal)

9.15-9.50 *Frank Grieshaber (Heidelberg):* Computer-based chronology: Calendar Gazetteer and Calendar Information System

9.50-10.20 *Rita Gautschy (Basel):* Progress report on sourcebook contributions

10.20-10.40 Break

10.40-11.10 *Jérôme Bonnin (Paris):* Progress report on sourcebook contributions

11.10-11.20 *Stefanie Rabe (Berlin):* Information on the Einstein Center Chronoi

11.20-12.00 *Roland Färber (Frankfurt/Main):*  
Announcements