



university of  
 groningen

KONINKLIJKE NEDERLANDSE  
 AKADEMIE VAN WETENSCHAPPEN



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- Groningen University Fund,
- Protestant Theological University (PThU)—Amsterdam and Groningen,
- Faculty of Theology & Religious Studies of the University of Groningen.

NON-SPEAKERS INTERESTED IN ATTENDING ARE WELCOME BUT SHOULD CONTACT George van Kooten BEFOREHAND at [g.h.van.kooten@rug.nl](mailto:g.h.van.kooten@rug.nl) because of limited seating in room 253

**Intolerance – Polemics – Debate:  
Cultural Resistance in the Ancient World**

**16-18 May 2017**

**Department of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Origins  
Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Groningen  
Oude Boteringestraat 38, Room 253**

**Programme**

This conference addresses the phenomenon of forces of “cultural resistance” in the Ancient World, calling attention to the whole spectrum of intolerance, polemics and debate, and particularly focusing on intolerance—a very relevant contemporary issue. The conference seeks to understand intolerance in its different disguises of cultural, religious and philosophical intolerance and polemics in Antiquity. By doing so, it seizes the opportunity to enquire into the precise nature of intolerance: is every assertion of values and norms, is every exclusivism necessarily intolerant? Where, when, and how does cultural, religious, or philosophical self-identity start to exclude others in an intolerant way?

**Tuesday 16 May**

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|-------------|--|
| 14:30       | Tea in room 253  |
| 14:45       | Opening (Jacques van Ruiten)   |
| 15:00-15:45 | Zlatko Pleše (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), <i>Religious Intolerance and Acculturation</i> |

- 15:45-16:30 Marjo Korpel (Protestant Theological University), *Religious Intolerance in the Ancient Near East*
- 16:30-17:00 Break
- 17:00-17:45 George Boys-Stones (Durham University), *Polemics between Philosophical Schools*
- 17:45-18:30 Jacques van Ruiten (University of Groningen), *Polemics against the Idols in the Hebrew Bible and Early Jewish Literature*
- 18:30-18:45 Break
- 18:45-19:30 Paul Heck (Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.), *The Intolerance of Rationalism: The Case of al-Jahiz in Ninth-Century Baghdad*
- 19:45 Dinner buffet

### **Wednesday 17 May**

- 9:00-9:45 Dominik Markl (Pontificio Instituto Biblico, Rome), *Polemics against Child Sacrifice and the Construction of the Other in Deuteronomy and the Deuteronomistic History*
- 9:45-10:30 Mladen Popović (University of Groningen), *Models of the Qumran Community as a Case-Study for Intolerance, Polemics and Debate in Ancient Judea*
- 10:30-10:45 Break
- 10:45-11:30 Stefan Beyerle (University of Greifswald), *Intolerance in Early Judaism. Emic and Etic Descriptions of Jewish Religions in the Second Temple Period*
- 11:30-12:15 Barry Hartog (Protestant Theological University), *(In)Tolerance and Space in Philo's Embassy to Gaius*
- 12:15-13:00 Steve Mason (University of Groningen), *Judaeen/Jewish Amixia in Philo, Josephus, and Non-Judaeen Authors*
- 13:00-15:00 Lunch
- 15:00-15:45 Lautaro Roig Lanzillotta (University of Groningen): *Alternative Cosmogonies: Neopythagorean, Platonic, and Stoic Inter-school*

*Polemics Regarding the First Principles and the Origins of Valentinian Protology*

- 15:45-16:30 Robbert van den Berg (University of Leiden), *Polemics by Proxy: The Oration of Emperor Julian against the Cynic Heracleius and the Christians*
- 16:30-17:00 Break
- 17:00-17:45 Peter Franz Mittag (Universität zu Köln, Historisches Institut, Abt. Alte Geschichte), *Antiochus IV Epiphanes' Cultural Policy toward the Jews in Context*
- 17:45-18:30 James Carleton Paget (University of Cambridge), *Evidence for a Jewish adversus Christianos tradition: the case of Celsus' Jew*
- 18:30-18:45 Break
- 18:45-19:30 James C. Oleson (The University of Auckland), *D.W. Griffith's Intolerance and the Law of Unintended Consequences*
- 19:45 Dinner

**Thursday 18 May**

- 8:30-9:15 Annette Merz (Protestant Theological University), *Polemics in the New Testament: Polemics in the New Testament and Related Hermeneutical Problems*
- 9:15-10:00 George van Kooten (University of Groningen), *John's Counter-Symposium: 'The Continuation of Dialogue' in Christianity—A Contrapuntal Reading of John's Gospel and Plato's Symposium*
- 10:00-10:15 Break
- 10:15-11:00 Diego R. Sarrió Cucarella (Pontificio Istituto di Studi Arabi e d'Islamistica, Rome), *The Law of Justice (shari'at al-'adl) and the Law of Grace (shari'at al-faql) in Medieval Muslim-Christian Polemics*
- 11:00-11:45 Clare Wilde (University of Groningen), *Christian Responses to Islam: Scripture and Rational Arguments in Inter-Confessional Debates*
- 11:45-12:30 Reuven Firestone (Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles), *Quranic anti-Jewish Polemics*

12:30-14:00

Concluding reflections (George van Kooten & Jacques van Ruiten),  
followed by informal lunch

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