

**THE AESTHETICS OF CROSSING:
EXPERIENCING THE BEYOND IN ABRAHAMIC TRADITIONS**
International conference, Utrecht University, 19-21 March 2015
Venue: Zaalverhuur7, Boothstraat 7, 3512 BT Utrecht

PROGRAMME

Thursday 19th March

2-3pm: REGISTRATION, COFFEE & TEA

WELCOME (3-3:15pm): Christian Lange & Simon O'Meara

KEYNOTE 1 (3:15-4pm):

Hans Belting

Crossing cultural borders: Migrating images between east and west

SESSION 1 (4:15-6:15pm): *Ingestion*

	INGESTION Chair: Birgit Meyer
4:15-4:45pm	Thomas Arentzen (Lund University), A matter of taste: Salvation as gustation in Early Christian poetry
4:45-5:15pm	Mark Soileau (Artuklu University), Tasting the moment: Gustatory revelation in the Bektashi ritual meal
5:15-5:45pm	Greg Schmidt Goering (University of Virginia), Gustatory aesthetics in the Jewish wisdom tradition
5:45-6:15pm	Paul L. Heck (Georgetown University), The descent of God's <i>sakīna</i> onto the hearts of believers: Bodily implications

RECEPTION (6:15-7:15pm, drinks and snacks)

Friday 20th March

9:15-9:30am: REGISTRATION

KEYNOTE 2 (9:30-10:15am):

Christian Lange

What no eye has seen: Crossing into the otherworld in Islamic traditions

10:15-10:30am: COFFEE & TEA

SESSION 2 (10:30am-12:45pm): *Seeing / Eros* (parallel session)

	SEEING (Room: "Kerkzaal") Chair: Christian Lange	EROS (Room: "Huiskamer") Chair: Eric Ottenheijm
10:30-11 am	Angelika Brodersen (Ruhruniversität Bochum): Transgressing the limits: Al-Jīlī's Dream	Birgit Krawietz (Berlin Free University): Muscular Islam with Shamanistic features: The many layers of Turkish oil wrestling
11-11:30am	Pieter Coppens (Utrecht University): Approaching God and paradise through the senses: Sufism between corporeality and spirituality	Peter-Ben Smit (Amsterdam Free University): An explosion of peace: Body, ritual, and the beyond in the "Kiss of Peace"
11:30-11:45am	SHORT BREAK	SHORT BREAK
11:45am-12:15pm	Yousef Casewit (American University of Sharjah): Ibn Barraĵān and the Andalusian <i>mu'tabirūn</i>	Marcel Poorthuis (Tilburg School of Catholic Theology): Cabbala, eroticism, and the primacy of touch
12:15-12:45pm	Benedikt Pontzen (Berlin Free University): On "seeing God" and its ambiguities: Religious claims and counterclaims among Muslims in Asante, Ghana	Martien Halvorson-Taylor (University of Virginia): Ecstasy and imagination in the <i>Song of Songs</i>

LUNCH (12:45-2pm)

SESSION 3 (2pm-5pm): *Material 1 / Emotions* (parallel session)

	MATERIAL 1 (Kerkzaal) Chair: Nico Landman	EMOTIONS (Huiskamer) Chair: Marcel Poorthuis
2-2:30pm	Annalisa Buttici (Utrecht University), Mediating and re-mediating divine	Julia Schwartzmann (Western Galilee College), "He smells and judges": Can

	presence: Raphael's <i>Transfiguration of Christ</i> and the African Pentecostal religious imagination	the sense of smell be an instrument of justice?
2:30-3pm	Simon O'Meara (School of Oriental and African Studies), A cross at Mecca: Circling the Ka'ba	Louise Lawrence (University of Exeter), Putrid smells and the anatomy of disgust in biblical traditions
3-3:30pm	Markus Balkenhol (Utrecht University), The cross-thing: Experiencing beyond Abrahamic traditions	Brenna Mooore (Fordham University), Emotion, intimacy, and the sacred in twentieth-century French Catholicism
3:30-4pm	COFFEE & TEA BREAK	COFFEE & TEA BREAK
4-4:30pm	Ahmad Sukkar (Oxford University), Crossing boundaries between the body, space and architecture in the Islamic tradition: On 'Abd al-Ghanī al-Nābulusī's <i>Miftāḥ al-Futūḥ</i> (The Key of Openings)	Monique Scheer (University of Tübingen), Cross my heart: Emotions as mediating practices in Protestant Christianities
4:30-5pm		Anne-Marie Korte (Utrecht University), Greetings from beyond the grave: Reconceptualising life after death in contemporary miracle stories

CONFERENCE DINNER (starts at 6:30pm)

Venue: Fundatie van Renswoude, Agnietenstraat 5 (Utrecht city centre)

Saturday 21st March

KEYNOTE 3 (9-9:45am):

Lindsay Jones

From the Pillar of Death to the Cross of Miracles: Mentalist Assumptions and Materialist Correctives in Mitla, Oaxaca, Mexico

9:45-10am: COFFEE & TEA

SESSION 4 (10am-12:45pm): *Material 2 / Hearing* (parallel session)

	MATERIAL 2 (Kerkzaal) Chair: Simon O'Meara	HEARING (Huiskamer) Chair: Martha Frederiks
10-10:30am	Sonja Luehrmann (Simon Fraser University), Moulded imaginaries: Iconographic media as an environment of canonical perception	Daniel Becerra (Duke University): Origen and the spoken word
10:30-11am	Glenn Peers (University of Texas at Austin), The matter of crossing beyond (and back) in the Byzantine World	Tala Jarjour (University of Notre Dame), Sound, place, and affective manifestations of the aesthetic in Syriac chant
11am-11:30pm	Frank J. Korom (Boston University), Multi-sensorial crossings in a contemporary Sufi community	Scott Kugle (Emory University), A crooked cap marks the right way to pray: Embodying love in Qawwali
11:30-11:45am	COFFEE & TEA BREAK	COFFE & TEA BREAK
11:45am-12:15pm	Anne E. Lester (University of Colorado at Boulder), Beholding the body of Christ: Relics, translation and the revelation of religious truth in the aftermath of the Fourth Crusade	Isaac Weiner (The Ohio State University), Soundmapping religious boundaries: Reflections on an emerging methodology
12:15-12:45pm	Janneke Raaimakers and Jelle Visser (Utrecht University), Seeing the unseen God: Worship of visible things in the Carolingian period/early Middle Ages?	Anderson Blanton (Max Planck Institute), The point of contact: Radio prayers and the apparatus of belief

CONCLUDING REFLECTIONS (12:45-1pm): Birgit Meyer

FAREWELL & LUNCH (ends ca. 2:30pm)

Guest registration fee: 15 € (7,50 € for students), to be paid in cash at registration.
For further information, please contact aestheticsofcrossing@gmail.com