

PIRQE MASHIAH: JEWISH APOCALYPTICISM AT THE EMERGENCE OF ISLAM

An event of the long-term project "Corpus Coranicum", member of the Centre of Ancient Studies of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities

Thursday, 24 October 2019, 2 p.m.

Staatsbibliothek, Academy wing

Room 07W04, Unter den Linden 8, 10117 Berlin

Registration until 21.10. at: chbohm@bbaw.de

Pirqe Mashiah is an apocalyptic midrash from Palestine (7th/8th centuries), and part of the so-called revival of Jewish apocalyptic literature in Late Antiquity when political events, including the Persian, Byzantine and Arab conquests, were regarded as a sign of the messianic era and the coming age. *Pirqe Mashiah* is a compilation of eschatological teachings that is supplemented with historical allusions to demonstrate that the major political changes under Arab rule from the seventh century onwards are a sign of the apocalyptic end of time. The portrayal of the "other" in *Pirqe Mashiah* raises important questions about the development of Jewish apocalyptic beliefs both in terms of the traditions that it preserves, but also how these motifs and concepts are developed in light of the contemporary political situation from the seventh century onwards and what this suggests about relations with the "other" at this formative period.

Helen Spurling is Associate Professor of History at the University of Southampton, Director of the Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/non-Jewish Relations and President-Elect of the British Association for Jewish Studies. Her research focuses on intercultural relations in Late Antiquity in the Eastern Mediterranean, biblical exegesis and apocalypticism. She published *The Book of Genesis in Late Antiquity: Encounters between Jewish and Christian exegesis*, and is currently working on the development of Jewish apocalypticism at the emergence of Islam.



"Gog and Magog statues at Gaunt's clock in the Royal Arcade in Melbourne (Australia), erected 1892."
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Introduction

Michael Marx

BBAW

Pirqe Mashiah: Jewish apocalypticism at the emergence of Islam

Helen Spurling

University of Southampton

**Admission free.
Registration required.**

Further information:

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Directions:

S-Bahn: Friedrichstraße / U2: Hausvogteiplatz
or Stadtmitte / U6: Französische Straße or
Stadtmitte