

Erudition and Commitment

A conference in honour of Angelika Neuwirth

Gelehrsamkeit und Engagement

Eine Festveranstaltung zu Ehren von Angelika Neuwirth

7 December 2013

Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften,
Einstein-Saal, Jägerstr. 22/23, 10117 Berlin

In an increasingly connected yet fragmented world, the relationship of scholarly erudition to ethical commitment has never been more relevant. While the notion of erudition may appear outmoded, its various manifestations, such as self-detachment, comprehensiveness and care for difference remain significant strategies in reading texts and the human experiences they embody. Yet this devotion to texts should not be understood as a mode of self-absorption or indifference to societal and political concerns but rather, as Angelika Neuwirth's impressive oeuvre reminds us, reading is a genuine act of compassion and responsibility to the world in which we live.

On the occasion of the seventieth birthday of the Arabist and Qur'an scholar Angelika Neuwirth, friends and colleagues gather together to celebrate a scholarly career that has left its impressions on various fields of scholarship, ranging from her efforts to integrate Arabic literature into comparative literary studies in European universities to her pursuit of a European reading of the Qur'an, which dispels long-held notions of alterity and foreignness and explores the potential for a collective reading of sacred scripture. Dwelling throughout her scholarly life on the cultural and intellectual thresholds between the Islamic-Jewish-Christian worlds of Europe and the Middle East, Angelika Neuwirth's intellectual career serves as an emblem of a scholarship that binds together the pursuit of knowledge with ethical commitment.

This conference is organized in the framework of two programs at the Forum Transregionale Studien, "Europe in the Middle East – The Middle East in Europe (EUME)" and "Zukunftsphilologie: Revisiting the Canons of Textual Practice" in cooperation with Dahlem Humanities Center, Corpus Coranicum / Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung Berlin and Freie Universität Berlin.

In cooperation with:



Dahlem Humanities Center

Freie Universität



Berlin



Zentrum für Literatur- und
Kulturforschung Berlin

berlin-brandenburgische
AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN



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Saturday, 7 December 2013

Venue: **Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften,
Einstein-Saal, Jägerstr. 22/23, 10117 Berlin**

- 10.00 Welcome
Georges Khalil (EUME / Forum Transregionale Studien)
Erika Fischer-Lichte (Freie Universität Berlin)
- 10.15 – 10.45 Laudatio
Stefan Wild (Universität Bonn)
Notes of a Travelling Companion – A Retrospective View
- 10.45 – 11.00 Coffee Break
- 11.00 – 12.30 Moderation: **Barbara Winckler** (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster)
- Daniel Boyarin** (University of California, Berkeley)
The Task of the Untranslator: Philology and Interpretation in four Maccabees
- Klaus von Stosch** (Universität Paderborn)
Herausforderung Islamische Theologie in Deutschland. Erwartungen an Philologie und Komparative Theologie
- Martin Tremel** (Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung Berlin)
In and Out of Eden in Biblical Traditions
- 12.30 – 14.00 Lunch
- 14.00 – 15.30 Moderation: **Islam Dayeh** (Zukunftsphilologie / Freie Universität Berlin)
- Thomas Bauer** (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster)
Der Baumeister zitiert Koran: Iqtibas bei al-Mi'mar
- Nicolai Sinai** (University of Oxford)
Angelika Neuwirth and Surah Holism: The State of the Question
- Ridwan al-Sayyid** (Lebanese University, Beirut)
Angelika Neuwirth and the Study of the Qur'an

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee Break

16.00 – 17.30 Moderation: **Christian Junge** (Freie Universität Berlin)

Beatrice Gruendler (Yale University)

Fraud by the Book

Nadia Al-Bagdadi (Central European University, Budapest)

Here or There? - An Essay in the Ambiguities of Aesthetics

Ken Seigneurie (Simon Fraser University, Canada)

Angelika Neuwirth's Deep Commitment to Modern Levantine Culture

17.30 – 18.00 **Response by Angelika Neuwirth**

18.00 – 19.00 Coffee Break

19.00 Lecture

Susannah Heschel (Dartmouth College, New Hampshire)

Islam and Jewish-German Self Understanding

Reception

Organization:

Islam Dayeh (Zukunftsphilologie / Freie Universität Berlin)

Christian Junge (Freie Universität Berlin)

Georges Khalil (EUME / Forum Transregionale Studien)

Barbara Winckler (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster)

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