

CALL

Invicta Juditha. Stories of Judith in Judaism, Christianity and Islam from Antiquity to Modern Times

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL IN INTERRELIGIOUS STUDIES

29th August – 2nd September 2022
Almo Collegio Borromeo, Pavia (Italy)

The *Book of Judith* – which narrates the rescue of Judea at the beginning of the sixth century BC by the widow Judith, who is said to have managed to behead Holofernes, general of the Assyrian army – is considered apocryphal by orthodox Judaism and the Lutheran Bible. However, more than a millennium after the composition of the Book, the figure of Judith emerges strongly in a series of Jewish literary genres and religious practices of the Middle Ages. In the collective imagination she is particularly linked to Chanukah, the so-called ‘Jewish Christmas’, appearing triumphant, with the head of Holofernes in her hands, in the menorot, the six-branched candelabra with seven braziers. The Jewish tradition was intertwined with the late antique and medieval Christian tradition, both Catholic and Orthodox, which instead accepted the Book of Judith into the canon of the Bible. The reaction against the enemy, the legitimate use of force that challenges unjust human authority to restore justice, together with the feminine gender of the protagonist of a gesture of justice and emancipation, were the main hermeneutical keys. Judith is also one of the most popular figures in Christian iconography. Although Judith is not mentioned in the Qur’an, where the only female name explicitly evoked is that of Mary, the presence of women in the Prophet’s circle and in the post-Koranic tradition is nevertheless at the centre of new studies and fresh research interests.

The **Centro di Studi Interreligiosi** based at the **Almo Collegio Borromeo (Pavia, Italy)** is organising an international summer school on this topic **from 29 August to 2 September 2022 in Pavia**. The summer school will discuss, in close interaction between lectures and workshops with source readings, the presence of Judith in Hebrew texts from late antiquity to the modern age, in medieval and sixteenth-century Christian historical and literary texts, and in early modern Catholic and Counter-Reformation images. In the last part, it will focus on heroic female figures in medieval and modern Islamic literature and in cinema from the contemporary Arab world. There will also be a brief introduction to the presence of Judith in the history of (Western) music. The conference working languages are English and Italian, exceptionally French, with the aid of English translations for written sources.

INVITED SPEAKERS

**Maurizio BUSCA – Ulisse CECINI – Chiara FRANCESCHINI
Deborah GERA – Helen GEYER – Matthias MORGENSTERN
Friederike PANNEWICK – Maria Cristina TERZAGHI
Margarete ZIMMERMANN.**

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Lejla DEMIRI (University of Tübingen)
Thomas FRANK (University of Pavia)
Francesco MORES (University of Milan)
Matthias MORGENSTERN (University of Tübingen)
Daniela RANDO (University of Pavia)
Davide SCOTTO (University of Naples L’Orientale)

APPLICATION AND REQUIREMENTS

Up to 14 positions for advanced MA students, PhD students, and postdocs are available. Candidates shall be attending a pertinent MA, PhD or postdoctoral program (history, literature, philology, Jewish studies, Christian studies, Islamic studies, theology) at the time of the submission of the application. Applications can be written in English, Italian, French, or German and shall be submitted online **by 1 April 2022** at the link <https://tinyurl.com/summerschool-judicta>.

They shall include (as attached Pdf) a short cover letter (max. one page), a CV with possible publications (max. 3 pages), and the summary of an ongoing research project (max. 3 pages). The results of the selection will be advertised by 1 May 2022. Candidates shall display a strong interest in the historical interactions of the Abrahamic religions and, possibly, a special interest in aspects of heroism, martyrdom, gender or exegesis of religious texts in one or more of the three religions. Selected candidates are expected to actively participate in the five working days of the summer school.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Meals and overnighting at Collegio Borromeo for four nights and five days (Monday to Friday) are fully covered by the summer school. The first working session is scheduled on **Monday, the 29th August 2022, at 3 pm**, while the last session will end on **Friday, the 2nd September, by 1 pm**. Participants are thus expected to reach Pavia by Monday in the early afternoon and leave on Friday after lunch. The detailed programme of the summer school will be available at www.centrostudinterreligiosi.it, while further information on logistics will follow in spring once the selection will be completed.

There are special arrangements for Covid-19 compliance and safe attendance. The information below is the current guidance and will be updated as advice changes. For your own protection and for the protection of academic and Institute staff, participants will be advised about the most up-to-date government requirements shortly before the course begins. This may include advice to take PCR tests before the start of the course and Green Pass. Participants are currently required to wear a FFP2 mask while they are in the building, including in classrooms. It is likely that there will still be a requirement for participants to have temperature-checks on arrival: participants who are unwell or show symptoms will not be admitted.

CONTACTS

For any question please write to the coordinators:
Daniela RANDO – daniela.rando@unipv.it
Thomas FRANK – thomas.frank@unipv.it
Or to the Project Manager and Logistics:
Sara BRITTI – sara.britti01@universitadipavia.it
Paolo BERNUZZI – servizigenerali@collegioborromeo.it

For further information you may also consult the websites: www.centrostudinterreligiosi.it
www.collegioborromeo.it