

HEAVEN ON EARTH

TEMPLES, RITUAL, & COSMIC SYMBOLISM IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

MARCH 2-3, 2012

THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

ORGANIZED BY DEENA RAGAVAN,
POST-DOCTORAL SCHOLAR



Tablet of Shamash (detail). Gray schist. Sippar, southern Iraq. Babylonian, early 9th century BC. British Museum BM 91000-04

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2012

INTRODUCTION

9:00-9:30 AM

Opening remarks by Gil Stein, Director of the Oriental Institute
Introduction by Deena Ragavan

SESSION 1 || ARCHITECTURE & COSMOLOGY

9:30-10:50 AM

JULIA A. B. HEGEWALD "Images of the Cosmos: Sacred and Ritual Space in Jaina Temple Architecture in India"

TRACY MILLER "Naturalizing Buddhist Cosmology in the Temple Architecture of China"

SUSANNE GÖRKE "Hints at Temple Topography and Cosmic Geography from Hittite Sources"

BREAK (10:50-11:10)

SESSION 2 || BUILT SPACE & NATURAL FORMS

11:10 AM-12:30 PM

KARL TAUBE "The Classic Maya Temple: Centrality, Cosmology and Sacred Geography in Ancient Mesoamerica"

MICHAEL W. MEISTER "Seeds and Mountains: The Cosmogony of Temples in South Asia"

GARY BECKMAN "Intrinsic and Constructed Sacred Space in Hittite Anatolia"

LUNCH (12:30-1:30)

SESSION 3 || MYTH & MOVEMENT

1:30-3:20 PM

DEENA RAGAVAN "Entering other Worlds: Gates, Rituals, and Cosmic Journeys in Sumerian Sources"

BETSEY A. ROBINSON "Airs, Waters, Places: Mountain Sanctuaries and Mythic Itineraries in Ancient Greece"

RESPONSE | **DAVÍD CARRASCO**

BREAK (3:20-3:40)

SESSION 4 || SACRED SPACE & RITUAL PRACTICE

3:40-5:00 PM

URI GABBAY "'We are Going to the House in Prayer': The Cultic Topographical Context of the Emesal Prayers in Ancient Mesopotamia"

YORKE M. ROWAN "Sacred Space and Ritual Practice at the End of Prehistory in the Southern Levant"

CLAUS AMBOS "Temporary Ritual Structures and their Cosmological Symbolism in Ancient Mesopotamia"

RECEPTION || 5:00-6:00 PM

The cult centers of the ancient world were the prime location and focus of ritual activity. Temples and shrines were not constructed in isolation, but existed as part of what may be termed a ritual landscape, where ritualized movement within individual buildings, temple complexes, and the city as a whole shaped their function and meaning. Ritual practice and temple topography provide evidence for the conception of the temple as a reflection, or embodiment, of the cosmos.

This seminar addresses interconnections between temple topography and architecture, ritual practice, and cosmic symbolism. The participants are archaeologists, art historians, and philologists working all across the ancient world (Mesoamerica, Greece, Egypt, the Levant, Mesopotamia, Iran, South Asia, and China). The main goal of the meeting is to facilitate communication between scholars of different fields in order to share questions and methods to provide new avenues of research or enable the use of comparative data.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2012

SESSION 5 || ARCHITECTURE, POWER, & THE STATE

9:00-10:20 AM

ÖMÜR HARMAŇSAH "The Cattle Pen and the Sheepfold: Cities, Temples and Pastoral Power in Ancient Mesopotamia"

MATTHEW CANEPA "The Transformation of Sacred Space, Topography, and Royal Ritual in Persia and the Ancient Iranian World"

ELIZABETH FROOD "Egyptian Temple Graffiti and the Limits of State Religion and Personal Piety"

BREAK (10:20-10:40)

SESSION 6 || IMAGES OF RITUAL

10:40 AM-12:30 PM

CLEMENTE MARCONI "Mirror and Memory: Images of Ritual Actions in Greek Temple Decoration"

JOHN BAINES "Sources of Egyptian Temple Cosmology: Divine Image, Ritual Performer, King"

RESPONSE | **RICHARD NEER**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

For complete program details, contact
Deena Ragavan: ragavan@uchicago.edu

Seminar website: <http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/symposia/2012.html>

The Oriental Institute is handicapped accessible. Persons with disabilities who need assistance should contact Deena Ragavan at (773) 702-7497.