

**Universität zu Köln**  
**Center for Advanced Studies**

**Internationales Kolleg Morphomata**

Universität zu Köln  
Albertus-Magnus-Platz  
50923 Köln

Besucheradresse:  
Weyertal 59 (Rückgebäude)  
50937 Köln

Telefon +49 (0)221 470-1292  
Fax +49 (0)221 470-1296  
ik-morphomata[at]uni-koeln.de  
[www.ik-morphomata.uni-koeln.de](http://www.ik-morphomata.uni-koeln.de)

The concept of “The invention of tradition” was formulated 30 years ago in the now famous book edited by Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger and is still highly influential. Taking stock of its current (theoretical) understandings and focusing on the Roman world, this workshop aims to explore the concept as a means to understand processes of cultural change in the Roman West in particular. Four case studies from different periods and regions around the world will open the discussion and serve as theoretical introductions to analyze how “the invention of tradition” works as a cultural process. On the basis of rich archaeological and literary evidence, the program will zoom in on the Roman oikumene subsequently. Three lectures will provide an overview of how processes of “inventing traditions” were played out in the Roman present with regard to the Greek, Near Eastern and Egyptian pasts. This will set the scene for the final group of five lectures that will explore difficult and important questions about the indigenous pasts in the “Roman” present in Northwestern Europe. Why were some traditions forgotten, others invented and some (just) continuing?

In cooperation with  
Leiden University, Faculty of Archaeology and  
Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (DAI),  
Abteilung Rom

**FURTHER EVENTS IN WINTER TERM 2013/14**

08.-09.11.2013 - Conference in Bern  
**Die Wiederbelebung des Todes: Religionen und der Umgang mit Krankheit, Alter, Sterben**

9.-14.12.2013  
**Literator 2013 – Michael Lentz**

24.01.2014 - Workshop  
**Piranesi und die Vermittlung des antiquarischen Wissens im 18. Jahrhundert**

11.-16.02.2014 - Conference in Delhi  
**Afterlife/Nachleben**

GEFÖRDERT VOM



**Bundesministerium  
für Bildung  
und Forschung**



**REINVENTING  
“THE INVENTION OF  
TRADITION”?  
INDIGENOUS PASTS AND  
THE ROMAN PRESENT**

WORKSHOP 14.-15.11.2013



# REINVENTING “THE INVENTION OF TRADITION”? INDIGENOUS PASTS AND THE ROMAN PRESENT

## WORKSHOP 14.-15.11.2013

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

- 16.30 **Dietrich Boschung** (Köln), **Alexandra W. Busch** (Rom) and **Miguel John Versluys** (Leiden) Welcome and introduction

#### Theoretical introductions. Processes of the invention of tradition in past and present: four case studies

- 17.00 **Michael Zelle** (Detmold) Arminius – Cheruskerfürst und deutscher Held. Zur Rezeptionsgeschichte einer antiken Figur in der Neuzeit
- 17.45 **Andreas Niehaus** (Gent) The political dimension of performing “Japanese tradition”

18.30 Coffee Break

#### 19.00 Keynote lecture

**Hartmut Leppin** (Frankfurt) From traditions to tradition: The invention of church history

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

- 09.00 **Katja Sporn** (Athen) Vergangenheit in der Gegenwart: Spurensuche in der griechischen Antike

#### Between Egypt, the Orient and Greece: Rome and its (invented) traditions

- 09.45 **Miguel John Versluys** (Leiden) Haunting traditions. The material presence of Egypt in the Roman world

10.30 Coffee Break

- 11.00 **Michael Sommer** (Oldenburg) Through the looking glass – Zenobia and ‘Orientalism’

- 11.45 **Onno van Nijf** (Groningen) Re-inventing agonistic traditions: Greek festival culture under Rome

12.30 Lunch Break

#### Invented, forgotten and continuing traditions in the Roman West

- 13.45 **Alexandra W. Busch** (Rom) Back to the roots? Indigenous pasts and the Roman present in north-western Europe

- 14.30 **Peter S. Wells** (Minneapolis/St. Paul) Indigenous forms, styles, and practices in provincial Roman Europe: continuity, resistance, or reinvention?

15.15 Coffee Break

- 15.45 **David Fontijn** (Leiden) Im Westen nichts Neues? Cultural attitudes towards prehistoric ritual sites in the Roman West

- 16.30 **Sabine Rieckhoff** (Leipzig) Macht – Kommunikation – Identität: Gallische Heiligtümer von frühkeltischer bis in spätromische Zeit

- 17.15 **Hella Eckardt** (Reading) Indigenous and migrant identities in Britain – memories of home and Roman diasporas?

18.00 Final discussion

**Venue** Internationales Kolleg Morphomata, University of Cologne, Weyertal 59 (Back Building: third floor), 50937 Cologne

**Concept** Dietrich Boschung, Alexandra W. Busch, Miguel John Versluys

**Contact** Regina Esser (resser[at]uni-koeln.de)

In cooperation with  
Leiden University, Faculty of Archaeology and  
Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (DAI), Abteilung Rom



Universiteit  
Leiden