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



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

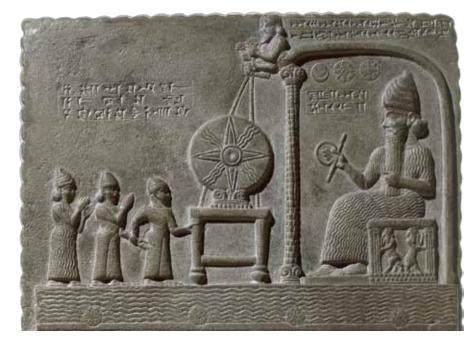
Prayers in Ancient Mesopotamia"

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"



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

he 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 HARMANŞAH "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

10.40 AM-12.30 PM

JOHN BAINES

CLEMENTE MARCONI "Mirror and Memory: Images of Ritual

Actions in Greek Temple Decoration"

"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.