

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Jochen Althoff (Prof. Dr.) is a professor of ancient Greek at the University of Mainz. He has published on ancient science and philosophy, especially Aristotle, and organizes the yearly meeting of the research unit Ancient Science and its Reception (“AKAN”) and co-edits a publication series of the same name. Since 2013, he has been vice-speaker of the Research Training Group *Early Concepts of Humans and Nature. Universal, Specific, Interchanged*.

Victoria Altmann-Wendling (Dr.) studied Egyptology, Prehistory and Paleo-Anthropology at the University of Tübingen. From 2011 to 2016, she worked as a scientific assistant in the DFG-project *Re-edition of the Opening of the Mouth Ritual* at the University of Heidelberg. From 2014, she was associated member of the Research Training Group *Early Concepts of Humans and Nature. Universal, Specific, Interchanged* at the University of Mainz, until she received her doctorate in 2017 with a dissertation on the Moon in the temple texts of Graeco-Roman Egypt from the University of Tübingen. Since then, she holds a postdoctoral position in the ERC-Starting-Grant project *Food-Transforms* at the University of Munich. She has published on Egyptian rituals, astronomy, palaeography and funerary culture.

Alberto Bardi (Dr.) is currently a Fellow in Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks (Harvard University) in Washington, D.C. He holds a PhD in Byzantine Studies from Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich (2017). He has been visiting scholar at Max-Planck-Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, at the Department of History of Science at University of Oklahoma (Mellon Fellowship Award) and at German Center of Venetian Studies in Venice. His

areas of inquiry are Greek and Latin Philology, Medieval Studies, and History of Science, especially the History of Astronomy in the Middle Ages and in the Renaissance.

Dominic Bärsch (M.Ed.) studied classical philology and theology at the University of Mainz. From 2014 to 2017, he was a research associate at the Research Training Group *Early Concepts of Humans and Nature. Universal, Specific, Interchanged* at the University of Mainz, working on his doctoral thesis about ancient concepts of the end of the world. Since 2018, he works as a research associate in a project on the rhetoric of ancient prayer at the University of Eichstätt. His research interests lie in ancient cosmology and cosmogony and the transformation of thought in “Late Antiquity”.

Susanne Beck (Dr.) studied Egyptology, Arabic, and Middle Eastern cultures at the University of Leipzig, Germany. She received her PhD in Egyptology at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich, Germany in 2015. Dr. Beck held the position of the assistant professor at the LMU in Munich (summer semester 2015). In 2015, she became the curator of the Egyptian Collection of the University of Tübingen, Germany. Her research interest is focused on magical-medical and religious texts as well as the transfer of knowledge from the ancient Near East to Egypt.

Dominik Berrens (Dr.) studied classical philology and biology at the University of Freiburg. From 2013 to 2017, he was part of the Research Training Group *Early Concepts of Humans and Nature. Universal, Specific, Interchanged* at the University of Mainz, where he received his doctorate with a dissertation on social insects in antiquity in 2016. Since 2017, he has been a postdoctoral researcher in the project *NOSCEMUS – Nova Scientia: Early Modern Scientific Literature and Latin* funded by the European Research Council at the University of Innsbruck. His research interests lie in pre-modern scientific texts and ancient drama.

Tim Brandes (M.A.) studied Ancient Near Eastern Studies and Egyptology at the University of Göttingen. Since 2014, he is part of the Research Training Group *Early Concepts of Humans and Nature. Universal, Specific, Interchanged* at the University of Mainz, where he writes his dissertation on

Babylonian-Assyrian concepts of time. His research interests include Babylonian-Assyrian astronomy, scholarship, and religion.

Jeffrey L. Cooley (Dr.) completed his doctoral work at the Pines School of Graduate Studies of the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in 2006 and from 2003 to 2009 taught in the Classics Department at Xavier University (Cincinnati). In 2009, he joined the Theology Department of Boston College where he is currently Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible. His first monograph, *Poetic Astronomy in the Ancient Near East* (Eisenbrauns 2013), focused on the intersection of celestial science and narrative in the literatures of ancient Mesopotamia, Ugarit, and Judah. His current work centers on the intellectual history of the ancient Near East, and he is preparing his second monograph, *Names and Knowledge in Ancient Near Eastern Narrative: A Study in Etymology and Epistemology*, for Cambridge University Press.

Roy Ellen (Prof.) is Emeritus Professor of Anthropology and Human Ecology at the University of Kent, Canterbury. His main areas of current interest are ethnobiological knowledge systems, cultural cognition, social system resilience, and inter-island trade. He has conducted field research in archipelagic southeast Asia over a period of 50 years. His most recent book is *Kinship, population and social reproduction in the 'New Indonesia'* (2018). He was elected to a fellowship of the British Academy in 2003, and was President of the Royal Anthropological Institute between 2007 and 2011.

Götz König (Dr.) has studied Iranian Studies, philosophy, and German literature. He is Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter at the Institute for Iranian Studies, Freie Universität Berlin. His work is mainly based in the field of Zoroastrian Studies and comprehends philological studies as well as research in the field of religion, literature and intellectual and cultural history. His current work is focused on the Xorde Avesta (its texts, translation, genesis and history), a history of rationality in Old Iran and a description of the Pahlavi literature as a reformulation of the Zoroastrian tradition under the influence of Greek philosophy.

Lennart Lehmhaus (PhD) studied Jewish Studies, German Language and Literature, and Political Sciences in Duisburg, Jerusalem, and Düsseldorf. At

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Tanja Pommerening (Prof. Dr.) holds degrees in Egyptology, pharmacy and history of sciences. She has been a professor of Egyptology at the University of Mainz since 2010. Since 2013, she has been spokeswoman of the Research Training Group *Early Concepts of Humans and Nature. Universal, Specific, Interchanged*. In addition to the overarching questions of universals, cultural specificities and knowledge transfer, her research focuses on the language and culture of Ancient Egypt, ancient Egyptian medicine and science, and the history of knowledge.

Jens Peter Schjødt (Prof. Dr.) is a professor of the Study of Religion at the University of Aarhus, Denmark. He has published on pre-Christian Scandinavian religion, methodology in comparative religion, and various general religious phenomena, such as initiation and sacrifice. He has organized several conferences and networks, mainly within the field of pre-Christian Scandinavian religion.

Liba Taub (Prof. Dr.) is Professor of the History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Cambridge, where she is Director and Curator of the Whipple Museum of the History of Science and currently Head of Department; she is also a Professorial Fellow of Newnham College. Having published extensively on ancient Greek and Roman science as well as the material culture of science, her most recent monograph is *Science Writing in Greco-Roman Antiquity* (Cambridge University Press, 2017).