



The Law of Nature, the “Intelligible World” and the “Mystery that is to Come” in Ancient Judaism

Monday, May 18, 2015, 18:15–20:00

University of Zurich, Room KIR 200, Kirchgasse 9, 8001 Zurich

Guest Lecture
Prof. Dr. Hindy Najman, Yale University

For Philo of Alexandria the Law of Nature is primordial, eternal, but also accessible to the sage who is self taught. Even if one is not self-taught, one can access the Law of Nature through the study of the Law of Moses. Traditions that are contemporaneous or just prior to Philo’s writings reflect similar ideas about the Law of Nature. In particular, the “mystery that is to come” is also represented as timeless, heavenly, and achievable through the meditation on the Law or perhaps also through

having or acquiring a holy spirit (as opposed to a carnal spirit). Hindy Najman claims that we should consider the larger context for Hellenistic thinking in order to understand the development of philosophical Judaism in Jewish antiquity around concepts of the Law of Nature and the Mystery that is to come.