

Workshop on Saturday, March 5, 2022  
9:30 - 16:00

# Monks, Bishops and a sternly Letter

## Transmission of Knowledge in late antique Egypt

 Mittelstrasse 43, room 016

In Late Antiquity ascetics and desert monks tried to lead a life in pleasing God in Upper Egypt. Thus, they experienced tensions, such as: How has oneself to deal with claims of the ecclesiastical elite? Who decides on the tasks and responsibilities of a monk? How should and actually do monks, ascetics and desert parents communicate with the bishops? Which social hierarchies had to be taken into account? How was knowledge passed on? These and other questions will be explored in the workshop. The three main speakers will present current findings from their research and explain topics of their focus :

**Prof. Dr. Sofia Torallas Tovar**, Professor of Classics and Near Eastern Languages and Civilisations (University of Chicago)

**PD Dr. rer. biol. hum. Sandra Lösch**, Head of the Department of Anthropology at the Institute of Forensic Medicine (University of Bern)

**Prof. Dr. Katharina Heyden**, Professor of Ancient History of Christianity and Interreligious Encounters (University of Bern)

Participants will have the opportunity to explore in depth, through interdisciplinary approaches, how knowledge was transferred and communicated among the desert parents and the bishops.

# Program

9.30	Arrival and Coffee
10.00	Welcoming Introduction
10.15	Lecture 1: Prof. Dr. Sofía Torallas Tovar, Chicago/Berlin <b>Letter «Athanasius ad Dracontium»</b>
11.00	Coffee-Break
11.15	Lecture 2: PD Dr. rer. biol. hum. Sandra Lösch, Bern <b>Sakraltopographie einer Klosterlandschaft: Das thebanische Pauloskloster (Deir el-Bachît)</b>
12.00	Lecture 3: Prof. Dr. Katharina Heyden <b>Konflikte, Kooperationen und Einflussnahme auf das Mönchtum durch Bischof Athanasius anhand der Vita Antonii</b>
12.45	Lunchbreak (offered)
13.45	Welcome back
14.00	Workshops (depending on the number of participants) I Close-reading of the letter of Athanasius to Dracontius II Close-reading of parts from the Vita Antonii
15.00	Coffee-Break
15.15	Final discussion
16.00	End of the workshop

# Information



The target group of the workshop are doctoral students and those with an interest in Greek sources.



The lectures and workshops are held in English and German.



Food is provided, vegan options are available.



Participants are asked to read Athanasius' letter to Dracontius in preparation. Documents will be circulated in advance but shortly after the registration deadline. Doctoral students of the Faculty of Theology can earn 1 ECTS point for active participation.



Registration till **18 February 2022** via eMail [sina.vonaesch@theol.unibe.ch](mailto:sina.vonaesch@theol.unibe.ch) including Name, Surname, subject and semester, doctoral student or other participant.



Shortly beforehand, information will be provided on whether the event is to be held in presence or digitally.



University of Bern, Mittelstrasse 43, Seminary Room 016,  
Bus line 12, Mittelstrasse station, approx. 5 minutes on foot  
Bus line 11, Bierhübeli station, approx. 4 minutes on foot



The workshop is funded by the doctoral program of the Theological Faculties of the Universities of Bern, Basel and Zurich.