

## Conference Venue:

IKGF Seminar Room, Building D1  
(Hartmannstraße 14, 91052 Erlangen)

For millennia, mankind has imagined the end of time in various ways: ranging from scenarios of a definite finis mundi to the mere closure of a period, the idea of a transformation of society into “Heaven on Earth” (Richard Landes) has been characteristic of most apocalyptic movements. All of them are inextricably linked to the phenomenon of prophecy.

The conference will try to shed light on predictions related to millennialist thought and movements from a cross-cultural perspective. We will examine textual history (including commentarial history) as well as tangible attempts to make the prophecies come true in real life. What kinds of texts have been considered relevant in millennialism, and which exegetic strategies have been adopted for their interpretation? Is there a difference between having a long-term or a short-term perspective with regard to the impact of a given prediction? How do the agents of millennialism position themselves vis-à-vis the traditional claims or interpretations of a text?

In connection with the end of time, some civilizations have emphasized the notion of a judgment taking place, much like at a court of justice in the real world. As a result, numerous scenarios offer more or less detailed depictions of both the judgment and the “chosen” people. The conference will explore different views on judgment, salvation, and entry into timelessness or re-entry into normal time.

Please **register** by **December 4, 2017** on our website  
<http://www.ikgf.uni-erlangen.de/events/>

SPONSORED BY THE



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research



### International Consortium for Research in the Humanities (IKGF)

*Fate, Freedom and Prognostication.  
Strategies for Coping with the Future in East Asia and Europe*

Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg  
Hartmannstr. 14 · 91052 Erlangen, Germany  
Phone: +49 (0)9131 85 - 64340 · Fax: +49 (0)9131 85 - 64360  
[www.ikgf.fau.de](http://www.ikgf.fau.de)

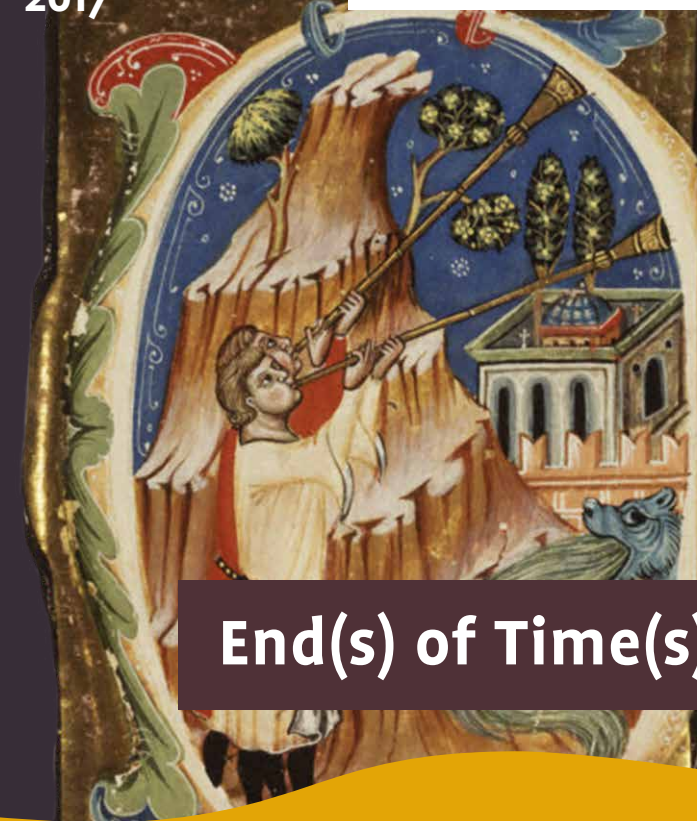


**INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM  
for Research in the Humanities**

*Fate, Freedom and Prognostication.  
Strategies for Coping with the Future in East Asia and Europe*

**December 11-13  
2017**

**CONFERENCE**



**End(s) of Time(s)**



**FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER  
UNIVERSITÄT  
ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG**



**INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM**  
for Research in the Humanities

## Monday, December 11, 2017

- 6:15 p.m. Welcome Address and Introduction  
**Michael Lackner** (Chinese Studies, Director IKGF)
- 6:30 p.m. Keynote Lecture  
**Richard Landes** (Medieval Studies, Boston University)



## Tuesday, December 12, 2017

### Panel 1: Overviews of the End of Times in Different Eras and Areas

- 9:30 a.m. End of Times: Christian Perspectives on History, Eschatology, and Transcendence in the Latin Middle Ages  
**Klaus Herbers** (Medieval Studies)
- 10:00 a.m. Tibetan Buddhist Dystopian Narratives and their Pedagogical Dimension  
**Rolf Scheuermann** (Tibetan Studies)
- 10:30 a.m. The Last Judgement in Sunni Exegesis: Temporal and Spatial Organisation, Procedural Aspects, and Personnel  
**Christian Lange** (Islamic Studies)
- 11:00 a.m. *Coffee Break*
- 11:30 a.m. Discussion Discussant: **Michael Lackner**

### Panel 2: The End of Times as Cultural Transfer, Heterodoxy, and Syncretism?

- 12:00 p.m. Competing Eschatological Scenarios during the Taiping War, 1851-1864  
**Vincent Goossaert** (Chinese Studies)
- 12:30 p.m. Millenarianism in the Tibetan Dunhuang Manuscripts  
**Brandon Dotson** (Tibetan Studies)
- 1:00 p.m. *Lunch Break*
- 2:00 p.m. Mohammed, Mahdi, Antichrist: Christians and Muslims in Joachim of Fiore's Apocalyptic Eschatology  
**Julia Eva Wannemacher** (Medieval Studies)
- 2:30 p.m. Discussion  
Discussant: **Johannes Fried** (Medieval Studies)

### Panel 3: Practices, Rituals, and Figures of the End of Times

- 3:00 p.m. Steve Biko in One Hand, the Protocols in the Other - Murabitun Sufism in Black/African Areas of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.  
**Matthias Gebauer** (Geography and Islamic Studies)
- 3:30 p.m. *Coffee Break*
- 4:00 p.m. Eschatology and Messianism in Early Medieval China: The First Apocalypses  
**Christine Mollier** (Chinese Studies)
- 4:30 p.m. The Infernal Trinity Does the Mole - Satan's Eschatological Activity in the Two Tracts *De principe mundi* and *De semine scripturarum* of the *Anonymus Bambergensis*  
**Matthias Kaup** (Medieval Studies)
- 5:00 p.m. Discussion and Final Discussion of 1<sup>st</sup> Day  
Discussant: **Patrick Henriët** (Medieval Studies)

## Wednesday, December 13, 2017

### Panel 4: Texts and Commentaries about the End of Times

- 9:30 a.m. Beatus of Liebana and the Spiritualized Understanding of Apocalypse in Medieval Iberia  
**Gaelle Bosseman** (Medieval Studies)
- 10:00 a.m. The End of Time in Medieval Historiography  
**Hans-Christian Lehner** (Medieval Studies)
- 10:30 a.m. Byzantine Calculations of the End of Times (CE 500, 800, ~1000, 1496)  
**Wolfram Brandes** (Byzantine Studies)
- 11:00 a.m. *Coffee Break*
- 11:30 a.m. Making the Great Peace Up: Chinese Apocrypha in the First Two Centuries CE  
**Zhao Lu** (Chinese Studies)
- 12:00 p.m. Discussion  
Discussant: **Matthias Maser** (Medieval Studies)
- 12:30 p.m. *Lunch Break*

### Panel 5: The End of Times and Modernity

- 1:30 p.m. Facing the Modernity of the Others: Eschatological Fears for the Nation and the Race in China, 1895-1920  
**Rudolf Wagner** (Chinese Studies)
- 2:00 p.m. The Final Struggle: The "Islamic State" and the Enacting of the End of Time  
**Jörn Thielmann** (Islamic Studies)
- 2:30 p.m. *Coffee Break*
- 3:00 p.m. The Messianic Quest for the Earthly Paradise in the Modern World  
**Jürgen Gebhardt** (Political Studies)
- 3:30 p.m. Discussion, Final Discussion, and Outlook  
Discussant: **Andreas Nehring** (Religious Studies)

For more information, please contact  
Dr. Hans-Christian Lehner ([hans.christian.lehner@fau.de](mailto:hans.christian.lehner@fau.de)).