

Bonn, 26.04.2024

**14 and 15 May 2024:  
Prof Dr Daniel Boyarin, Berkeley, as a guest in Bonn**

**Workshop and Lecture as part of the cooperation between  
Faculty of Catholic Theology and Luxembourg School of Religion & Society**

Workshop for academics and students:

**The Ambivalence of the Historian: Between Accommodation and Andreia**

14 May 2024, 14:00-16:00, Seminar Room 1, KTF, Rabinstraße 8

Registration via link (20 places):

<https://terminplaner6.dfn.de/de/b/d2544f33fd8f70557d8fa74cfe4d62e1-693742>

Lecture at the *Dies academicus* of the University of Bonn:

**Towards a Poetic of Midrash: Skepticism and the Reading of Torah**

15 May 2024, 11:00-13:00, Festsaal of the University of Bonn, Main Building, Am Hof 1

*no registration required (160 places)*

→ Both events will be held in English.

**Prof Dr Daniel Boyarin is Hermann P. and Sophia Taubman Professor Emeritus of Talmudic Culture at the University of California, Berkeley.** As a Jewish philosopher, Judaist, religious, linguistic and literary scholar, he has significantly influenced the debate on ancient biblical and Talmudic literature, methods of textual criticism and exegesis, and historical, sociological and gender-theoretical issues in recent decades. He is one of the best-known experts on Talmudic literature, the concept of religion in antiquity and Jewish-Christian relations in antiquity.

Daniel Boyarin studied at Goddard College of Columbia University and completed his doctorate at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York. He has taught as a professor at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Bar-Ilan University Tel Aviv, Yale, Harvard and Berkeley as well as Yeshiva University New York. During his career, he has held numerous prestigious fellowships, including at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin in 2012/2013.

As part of the **workshop**, Daniel Boyarin will present his interpretation of the ancient Jewish historian Flavius Josephus for debate. He fought in the Jewish War against Rome and witnessed the conquest of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Initially a prisoner of the empire, he later went to Rome voluntarily, where he wrote his *History of the Jewish War* and *History of the Jewish People*. Boyarin studies the ambiguity of this biography between Jerusalem and Rome.

Daniel Boyarin's keynote speech will be followed by four responses that deepen and question his theses: Dr Annette Boeckler (International Center for Comparative Theology and Social Issues), Prof. Dr Hermut Löhr (Chair of New Testament, focus on Ancient Judaism, Faculty of Protestant Theology), Dr Matthew Pawlak (LSRS) and PD Dr Francesco Zanella (Franz Joseph Dölger Institute).

In his **lecture**, Daniel Boyarin asks what the midrash means for the interpretation of the Torah. His proposal to understand the midrash as a poetic text genre opens up new, alternative approaches and research approaches.

The Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn and the Luxembourg School of Religion & Society (LSRS) have concluded a cooperation agreement that establishes the LSRS as an affiliate institute of the University of Bonn. Their cooperation advances theology in interdisciplinary exchange and interreligious dialogue, which is able to enrich present and future discourses as a scientifically and socially relevant actor.

## **The Faculty of Catholic Theology at the University of Bonn**

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The Faculty of Catholic Theology at the University of Bonn is one of the most renowned Faculties of Catholic Theology in Germany. Its teaching is based on strong research achievements in the individual theological disciplines. The faculty is networked with a wide range of projects and institutions – students benefit from the interdisciplinary and international orientation of Germany's most successful university of excellence as well as the UN location of Bonn.

## **The Luxembourg School of Religion & Society**

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The LSRS is an internationally networked research and educational institute, a public institution under church sponsorship. It brings together researchers from different religions and disciplines in joint projects. Its aim is to renew theological discourse and religious practice with an awareness of each subject's respective conditions and possibilities.

## **Press contact**

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Ruth Jung  
Rabinstraße 8 | 53113 Bonn | [www.ktf.uni-bonn.de](http://www.ktf.uni-bonn.de)  
+49 228 73 8145  
[ruth.jung\(a\)uni-bonn.de](mailto:ruth.jung(a)uni-bonn.de)