

Colloquium of the Judaism and Christianity in Antiquity Program

"Between 'Gentile Healing' and 'Giving Life to Idolaters':
Talmudic Discourses on Socio-Medical Interactions in
Late Antiquity."

Monday November 6, NAU 141, 11:30am-1pm



Medicine, healing and healthcare in Late Antiquity were contested fields populated with a broad variety of practitioners. Their expertise often exhibit an astonishing overlap with other fields of knowledge (philosophy, religion, magic) in theory and practice. This paper will address different types of socio-medical interactions between Jews and non-Jews or rabbis and non-rabbinic experts regarding healing, pharmacology, midwifery and nursing. The discussion will also pay attention to cultural concepts and parallels in other ancient healing traditions that shaped the Talmudic discourse on practical healthcare.

Lennart Lehmhaus, Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (UPenn)/Collaborative Research Center SFB 980 "Episteme in Motion" (Free University Berlin), focuses in his research on ancient Judaism, rabbinic traditions and Jewish knowledge cultures. His current project investigates medical knowledge and scientific epistemologies in Talmudic texts against their broader cultural background in Ancient Near Eastern, Graeco-Roman, or early Christian traditions in Late Antiquity.

Please, direct your questions to Julia Kelto Lillis: jl12dt@virginia.edu

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