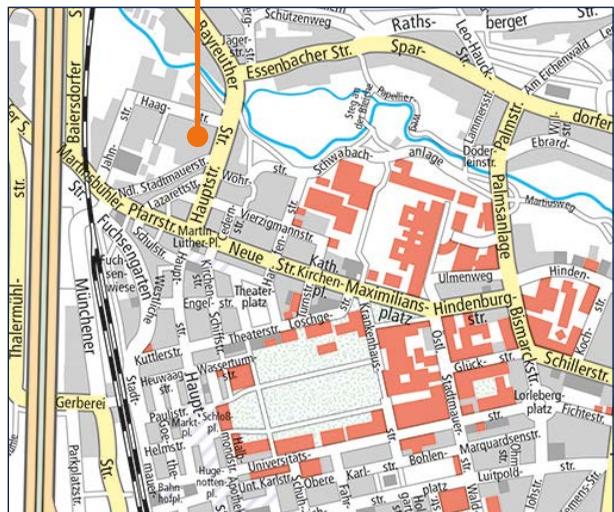


## Venue

Evangelische Gemeinde  
Erlangen-Altstadt (Gemeindehaus b11)  
Bayreuther Str. 11, 91054 Erlangen



## Registration and Contact

Carola Eggeler  
Email: [theol-nti@fau.de](mailto:theol-nti@fau.de)

Registration by July 15th, 2025 is requested via [www.theologie.fau.de/](http://www.theologie.fau.de/)  
[anmeldung-zum-symposium-stigmata-on-body-and-soul/](#)  
or by scanning the QR code.

## Organizer

**Prof. Dr. Christina Eschner**  
Chair of New Testament I  
(Theology of the New Testament)

## Sponsored by



Friedrich-Alexander-Universität  
Erlangen-Nürnberg

**Dr. Dr. Richard  
Zantner-Busch-Stiftung**

Publisher: FAU, Lehrstuhl für Neues Testament I  
Design: FAU Brand Office,  
Foto: Red-figure skyphos, Pisto Xenos Painter, ca. 480 BCE, Geropso takes Heracles to school, Staatliches Museum KG 708, Schwerin.  
© bpk | Staatliche Schlösser, Gärten und Kunstsammlungen Mecklenburg-Vorpommern | Gabriele Bröcker  
Foto innen, links: Cambridgeshire crucified skeleton; right calcaneum pierced by crucifixion nail. © Albion Archaeology  
Foto innen, rechts: The Stigmatization of St. Francis, Barfüßerkirche, Erfurt, after 1230, Foto: Holger Kupfer, CVMA Potsdam, BBAW, CC BY-NC 4.0  
Map: Ingenieurbüro Spachmüller

## Contributors

**Anne Bezzel**  
Dr. theol. (Erlangen), Educational Advisor, Evangelisches Augustinerkloster zu Erfurt (Germany)

**John Granger Cook**  
Professor of Religion and Philosophy, Religion and Philosophy Department, LaGrange College, LaGrange, GA (USA)

**Martin T. Dinter**  
Ph.D. in Classics (Cambridge), Reader in Latin Literature, Department of Classics, King's College London (United Kingdom)

**David du Toit**  
Professor of New Testament Studies and Head of the Department for Theology, Philosophische Fakultät und Fachbereich Theologie, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg (Germany)

**Christina Eschner**  
Professor of New Testament Studies, Institut für Neues Testament, Philosophische Fakultät und Fachbereich Theologie, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg (Germany)

**Michael Francis**  
Assistant Professor of New Testament, School of Theology and Religious Studies, The Catholic University of America, Washington D.C. (USA)

**David Ganz**  
Professor of Medieval Art History, Kunsthistorisches Institut, Universität Zürich (Switzerland)

**Mark Gustafson**  
was a long-time Professor of Classics, most recently at Macalester College, St. Paul, MN (USA), and remains an ancient tattoo scholar

**Christoph Hammann**  
Dr. phil. in Classics (Marburg), Postdoctoral Researcher in New Testament Studies, Evangelisch-Theologische-Fakultät, Universität Münster (Germany)

**Charlotte Köckert**  
Professor of Early History of Christianity, Institut für Kirchengeschichte, Philosophische Fakultät und Fachbereich Theologie, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg (Germany)

**Karl-Heinz Leven**  
Professor of the History of Medicine, with a degree in History and Classics, and director of the Institute for the History and Ethics of Medicine, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg (Germany)

**Candida Moss**  
Edward Cadbury Professor of Theology (focus on New Testament), Department of Theology and Religion, University of Birmingham (United Kingdom); Research Associate at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University (USA)

**Barbara Müller**  
Professor of the History of Christianity and Historical Theology (Early Church and Middle Ages), Fakultät für Geisteswissenschaften, Fachbereich Evangelische Theologie, Universität Hamburg (Germany)

**Nils Neumann**  
Professor of Biblical Theology, Institut für Theologie, Philosophische Fakultät, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hannover (Germany)

**Florian Steger**  
Professor and director of the Institute for the History, Theory and Ethics of Medicine, Universität Ulm (Germany)

**Kelly L. Wrenhaven**  
Professor of Classics and director of Classical Studies, History Department, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH (USA)



Friedrich-Alexander-Universität  
Philosophische Fakultät und  
Fachbereich Theologie

## International Symposium Stigmata on Body and Soul

### Wounds, Tattoos, and Blemishes in Greco-Roman Antiquity and Their Representation in Christian History



July 24–25,  
2025

## About of the Symposium

The symposium focuses on a phenomenon that is attested in several forms for ancient Christianity: the stigmata on body and soul. The starting point is the term "stigma," which comes from ancient Greek (στίγμα) and there – unlike in contemporary English or German – (primarily) refers to something visible on the skin in a concrete sense. The exact meaning of "stigma," however, is disputed. Is it a tattoo or rather a brand (e.g. to mark the ownership of slaves), a wound, or a scar? Based on a precise clarification of the term "stigma" in Greek and Latin, the symposium will address three aspects: *Firstly*, it will explore the relationship between conspicuous bodily signs and their effects on the respective individuals, particularly regarding the aspect of social exclusion that is still closely associated with the term "stigma." *Secondly*, the symposium aims to historically examine the central tradition of the wounds that Jesus suffered during his crucifixion while also investigating the notion of stigmata on the bodies of the believers. *Thirdly*, the concept of moral stigmata on the soul, which arise from affections and wrongful actions, will be examined.

The topic of "stigmata" touches upon numerous themes such as ancient medicine, ethics, anthropology, social exclusion, and the religious significance of bodily signs like tattoos. It promotes close collaboration between various theological disciplines as well as with other fields of ancient studies and beyond (eg., history of medicine).

You are cordially invited to attend.



## Program

### Thursday, July 24

- 8:30 Arrival and Coffee
- 9:00 Welcome Address and Introduction  
**Christina Eschner (Erlangen)**
- 9:10 **Florian Steger (Ulm):**  
*Wunde – antik-medizinhistorisch betrachtet*

### 1 Stigmata – Bodily Signs between Identity and Suffering

- 10:00 **Mark Gustafson (Minneapolis, MN):**  
*Paul the Stigmatifer and the Scandal of Tattoos*
- 10:50 Coffee break
- 11:20 **Kelly L. Wrenhaven (Cleveland, OH):**  
*A Mark of Shame: Did the Ancient Greeks Stigmatize Stigmata?*
- 12:10 **Candida Moss (Birmingham/New York):**  
*Hidden Marks: Social Status, Scarring, and the Resurrected Body of Jesus (online)*
- 13:00 Lunch break
- 14:30 **Martin T. Dinter (London):**  
*Scripta Manet – Inscribing the Human Body in Antiquity*
- 15:20 **Barbara Müller (Hamburg):**  
*Are Stigmata in Early Christianity Tattoos?*
- 16:10 Coffee break

### 2 The Stigmata of Jesus: Bodily Wounds in Crucifixion and on Francis of Assisi

17:00–19:15 Evening Lectures

Welcome Address  
**David du Toit (Erlangen)**

Lectures  
**John Granger Cook (LaGrange, GA):**  
*Ancient Greco-Roman Texts on Damage to the Human Body in Roman Crucifixion*

**David Ganz (Zurich):**  
*Wundmal und Naturraum: Die Stigmata des Franziskus in der mittelalterlichen Bildkunst*

Music:  
UMD Prof. Dr. Konrad Klek (Erlangen)

19:30 Dinner

### Friday, July 25

- 9:00 **Karl-Heinz Leven (Erlangen):**  
*Lepra, Elephantiasis, Heilige Krankheit – stigmatisierende Krankheiten und die antike Medizin*
- 9:50 **Michael Francis (Washington D.C.):**  
*Bodily Blemishes and the Sacred in Philo of Alexandria*
- 10:40 Coffee break



### 3 Moral Stigmata – The Wounded Soul and Its Therapy

- 11:10 **Christina Eschner (Erlangen):**  
*A Soul Full of Scars: Moral Stigmata from Plato to Early Christianity*
- 12:00 **Nils Neumann (Hannover):**  
*"I Just Can't Get Enough:" Notions of Illness in Lucian, Luke, and the Pastoral Epistles*
- 12:50 Lunch break
- 14:30 **Christoph Hammann (Münster):**  
*Wounds of the Body, Scars of the Soul – the Treatment of Physical and Psychological Traumata in Galen and Its Reception in Early Christianity*
- 15:20 **Charlotte Köckert (Erlangen):**  
*The Afflictions of the Soul and Their Therapy in Cicero, Seneca, and Augustine*
- 16:10 Coffee break
- 16:40 **Anne Bezzel (Erfurt):**  
*"Scribe [...] vulnera tua in corde meo:" Experiencing the Stigmata as Means of Border Crossing during the Late Middle Ages in the Work of Gertrud of Helfta and Elizabeth of Spalbeek*

### Conclusion and Outlook

- 17:30 Final discussion and closing remarks
- 18:30 Dinner

We wish you a comfortable stay in Erlangen and are looking forward to a fruitful symposium.