



The CEU Summer University announces the course

**BOOKISH TRADITIONS:
AUTHORITY AND THE BOOK IN SCRIPTURALIST RELIGIONS**

**JULY 4 - 15, 2005
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY**

Course Directors:

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Brief course description

It is one of the ironies of the modern age that the advent of modernity reinforced the status and the authority of the Book in scriptural religions, and facilitated the rigours of its literal reading. Even at the present transitional moment, which with Information Technology is acquiring yet another epochal revolution with results still unforeseeable, the authority of the Book seems smoothly to accommodate the new means and tastes in the transmission of knowledge, religious and profane, and its modes of communication and easy generalisation. The return to the textual foundation of the religion does not, however, relate to the Book as divine or otherwise hallowed word alone. It has very determinate consequences for the Book as text definitively established, for the text as physical object, and for the Book as a concept, not least a concept that in the modern redaction is in a sense de-traditionalised, rid of the techniques of medieval glossators and commentators.

The purpose of the Summer School is to scrutinise the pre-modern conceptions of the canonical texts, the techniques of reading involved in its elaboration and use, and subsequently to examine the transformations from the pre-modern to the early modern and modern periods in the textual formation of major religions. This calls for considering the imprint of modern modes of text production (the definitively fixed physical text), modern styles of text arrangements (refashioning the canon and regimes of intertextuality), and the very notion of canonical text (hermeneutics and techniques of reading). It would also be a desideratum to develop a vocabulary which allows for communication among scholars, who will come from the various domains relevant to this issue and address studies from these respective fields.

Students are encouraged to apply from the following disciplines: patristics; medieval Judaism, Christianity and Islam; the Reformation; religion in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; Humanist antiquarianism and philology; historiography; hermeneutics, as well as from various regions reflecting different styles of dealing with these traditions.

As this course is supported by a grant from INTAS, which covers the participation costs of selected applicants from NIS countries (New Independent States of the former Soviet Union) applications from these countries are encouraged. NIS countries are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Grant recipients are expected to be of 35 years of age or less at the starting date of the course. The INTAS grant includes tuition fee, accommodation, subsistence and travel costs at the cheapest possible price (APEX, PEX or "excursion" must be used). Visa and travel insurance expenses may be included in the travel costs.



The Summer University was established in 1996 and is aiming to involve a high-level international faculty (including CEU faculty), and excellent advanced doctoral students, junior or post-doctoral researchers, teachers and professionals as participants. While application from all over the world is encouraged, continued priority is given to applicants from Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and countries experiencing emerging democracies worldwide. Applicants from these countries, when admitted on merit, will be eligible for scholarship, while those from developed countries will usually be expected to pay fees.

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Application deadline: February 14, 2005.

Further information on the course (detailed course description, faculty CVs, etc.), on eligibility criteria and funding options available at <http://www.ceu.hu/sun>

Non-discrimination policy statement

Central European University does not discriminate on the basis of – including, but not limited to – race, color, national and ethnic origin, religion, gender or sexual orientation in administering its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.