



Interdisziplinäre Atrium-Ringvorlesung: Antike Welten und Archäologien: Neue Forschungen

In Verbindung mit dem Forschungszentrum **AWOSA**: ANCIENT WORLD STUDIES AND ARCHAEOLOGIES

Mittwoch, 13. Dezember 2017 von 18:00-19:30 Uhr, SR 1

More than exilic history: what the Yahudu tablets tell us about the Persian Empire

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Since the *By the Rivers of Babylon* exhibit at the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem (2015) and the accompanying publication of the so-called Yahudu tablets in the collection of David Sofer (Pearce and Wunsch, CUSAS 28), we have seen an explosion of scholarly articles mining these cuneiform tablets for information about the Judean exile in Babylonia.

In this lecture, I will intervene in the process of appropriation of these tablets for (re)writing exilic history, by drawing them into the orbit of Persian history. I will argue that they provide unique insights into the technologies of population control and resource management in the Persian Empire. My lecture will necessarily also ask questions about the problematic provenance of these tablets and will address the ethical problems involved in any scholarly engagement with them.