

Please note that all information is available on the [NOSTER website](#) and might change. For the most updated information consult the NOSTER website or contact noster@ru.nl.

Masterclass NOSTER

Each year NOSTER offers a Grand Course, in which we engage with one theme in a multidisciplinary context. This year's Grand Course consists of a Masterclass with [Prof. dr. Jörg Rüpke](#) (Max-Weber-Kolleg für kultur- und sozialwissenschaftliche Studien, Universität Erfurt) discussing his book *Pantheon: A New History of Roman Religion* and [the conference 'Interpreting Rituals: Historiographical Perspectives and Pluralistic Contexts'](#) (NGG, LUCSoR, NOSTER & Universität Erfurt).

About Jörg Rüpke's *Pantheon*

Jörg Rüpke's *Pantheon* is a stimulating and sometimes challenging book, narrating the history of Roman religion from the ninth century BCE to the fourth century CE. This long temporal (and spatial) range allows for an analysis of one of the most fundamental transformations of "religion". In Rüpke's own words: "we will describe how from a world in which one practiced rituals, there emerged a world of religions, to which one could belong" (1).

While speaking about the past, this study requires us to think about religion in terms of networks, communication, and competence, in relation to "not indubitably plausible actors", and long term patterns in the appropriation of religious ideas and practices by individuals of all walks of life. Its thorough theoretical focus on individual agency makes *Pantheon* worthwhile for all scholars of religion struggling to find the right balance between the individual and collective dynamics of a religious or cultural tradition. It is highly recommended! – [Mattias Brand](#)



Content

- *Preparation*: Participants read Jörg Rüpke's [Pantheon: A New History of Roman Religion](#) (translation of *Pantheon: Geschichte der antiken Religionen*, 2016; Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2018): the Introduction (pp. 1-23), the Epilogue (pp. 386-390) and five or six chapters will be discussed extensively. Participants are expected to write a summary and analysis of the assigned chapters, including three questions for discussion. Note that this report (max. 1,500 words) must be submitted in advance.
- *Masterclass (29 October)*: The book will be discussed with the author; five or six chapters will be discussed in more detail, in sessions introduced and chaired by one of the participants.

- *Conference (29-31 October)*: the participants take an active part in the conference.
- *Paper*: To receive an additional 3 EC, participants can **either** present a paper at the conference (proposal to be submitted through [the conference website](#)) **or** write a paper on a theme related to the Masterclass and/or the conference (see below). Both types of papers will be marked.

As to the (written) paper

To top off the master class, participants can write a 3 EC paper. This can **either be** a paper presented at the conference (proposal to be submitted through [the conference website](#) before 30 June) **or** write a paper on a theme related to the Masterclass and/or the conference (see below). Both types of papers will be marked. As for the second type of paper, participants summarize and discuss **either** (1) the general outline of Rüpke's *Pantheon*, zooming in on two chapters in detail (one of which may be the same as that prepared for the master class) **or** (2) the general gist of the conference, zooming in on two presentations during the conference. In both options, they relate this to their own research in the field of religion, discussing what concepts, theories and methods introduced by Rüpke and others mean for their own work in religion. The paper should be between 2,500 and 3,000 words long, using one of the standard referencing methods.

Deadlines

30 June: Submitting paper proposal when you would like to present a paper at the conference (proposal to be submitted through [the conference website](#)).

1 October: Applications for the Grand Course need to be completed. When applying, participants should include a selection of three chapters from *Pantheon* (in order of preference), one of which they will be assigned for in-depth preparation.

17 October: participants should have submitted their report on *Pantheon* to NOSTER (noster@ru.nl). Shortly after this, NOSTER will decide which participant will introduce and chair the discussion of which chapter.

1 December: Deadline for the optional submission of the paper.

Program Masterclass

11.00-11.15 Welcome and brief introductions – moderated by prof. Murre-van den Berg

11.15-12.30 *Pantheon* (concept of religion, layout, modelling of religious change) – discussion led by prof. Rüpke

12.30-13.30 Lunch break

13.30-16.00 Discussion of single chapters – introduced and moderated by the respective participant

16.00-16.30 Final discussion (unanswered questions, transferability of approach, feedback on procedure) – moderated by prof. Murre-van den Berg

The programme of the conference (from Monday evening 29 until Wednesday afternoon 31 October) will be announced on [the conference website](#).

Location: Johan Huizinga Building (Doelensteeg 16, 2311 VL Leiden), room 0.25.

Credits: 2 EC (excl. paper/presentation) or 5 EC (incl. paper). The paper will be graded.

Participation and registration: Registration is required through the NOSTER

website. When logged in to your personal account on the NOSTER website a register button will appear on the right. A certificate of attendance will be given to the students after finishing the course.

Costs: NOSTER's PhD candidates and ReMA students can participate free of charge in the masterclass and the conference. However, the conference dinner (on Tuesday 30 October) will be at your own expense (€40). Note that when due to unforeseen circumstances you are unable to attend, you should inform the NOSTER office **as soon as possible**. Otherwise, the full costs of the conference (€85) will be charged to you.