

ALC Research Seminars

Semester 2, 2018: Seminar 1

John Chrysostom, the baptismal liturgy, and embodied mystagogy

PRESENTER: Professor Wendy Mayer

DATE/TIME: Tuesday 7 August 2018, 1.30–2.30pm

LOCATION: ALC, Lecture Room 1 (get directions from Reception)

Abstract:

Building on recent research on how preachers in early Christianity embraced Graeco-Roman medical knowledge in their understanding of anthropology and on studies that apply to an understanding of ritual contemporary research on the senses and cognition, the paper begins with an outline of how the fourth-century preacher John Chrysostom viewed the mind-soul-body. It next explores the physicality of the rituals involved in Christian initiation in Antioch, touching on the potential insights offered by sensescape theory and research on enclothed cognition. The article then explores the physical implications for mystagogy of medical theory. Finally it locates mystagogy within the larger program of psychagogy (training the soul) and the health of the embodied soul. Within the paper mystagogy is defined narrowly as the final stage of induction into the Christian mysteries, that is, the period just before and after baptism. Exploring the induction of Christians in this way highlights the sensory and symbolic richness of the early baptismal experience.



RSVP:
Friday 3
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Contact ALC for further information