

Katharina Waldner

Die Erfindung des Martyriums

Wahrheit, Recht und religiöse Identität in Hellenismus und Kaiserzeit

[The Invention of Martyrdom. Truth, Law and Religious Identity in Hellenism and Imperial Times.]

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Katharina Waldner reconstructs the invention of early Christian martyrdom by looking back on a long and contingent history of a discourse. This discourse deals with the relationship between political power, truth, and religion by using (counter) narratives of juridical procedures. The author starts with an analysis of the narrative representation of the trial and death of Socrates by Plato in the context of Athenian religion. A thorough reading of relevant passages in the book of Daniel and 1 and 2 Maccabees then reconstructs the rhetorics of religious conflicts in Hellenistic Palestine. After that, Waldner deals with Jewish and early Christian texts on persecution and martyrdom in imperial times (1st and 2nd century). They can now be understood in a more differentiated way; beyond this, the author provides new insights into the rhetorical construction of an individual and collective religious identity by Jewish, pagan and Christian actors as well.

Katharina Waldner Geboren 1965; Studium der Klassischen Philologie und Archäologie in Zürich und Berlin; 1993 Promotion zur antiken Religionsgeschichte; 2008 Habilitation in Religionswissenschaft; seit 2009 Professorin für Allgemeine Religionswissenschaft an der Universität Erfurt.



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