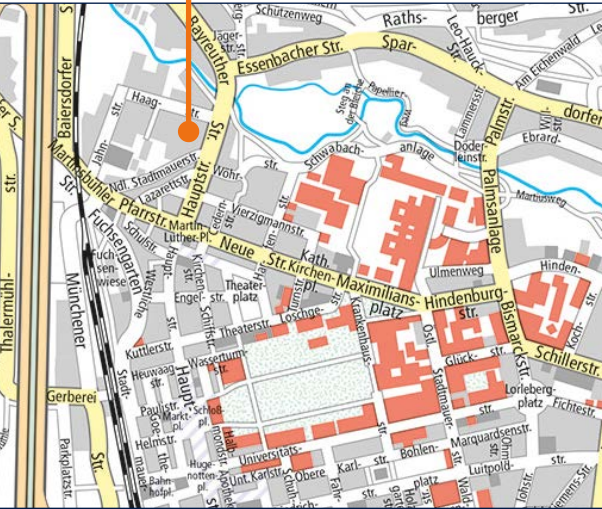


**Venue**  
Evangelische Gemeinde  
Erlangen-Altstadt (Gemeindehaus b11)  
Bayreuther Str. 11, 91054 Erlangen



**Registration and Contact**  
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Registration by July 15th, 2025 is requested via  
[www.theologie.fau.de/](http://www.theologie.fau.de/)  
anmeldung-zum-symposium-stigmata-on-body-and-soul/  
or by scanning the QR code.

**Organizer**  
**Prof. Dr. Christina Eschner**  
**Chair of New Testament I**  
**(Theology of the New Testament)**

**Sponsored by**



Friedrich-Alexander-Universität  
Erlangen-Nürnberg

**Dr. Dr. Richard**  
**Zantner-Busch-Stiftung**

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Map: Ingenieurbüro Spachmüller

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**Friedrich-Alexander-Universität**  
**Philosophische Fakultät und**  
**Fachbereich Theologie**

# International Symposium Stigmata on Body and Soul

## Wounds, Tattoos, and Blemishes in Greco-Roman Antiquity and Their Representation in Christian History



**July 24–25,**  
**2025**

[phil.fau.de](http://phil.fau.de)

About of the Symposium

The symposium focuses on a phenomenon that is at-tested in several forms for ancient Christianity: the stig-mata on body and soul. The starting point is the term “stigma,” which comes from ancient Greek (στίγμα) and there – unlike in contemporary English or German – (primarily) refers to something visible on the skin in a concrete sense. The exact meaning of “stigma,” how-ever, is disputed. Is it a tattoo or rather a brand (e.g. to mark the ownership of slaves), a wound, or a scar? Based on a precise clarification of the term “stigma” in Greek and Latin, the symposium will address three aspects: *Firstly*, it will explore the relationship between conspicuous bodily signs and their effects on the re-spective individuals, particularly regarding the aspect of social exclusion that is still closely associated with the term “stigma.” *Secondly*, the symposium aims to historically examine the central tradition of the wounds that Jesus suffered during his crucifixion while also in-vestigating the notion of stigmata on the bodies of the believers. *Thirdly*, the concept of moral stigmata on the soul, which arise from affections and wrongful actions, will be examined.

The topic of “stigmata” touches upon numerous themes such as ancient medicine, ethics, anthropology, social exclusion, and the religious significance of bodily signs like tattoos. It promotes close collaboration between various theological disciplines as well as with other fields of ancient studies and beyond (eg., history of medicine).

You are cordially invited to attend.



Program

Thursday, July 24

- 8:30 Arrival and Coffee
- 9:00 Welcome Address and Introduction  
**Christina Eschner (Erlangen)**
- 9:10 **Florian Steger (Ulm):**  
*Wunde – antik-medizinhistorisch betrachtet*

1 Stigmata – Bodily Signs between Identity and Suffering

- 10:00 **Mark Gustafson (Minneapolis, MN):**  
*Paul the Stigmatifer and the Scandal of Tattoos*
- 10:50 Coffee break
- 11:20 **Kelly L. Wrenhaven (Cleveland, OH):**  
*A Mark of Shame: Did the Ancient Greeks Stigmatize Stigmata?*
- 12:10 **Candida Moss (Birmingham/New York):**  
*Hidden Marks: Social Status, Scarring, and the Resurrected Body of Jesus* (online)
- 13:00 Lunch break
- 14:30 **Martin T. Dinter (London):**  
*Scripta Manet – Inscribing the Human Body in Antiquity*
- 15:20 **Barbara Müller (Hamburg):**  
*Are Stigmata in Early Christianity Tattoos?*
- 16:10 Coffee break

2 The Stigmata of Jesus: Bodily Wounds in Crucifixion and on Francis of Assisi

- 17:00–19:15 Evening Lectures
- Welcome Address  
**David du Toit (Erlangen)**
- Lectures  
**John Granger Cook (LaGrange, GA):**  
*Ancient Greco-Roman Texts on Damage to the Human Body in Roman Crucifixion*
- David Ganz (Zurich):**  
*Wundmal und Naturraum: Die Stigmata des Franziskus in der mittelalterlichen Bildkunst*
- Music:  
UMD Prof. Dr. Konrad Klek (Erlangen)

- 19:30 Dinner

Friday, July 25

- 9:00 **Karl-Heinz Leven (Erlangen):**  
*Lepra, Elephantiasis, Heilige Krankheit – stigmatisierende Krankheiten und die antike Medizin*
- 9:50 **Michael Francis (Washington D.C.):**  
*Bodily Blemishes and the Sacred in Philo of Alexandria*
- 10:40 Coffee break



3 Moral Stigmata – The Wounded Soul and Its Therapy

- 11:10 **Christina Eschner (Erlangen):**  
*A Soul Full of Scars: Moral Stigmata from Plato to Early Christianity*
- 12:00 **Nils Neumann (Hannover):**  
*“I Just Can’t Get Enough:” Notions of Illness in Lucian, Luke, and the Pastoral Epistles*
- 12:50 Lunch break
- 14:30 **Christoph Hammann (Münster):**  
*Wounds of the Body, Scars of the Soul – the Treatment of Physical and Psychological Traumata in Galen and Its Reception in Early Christianity*
- 15:20 **Charlotte Köckert (Erlangen):**  
*The Afflictions of the Soul and Their Therapy in Cicero, Seneca, and Augustine*
- 16:10 Coffee break
- 16:40 **Anne Bezzel (Erfurt):**  
*“Scribe [...] vulnera tua in corde meo:”*  
Experiencing the Stigmata as Means of Border Crossing during the Late Middle Ages in the Work of Gertrud of Helfta and Elizabeth of Spalbeek

Conclusion and Outlook

- 17:30 Final discussion and closing remarks
- 18:30 Dinner

We wish you a comfortable stay in Erlangen and are looking forward to a fruitful symposium.