



Università
Ca' Foscari
Venezia

**Research fellowship on “Licit and Illicit Ritual in Jewish and Christian Magical Traditions” -
Università Ca' Foscari Venezia**

(Italian law 30 December 2010, n. 240, art. 22)

The present document in English is to be considered as merely a summary of the main provisions of the notice of competition, which is available in Italian at the following ([link](#)). The text in Italian is considered to be the official text of the notice of competition for all legal intents and purposes and, therefore, the Italian text is definitive in the event that there is a discrepancy between the Italian and English versions.

Description

The Department of Asian and North African Studies at Università Ca' Foscari Venezia invites applications for a fellowship in:

Title: Licit and Illicit Ritual in Jewish and Christian Magical Traditions

Scientific sector: M-STO/06

Scientific supervisor and tutor: Prof. Joseph Emanuel Sanzo

Duration: 12 months

Abstract: The research fellow will be part of the ERC project, ‘Early Jewish and Christian Magical Traditions in Comparison and Contact’ and will focus on notions of licit and illicit ritual in late antique Jewish and Christian magical traditions. Several studies (e.g., Bohak 2008; Harari 2017; Stander 1993; Trzcionka 2007; de Bruyn 2017) have surveyed Jewish and Christian elite condemnations of rituals practices, from predictive or imprecatory rites (cf. Council of Laodicea, Canon 36) to even healing through the recitation of biblical texts (cf. M. San. 10:1) or through the suspension ritual objects with Jesus’ name around the body (Augustine, In Io. tra. 7). What is not as well known is that several Greek, Coptic, JBA bowls, and Syriac bowls also condemn certain ritual practices as evil. In many cases, they characterize these rituals – mostly rituals to harm the client – with native terms that we might translate as “magic” (e.g., mageia). In other words, the strict delineation between proper and improper rituals was not limited to elite contexts, but even penetrated the world of ritual practitioners. This intriguing aspect of early Jewish and Christian magical practice, however, has not received sufficient scholarly study nor has it been analyzed from a comparative perspective. The research fellow will select a series of cases in order to explore this dimension of early Jewish and Christian magical practice, illuminating from a comparative perspective Jewish and Christian approaches to illicit rituals in lived religion. If the Covid-19-pandemic will allow travels, the research fellow will spend long working periods in Israel, US and other countries in order to examine the major finds and to consult with international experts. It is expected that the successful candidate will produce a peer-reviewed publication by the end of the 12-month-period. Upon annual approval, the research fellowship can be renewed up to a maximum of 36 months.

The fellowship is intended to provide the successful candidate with the opportunity to pursue his/her own research while benefiting from the range of expertise at Università Ca' Foscari Venezia.

Research activities must be carried out in English.

Who can apply

Prospective candidates are expected to hold at least a master's degree and to have a suitable professional CV for the requested research activities. They are expected to know Aramaic and Ancient Hebrew (these competences should be proved by the course of studies, publications and, if obtained, by the Doctoral dissertation).

Ca' Foscari encourages applications from researchers who have received positive evaluation in all the criteria applicable to funding streams, such as Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships/ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) or similar. Researchers having successfully completed Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships/ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) or similar funded projects are warmly encouraged to apply.



Duration of contract: 12 months (approximately starting: October, 01st, 2021).

Stipend: The research fellowship amounts to 19,367 Euros per year, including taxes and social charges.

Deadline for submission of applications: September, 3rd, 12.00 noon.

How to apply:

Candidates should submit:

1. The application form;
2. A motivation letter (max 1 page) along with their CV in European format, duly dated and signed, both to enclosed as a one single.pdf file. ([link](#))
3. A copy of a valid identity document (either Identity Card or Passport);
4. (If available) Evaluation Summary Reports of Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships/ ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) individual proposals having passed all the evaluation thresholds;
5. (If available) Details of Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships, ERC Starting Grants, FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/ SIR Scientific Young Independence Research funded projects;
6. Declaration on availability to participate in the interview remotely ([link](#)) to be send via email at the following address: ricerca.dsaam@unive.it;
7. For all documents, qualifications and publications relevant for the selection procedure please, see the notice ([link](#)).

All the schemes of the quoted documentation are available on the website ([link](#)).

How to submit your application

Applications should be submitted through the online procedure:

<https://apps.unive.it/domandeconcorso-en/accesso/03092021dsaam>

The candidate, after the uploading, will receive a submission number and an e-mail acknowledging receipt of his/her application.

The candidate (if necessary) could access the procedures for updating any data and materials by the link provided by the e-mail, in any case any updates must be made no later than the deadline September, 3rd, 2021, 12 noon.

Please note that the University can be contacted for any support needs by the candidate until 24 hours prior to the deadline.

Please note the possibility that a high number of applications and / or large file sizes among the documents uploaded by the candidates into the system could result in the slowing of the online procedure. Therefore it is suggested to begin the process as soon as possible and not wait to start the process immediately before the deadline.

NB: the University does not take on responsibility for wrong or late communication of addresses, nor for any communication problem not depending on the University.

Evaluation

Up to 100 points, specifically:

For qualifications, publications and possible tests, from 0 to 60;

For interview, from 0 to 40.



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Selection procedure

Short-listed candidates will be invited for interview on **September, 17th, 2021 at 14 (2 PM)** via Zoom video conference

The short-list of the candidates admitted to the interview, or any postponement, and the link for the interview will be published on the University's webpage within September, 10th, 2021 ([link](#))

Information and contacts

Candidates may find further details about the application process and the research project in the official call published on the following ([link](#)).

For further information please email: ricerca.dsaam@unive.it. Please note that the Department of Asian and North African Studies' Research office will be closed from August 09th, to August 22nd.