

Staging Prayer: A Workshop on Gesture and Performance in Prayer Practice

May 15, 14.00-17.00 (CEST)

Programme

14.00-14.30 Introduction: Experiential knowledge and historical performance

Discussion of theoretical framework: [Laura Weigert, "Performance," *Studies in Iconography* 33 \(2012\): 61–72.](#)

Optional reading: [Bissera V. Pentcheva, Bissera, "Optical and Acoustic Aura in the Medieval Image: The Golden Retable of the Pentecost at Stavelot," *Material Religion* 16 \(2020\): 9–40.](#)

14.30-15.15: Session 1 – Bodily prayer postures

Lukas Bickel, *Pater noster exercise* ([Lukas Bickel, Pater noster Exercise.mp4](#) – password StagingPrayer)

Sorin Bora, *With Hands Raised Toward Heaven: Performing an Apostolic Gesture* ([Sorin Bora, With Hands Raised Toward Heaven.mp4](#) – password StagingPrayer)

15.15-15.30: Short break

15.30-16.15: Session 2 – Song and inner performance

Kathryne Beebe, *A Virtual Pilgrimage: Felix Fabri's 'Sionpilger' and the Unicorn:*
<https://youtu.be/Ci503nExMgk?si=LYzKnt5kPr2SkAuM>

Maria Ivanova, performance of a terirem (kratema), a form of melismatic vocalisation based on repeated syllables in the Hesychast tradition of Byzantine chant ([Maria Ivanova, Terirem performance.mp4](#) password StagingPrayer)

16.15-16.45 Closing discussion