

## LOCATION

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Collective consumption of food and drink depends on spatial co-presence. The sharing of space and food plays a crucial role in the establishment and reproduction of social relations and identities. Scholarly treatments of commensal practices and their spatial settings emphasize their use for strategic political ends but also their potential to become routine and unreflected. Contrasts drawn between formal ritual occasions and the mundane commensality of everyday meals often ignore the interwoven references that relate as well as distinguish the extraordinary from the ordinary. Our examinations of these themes will explore commensality as both strategic political action and unreflected embodied practice and address the ways in which spatial, symbolic, and social practices set ritual commensality apart from but also connect it to daily meals.



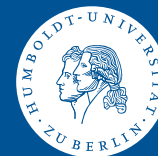
31 May - 1 June 2010

## International Conference

### Commensality, Social Relations and Ritual: Between Feasts and Daily Meals



Freie Universität  Berlin



[www.topoi.org](http://www.topoi.org)

Research Group C-III

# Program

## MONDAY, 31 MAY 2010

9.00 – 9.30

Introductory remarks: Frederike Fless and Susan Pollock (Berlin)

9.30 – 10.00

Tamara Bray (Detroit)  
Ritual commensality between human and non-human persons: investigating Native ontologies in the late Pre-Columbian Andes

10.00 – 10.30

Maria Bianca D'Anna (Tübingen)  
Redistribution of meals and feasting at Late Chalcolithic Arslantepe (Malatya, Turkey)

10.30 - 10.50

Discussion

10.50 – 11.15

Tea/Coffee Break

11.15 – 11.45

Jason Kennedy (Binghamton)  
Commensality and labor in Terminal Ubaid northern Mesopotamia

11.45 – 12.15

Paul Halstead (Sheffield)  
Feast, food and fodder: commensality and the construction of value

12.15 – 13.00

Discussion (Joanne Rowland, Berlin)

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 14.30

Astrid Möller (Freiburg)  
Cereals, delicatessen and wine. Food consumption in ancient Greece

14.30 – 15.00

Katheryn Twiss (Stony Brook)  
The complexities of home cooking: public feasts and private meals inside the Çatalhöyük house

15.00 – 15.20

Discussion

15.20 – 15.45

Tea/Coffee Break

15.45 – 16.15

Liliana Janik (Cambridge)  
The comestible through time and space – an archaeological perspective on celebrating and feasting among prehistoric fisher-gatherer-hunters and early farmers

16.15 – 17.30

Discussion (Sabine Reinhold, Berlin)

## TUESDAY, 1 JUNE 2010

9.30 – 10.00

Adelheid Otto (Mainz)  
Defining and transgressing the boundaries between ritual commensality and daily commensal practices: the case of Late Bronze Age Tall Bazi

10.00 – 10.30

Walther Sallaberger (München)  
Presenting and consuming food in ritual contexts. The case of Late Bronze Age Emar

10.30 – 10.50

Discussion

10.50 – 11.15

Tea/Coffee Break

11.15 – 11.45

Christine Hastorf (Berkeley)  
Steamed or boiled: identity through food practices, preparation, ingredients and ceremony

11.45 – 12.30

Discussion (Robin Nadeau, Exeter)

12.30 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 14.30

Francesca Balossi Restelli (Rome)  
Eating at home and dining out. Commensalities in the Neolithic and Late Chalcolithic in the Near East

14.30 – 15.00

Elliott Shore (Bryn Mawr)  
Dining out in the West

15.00 – 15.20

Discussion

15.20 – 15.45

Tea/Coffee Break

15.45 – 17.00

Discussion (Robin Nadeau, Exeter and Sabine Reinhold, Berlin)