

# THE 9TH RATANBAI KATRAK LECTURES ON ZOROASTRIANISM

Delivered by Prof. Dr. Alberto Cantera (Freie Universität Berlin)

101 years after the inauguration of the Ratanbai Katrak Lecturership at the University of Oxford

Convened by Prof. Yuhan S-D Vevaina for the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

## ‘With which Yasna shall I worship you (*kana θβḡm yasna yazāne*)? Zoroastrian Rituals in the Antique and Late Antique Iranian world’

**Lecture 1: Manuscripts and Rituals: The Written Transmission of the Zoroastrian Rituals**

11 May 2023, 5:30pm – 7:00pm; Wolfson College, Linton Road, Oxford OX2 6UD

**Lecture 2: The Questioned Antiquity of the Zoroastrian Rituals: Their Reception in Western Academia**

18 May 2023, 5:30pm – 7:00pm; Wolfson College, Linton Road, Oxford OX2 6UD

**Lecture 3: The Ritual System: Modularity and Productivity**

25 May 2023, 5:30pm – 7:00pm; Ertegun House, 37A St. Giles’, Oxford OX1 3LD

These lectures will also stream on Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81728008051>

Three more lectures are scheduled for Autumn 2023

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Prof. Dr. Alberto Cantera is the Director of the Institute for Iranian Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin. The focus of his work is on Zoroastrian textuality from Antiquity until the modern age, especially the Avestan texts, their reception in Late Antiquity, and their use in Zoroastrian rituals. He is responsible for transforming our collective understanding of the Avestan texts by emphasising their ritual character and is engaged in the monumental task of describing and understanding the history of Zoroastrian ritual practices. Since 2008 he has been the Director of the Avestan Digital Archive, the largest collection of Avestan manuscripts published online. Furthermore, he is the

principal investigator of a long-term project preparing a new edition of all the Avestan texts used in the Zoroastrian rituals: *Corpus Avesticum Berolinense*. He is also one of the principal investigators of another long-term project in collaboration with the universities of Bochum and Cologne: *The Digital Corpus and the Dictionary of Middle Persian*. His published books include: *Studien zur Pahlavi-Übersetzung des Avesta* (Wiesbaden, 2004); *Vers une édition de la liturgie longue zoroastrienne: pensées et travaux préliminaires* (Leuven, 2014); and *Introduction à l’avestique recent* (Girona, 2019) together with Céline Redard; He is currently preparing a project on the Pahlavi *nērang*s or ritual instructions in the Iranian liturgical manuscripts.