

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 θβqm yasna yazāne*)? Zoroastrian Rituals in the Antique and Late Antique Iranian world

Lecture 4: ‘The Satisfaction of the *yazata*’ and ‘The Blessing of the *ratus*’: On the Zoroastrian Long Liturgies

Time: 19 October 2023, 5:30pm

Location: Colin Matthew Room, The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH), Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6GG

Lecture 5: Ritual and Revelation: The Complex Liturgies Based on the Visperad

Time: 26 October 2023, 5:30pm

Location: Seminar Room, The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH), Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6GG

Lecture 6: Turning the Tables: From the *daēnā* to the Dēnkard

Time: 2 November 2023, 5:30pm

Location: Bahari Room, Weston Library, Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3BG

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

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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 récent* (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.