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PRESS RELEASE

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Stauffenbergstraße 41
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**Jenseits des Horizonts –
Raum und Wissen in den Kulturen der Alten Welt**

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An exhibition presented by the Excellence Cluster TOPOI in cooperation with the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz
22 June – 30 September 2012

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Jointly presented by the Excellence Cluster TOPOI and the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, “Jenseits des Horizonts” is the first exhibition focussing on the ancient world from a scientific perspective that delves into the interaction between space and knowledge in the ancient world on a scale encompassing many periods and numerous cultures. On display are over 400 objects from a range of historical and geographical contexts, including famous pieces such as the Bronze Age Berlin Gold Hat and the 3400 year-old Map of Nippur. The exhibits bear impressive witness to cultural techniques and the role they play in the development of knowledge in the cultures of the ancient world.



Funded by the Excellence Initiative of the German federal and state governments through the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, the TOPOI research network is hosted by the Freie Universität Berlin and the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. The Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW), the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (MPIWG) and the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz are also involved.

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Taking an interdisciplinary, transcultural approach, “Jenseits des Horizonts” engages all of its visitors’ senses to allow them to explore the many and diverse areas in which concepts of space and spatial knowledge come into play. The exhibition’s narrative leads visitors over 1200 square meters, through 16 theme rooms depicting the ways in which humans moved within space and observed, shaped and made use of it in order to master it and ensure their own survival.

“Jenseits des Horizonts” portrays the ancient world as the cradle of our present day, showing how relevant the issues being researched at TOPOI are for today and for the future. It was in the ancient world that the foundations of much of what shapes the present were first laid. From the human body as a scale of measurement to the mapping of the world, from the invention of writing to the organisation of communities, from the study of the heavens to musical notation and sound: humankind organised many very different spheres of life spatially. The powers of the imagination also made free use of spatial models: the soul is located within the body, and the efficacy of oracles and curses is coupled with specific sites. Mythic and fictional space was invoked when gods hurled thunderbolts or heroes like Heracles and Gilgamesh voyaged through spaces.



The exhibition's architecture was created by the influential Köln-based architectural and design firm res d, which has more than a decade of experience in the thematic design of large temporary archaeological exhibitions. The Model and Design department of the Technische Universität Berlin also contributed to the exhibition, providing the central model reconstructions, which include a nilometer, used to measure the level of the Nile during the annual flood and a celestial globe, an instrument used in calendar making.

Accompanying the exhibition will be lectures and guided tours teaching visitors' about the subjects and methods of the TOPOI researchers. A programme of events for children, young adults and families will also be presented, in cooperation with the associations "Jugend im Museum" and "Haus der kleinen Forscher".

Exhibition working group

Prof. Friederike Fless (Director), Prof. Eva Cancik-Kirschbaum, Prof. Gerd Graßhoff, Prof. Wolf-Dieter Heilmeyer, Prof. Michael Meyer, Prof. Jürgen Renn

Curators

Dr. Gabriele Pieke, Dr. Astrid Dostert

Pergamon Museum

Museumsinsel Berlin, Am Kupfergraben, 10117 Berlin

Opening times: Fri – Mon 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Thu 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Admission: Regular: EUR 13, discounted: EUR 6.50; free admission for children and young people under 18

Publication accompanying the exhibition

The accompanying book "Jenseits des Horizonts", with 176 pages and 130 colour images, published by Konrad Theiss Verlag, is structured along the same lines as the exhibition. Available at the museum shop of the Pergamon Museum (EUR 24.90) and in bookshops (EUR 29.95).

About TOPOI

Excellence Cluster *TOPOI - The Formation and Transformation of Space and Knowledge in Ancient Civilizations* is part of the Excellence Initiative of the German federal and state governments and has been funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft since 2007. TOPOI brings together the unique expertise of the many scholars of the ancient world from Berlin's universities, independent research institutions and the archaeological collections of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin. Presenting superb exhibits from ancient cultures and recent scientific findings to the public in the Pergamon Museum represents an exciting climax for the network after five years of research.

www.jenseits-des-horizonts.de



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