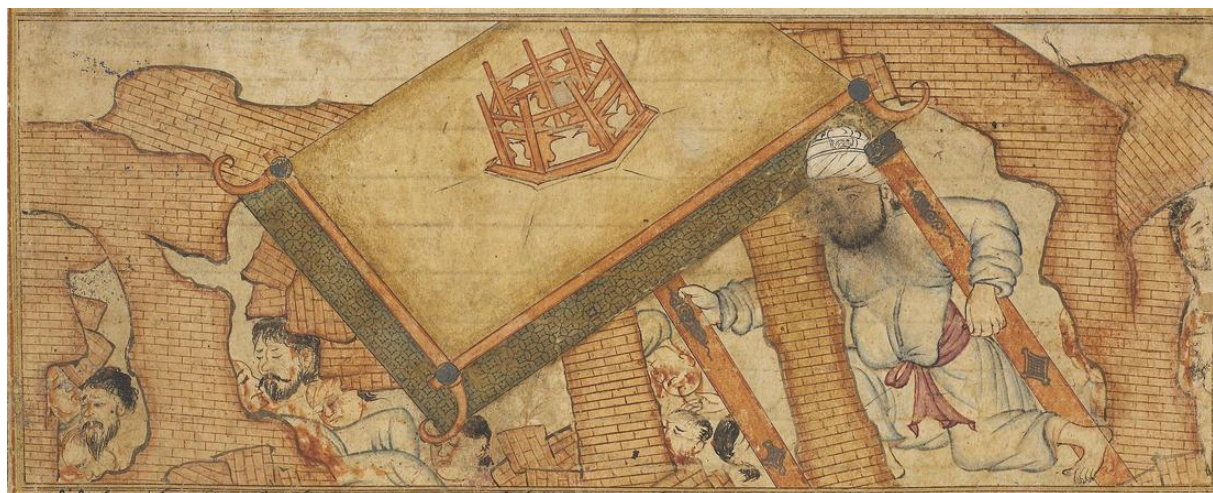




Samson destroys the temple of the Philistines, miniature from the 'Jami al-Tawarikh' of Rashid al-Din, c.1307, Il-Khanid: Tabriz, 1314
Edinburgh University Library, MS. Or. 20, folio 11r

ANXIOUS ANCESTORS: TEMPLE DESTRUCTION, RULER CONVERSION, AND THE CONTEST OVER SACRED POWER IN THE MONGOL EMPIRE

Workshop by Jonathan Brack

Abstract: This article examines violence directed at ancestor images and religious change, with particular attention to conversion to Islam, in the Mongol Empire. It situates the desecration of temples, burial sites, and royal remains at the intersection of succession conflicts and competition over the extraction of material and spiritual resources in the Mongol khanates of the later thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries.

Bio: Jonathan Brack is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Northwestern University. He is the author of *An Afterlife for the Khan: Muslims, Buddhists, and Sacred Kingship in Mongol Iran and Eurasia* (University of California Press, 2023). He is currently working on a new book titled *Logic of Empire: Science, Religion, and the Supernatural in Mongol Eurasia*.

Note: Open to the public. Workshop format: discussion based on a **pre-circulated paper**. To obtain the paper in advance, email nomansland@oeaw.ac.at



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