



## Vortrag

### **Ancient Khorezm – new light on cult and kingship**

**Prof. Alison Betts**  
(University of Sydney)

Professor Betts is, among others, an expert in the ancient history and cultures of Central Asia. She has worked on the archaeology of nomadic peoples, desert landscapes, rock art and graffiti, on early Zoroastrianism, and the prehistory of exotic plant use. In cooperation with the Karakalpak Academy of Sciences she has carried out a long-term investigation in the complex of Akchakhan-kala (Khorezm / Karakalpakstan), which has been identified as a new Khorezmian “Royal Capital”. Excavations in the richly ornamented ceremonial complex at the heart of the excavation site have produced a wealth of elaborate and brilliantly coloured frescos. The complex is filled with installations linking royal ceremony with a cult of fire, related to Zoroastrianism.

The lecture will be in English. It will include a presentation of the recently discovered spectacular wall paintings.

**Ort: Zentralasien-Seminar der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  
Invalidenstraße 118, 5. OG, R 507 (Zugang über Schlegelstraße 26)**

**Zeit: Montag, 25. Juni 2012, 18 Uhr c.t.**

**Alle Interessenten sind recht herzlich eingeladen.**