

## Departmental Colloquium Series Summer Semester 2023



**The Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology  
of the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität  
is pleased to welcome**

**Prof. Dr. Thomas Csordas**  
(UC San Diego)  
**Tuesday, June 13th 2023, 6-8 p.m.**

### **“Hammering the Devil with Prayer”**

Prof. Dr. Thomas Csordas, University of San Diego / Cal/ USA, will present a lecture about his comparative ethnography of exorcism in Italy and the United States. It emphasizes that the current resurgence of exorcism practice articulates both a discourse of evil at large in the world on a cultural level, and a therapeutic discourse at the level of individual affliction. It is based on interviews with exorcists and afflicted people in the two countries, against a background of the social position of exorcism in the contemporary global cultural landscape and its institutional position in the contemporary Church.

The lecture's theme opens an interdisciplinary conversation about contemporary cultural dynamics of religion and politics articulated through a traditional religious discourse reframing moral tensions between destruction and creation in the human world.

The Departmental Colloquium will take place at JO1, Johannisstraße 4.

**Everybody is welcome!**