

## FROM CULTURAL TRANSLATION TO INTERRELIGIOUS CONTROVERSY

Jerome Xavier’s (1549-1617) Engagement with  
Mughal India and Safavid Persia

28-30 October 2019



Picture Credit: © Trustees of the British Museum

The **Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”** has been investigating since 2007 the complex relationship between religion and politics across eras and cultures. The 140 researchers from 20 disciplines in the humanities and social sciences will focus in the new funding phase (2019 to 2025) on the “dynamics of tradition and innovation”. Epoch-spanning studies will analyze the factors that make religion the motor of political and social change. Particular attention will be paid to the paradox that religions often develop their innovative potential by drawing on their traditions.

The Cluster of Excellence is the largest of its kind in Germany and the only one in the country that deals with the issue of religion. The Cluster will be funded to the amount of 31 million euros from 2019 to 2025.

### CONTACT

Exzellenzcluster „Religion und Politik“  
Johannisstraße 1  
48143 Münster

Tel. +49 251 83-23376  
Fax +49 251 83-23246  
religionundpolitik@uni-muenster.de

[www.religion-und-politik.de/en](http://www.religion-und-politik.de/en)

### ORGANISATION

Project C3-12 of the Cluster of Excellence: Dynamics of Intercultural Traditioning: Jerome Xavier’s *Ayena-ye haqq-nama* in Mughal India and Safavid Persia.

Dr. Dr. Haila Manteghi  
Tel. +49 251 83 32653  
manteghi@uni-muenster.de

In Collaboration with Institute for Missiology and the Study of Theologies Beyond Europe

Prof. Dr. Norbert Hintersteiner  
Tel. +49 251 83 31994  
norbert.hintersteiner@uni-muenster.de

### VENUE

Kapuzinerkloster  
Tagungsraum  
Kapuzinerstraße 27/29  
48149 Münster

### REGISTRATION

Register with Haila Manteghi  
([manteghi@uni-muenster.de](mailto:manteghi@uni-muenster.de))

### FUNDING

The conference is funded by  
Fritz Thyssen Stiftung für Wissenschaftsförderung

## PROGRAMME

### Mon. 28.10.2019

14.00–14.30 Uhr | Coffee and Registration  
14:30-15:00 Uhr | Welcoming Remarks

#### Religion, Translation and Cross-Cultural Encounter

15.00–16.30 Uhr | Chair: Prof. Norbert Hintersteiner

**Prof. Hugues Didier** (University Jean Moulin Lyon 3)  
*Was Fuente de vida a Spanish draft of Āyena-ye haqqnamā? Many unanswerable questions.*

**Dr. Haila Manteghi** (University of Muenster)  
Interim Report: The Critical Edition and Translation of the Persian *Āyena-ye haqqnamā*.

16.30–17.00 Uhr | Coffee Break

17.00–18.00 Uhr | Intermission  
**Prof. Fabrizio Speziale** (EHESS, Paris)  
Forms of thought and forms of translation: J. Xavier's and Europeans' interactions with Persianate textual culture in early modern South Asia.

18.30–21.00 Uhr | Dinner

### Tue. 29.10.2019

**Interreligious-Theological Engagement**  
9.00–11.00 Uhr | Chair: Dr. Haila Manteghi

**Dr. Hamed Naji Isfahani** (University of Isfahan)  
The Shi'a Response to the *Āyena-ye haqqnamā*: Alavi's critique of Xavier's work.

**Prof. Dennis Halft** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)  
J. Xavier's *Muntakhab-i Āyena-ye haqqnamā* in Aḥmad 'Alavī's Persian Refutations of Christianity.

11.00–11.30 Uhr | Coffee Break

11.30–12.30 Uhr | Intermission  
**Prof. Eva Orthmann** (Georg-August-University Goettingen)  
Xavier's Portuguese-Hindustani-Persian Dictionary.

12.30–15.00 Uhr | Lunch

#### Expansions of the Controversy from Persia to Europe

15.00–16.30 Uhr | Chair: Prof. Dennis Halft

**Prof. Catherina Wenzel** (Goethe University, Frankfurt)  
The Initiation of a long-standing Controversy between Twelver Shiites and Christians by Pietro Della Valles *Risāla*.

**Prof. Christian Windler** (University of Bern)  
Negotiating Shia-Catholic Apologetics in the Roman Context of Missionary Controversies: Between Catholic Missionaries at Isfahan, the Propaganda Fide and the Holy Office.

16.30–17.00 Uhr | Coffee Break

#### Return of the Controversy from Europe to Persia

17.00–18.00 Uhr | Chair: Prof. Hugues Didier

**Dr. Alberto Tiburcio**  
An analysis of tropes in the Jerome Xavier-Alavi-Guadagnoli-Jadid al-Islam cycle.

**Prof. Bernard Heyberger** (Paris)  
Catholic Missionaries and Knowledge on Islam (17th C.)

18.30–21.00 Uhr | Dinner

### Wed. 30.10.2019

**Cultural Translation and Xavier's Legacy**  
9.00–10.30 Uhr | Chair: Dr. Hamed Naji Isfahani

**Prof. William Sherman** (University of North Carolina)  
Xavier's *Āyena-ye haqqnamā* and the doctrine of i'jaz/Qur'anic inimitability.

**Ali B.Langroudi** (Georg-August-University Goettingen)  
The Chapter Divisions of the Persian Gospels of Jerome Xavier

10.30–11.00 Uhr | Coffee Break

11.00–12.00 Uhr | Conclusions  
**Prof. Norbert Hintersteiner** (University of Muenster)  
Lost and Found in Translation and Controversy: Towards a Comparative Study and Intertextual Digital Edition.

12.30–14.00 Uhr | Lunch

#### FROM CULTURAL TRANSLATION TO INTERRELIGIOUS CONTROVERSY

The 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Spanish Jesuit Jerónimo de Ezpeleta y Goñi (1549-1617) marked the beginnings of a new research initiative at the Institute of Missiology and the Study of Theologies Beyond Europe at the University of Muenster, on his legacy of cross-cultural and interreligious engagement with Mughal India and (posthum) with Safavid Persia through his *Āyena-ye haqq-namā* (*The Truth-revealing Mirror*; 1607). This conference not only commemorates some of Jerome's major contributions by presenting these recent achievements in Jerome Xavier scholarship, but also seeks to gather the expertise to help orient the new project and create an international postdoc research group for it at the University of Muenster.