



Toledo, Sinagoga del Tránsito, Hebrew inscription and artesanado ceiling

> Organisation

Interconnecting Platform of the Cluster of Excellence: “Transcultural Entanglements”

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> Venue

Hörsaalgebäude des Exzellenzclusters
Room JO 101
Johannisstraße 4
48143 Münster

> Registration

till 31.05.2017
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A workshop of the **Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”** of the University of Münster. Some 200 academics from more than 20 disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and from around 14 countries deal with the relationship of religion and politics across epochs and cultures: from the world of ancient gods and Judaism, Christianity and Islam in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period to the current situation in Europe, America, Asia, and Africa. It is nationally the largest research association of its kind and of the 43 Clusters of Excellence in Germany, it is the only one to deal with religion. The German Federal Government and the Federal States support the project with 40.1 million euros in the Excellence Initiative’s second funding phase from 2012 to 2018.

Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”

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Workshop of the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”

> Processes of Transcultural Entanglement and Disentanglement

07. – 09.06.2017

Picture Credit: Pilar central de la Ermita de San Baudelio de Berlanga, Caltojar, Soria, Julio Prieto, wikipedia, Vinice Musi/The White House, wikipedia



> Processes of Transcultural

Entanglement and Disentanglement

Entanglement has been on the agenda of scholars active in global history and postcolonial studies for some time. At present, processes of disentanglement are increasingly coming into focus. However, it is important to note that processes of disentanglement may be restricted to certain fields, such as politics, while entangling links may continue to exist in other areas, such as religious institutions. In this perspective, concepts and terms such as disassemblage, blockade, betrayal, purification and differentiation may provide a basis for understanding the rearrangement of particular elements within fields marked by specific cultural and social factors. Processes of disentanglement therefore constitute one of the major issues of the Münster workshop. In addition to that, the conference aims at shedding new light on processes of entanglement in two further dimensions: first, use of material objects, and second, narratives of (dis)entanglement.

We can detect moments of entanglement and disentanglement in specific practices, including the composition of texts as well as handling material artefacts. In many cases, material objects serve as a basis for networks. Religious authorities often used artefacts such as books, manuscripts, buildings, textiles or images to enhance their legitimacy or to mark themselves off from others. Use of religiously charged artefacts entails definitions of in-groups and out-groups, everyday use of objects may draw communities close to each other, but it may also drive them apart.

Narratives of entanglement and disentanglement, on their part, can characterize stories told by members of different cultures about the emergence of their own group and its demarcation from “others”. Such narratives may involve acceptance, denial, re-interpretation or even invention of transcultural interaction.



Boxing habits – German-American entanglements



E Pluribus Unum

> Programme

Wednesday, 07.06.2017

- 14:45–15:00 Opening and introduction
- 15:00–15:45 The Logic of Foreign Origins: Egyptian Argos and Phoenician Thebes in Ancient Greek Myths
Susanne Gödde, Berlin
- 15:45–16:15 Coffee break
- 16:15–17:00 Witchdemonology. A Concept of Entanglement between Europe and Africa?
Kristin Skottki, Bayreuth
- 17:00–17:45 Verflochtene Des/Integration – Ordnung, Hegemonie, soziale Segmentierung. Lemberg im 15. Jahrhundert
Jürgen Heyde, Halle

Thursday, 08.06.2017

- 09:30–10:15 Protection for Refugees in the First Decades of Islamic History
Jenny Oesterle, Heidelberg
- 10:15–11:00 The Portrait of Muhammad as an Anti-Clerical Reformer in Early Modern Europe
John Tolan, Nantes
- 11:00–11:30 Coffee break
- 11:30–12:15 Jewish Dietary Laws as a Means of Disentanglement
Gerhard Langer, Vienna
- 12:15–15:00 Lunch

- 15:00–15:45 The Brotherhood between our Languages? Non/translation as a Site of Argentine-Brazilian Dis/entanglements, 1860s–1910s
Ori Preuss, Tel Aviv
- 15:45–16:30 Entanglement and Disentanglement: Rethinking the Culture of the Modern British Empire
Tony Ballantyne, Otago
- 16:30–17:00 Coffee break
- 17:00–17:45 When Relations Turn Sour: Moments of Disentanglement between Europe and the Muslim World
Birgit Schäbler, Erfurt

Friday, 09.06.2017

- 09:30–10:15 The Magic of Drawing Boundaries. Indian Muslims' Striving for Purity
Margrit Pernau, Berlin
- 10:15–11:00 The Foreigner as Religious Defiler: Buddhist Conspiracy Theories as Narratives of Negative Entanglement
Sven Bretfeld, Trondheim
- 11:00–11:30 Coffee break
- 11:30–12:15 Zwischen Koran und Kafka. Transkulturelle Verflechtungen bei Navid Kermani
Michael Hofmann, Paderborn
- 12:15–13:00 Final discussion