

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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Hans Blumenberg Visiting Professorship for Religion and Politics

> ‘Nones’ in selected countries in Western and Eastern Europe and the U.S. – a Comparison

Workshop with Prof. Dr. Linda Woodhead

04. and 05.05.2017



› ‘Nones’ in selected countries in Western and Eastern Europe and the U.S.

The workshop deals with the following questions: Who are the ‘nones’? What is their social-structural profile? What can we say about their religious attitudes? To what extent have withdrawals from church and to what extent have omissions of baptism contributed to the rise of ‘nones’?

The talks will, among other points, concentrate on the influence religious socialization in families exerts on church ties. They also focus on motives for leaving the church.

One further point of the workshop pertains the question to what extent we can attribute religious attitudes to non-affiliated people. Are they as religious as church members, but in a different, more individualistic, alternative and syncretistic way? Are they looking for quasi-religious substitutes? Do they still have high expectations towards the church?

By raising these analytical questions the workshop will contribute to a better understanding of processes of secularization and re-sacralization in Western European countries and the U.S. by identifying causal mechanisms which foster these ongoing processes.

› Programme

Thursday, 04.05.2017

14:00	Welcome Detlef Pollack, Muenster How none are nones, how some are somes, and who comes from where David Voas, London ‘Nones’ in Ireland, North and South: Have ethno-religious violence and institutional abuse contributed to the rise of ‘no religion’? Gladys Ganiel, Belfast
15:30	Coffee break
16:00	‘Nones’ in the Netherlands – the empirical basis of an ambiguous concept Joep de Hart, Leiden

Organized and not organized secularity in Switzerland. First results from a mixed methods study
Jörg Stolz, Lausanne

19:00 Dinner

Friday, 05.05.2017

09:00	Who are the ‘nones’? Their social-structural coinages, religious attitudes and cultural influences: A comparison between East and West Germany Detlef Pollack, Muenster ‘Nones’ on the rise in the U.S. Gregory A. Smith, Pew Research Center, Washington D.C.
10:30	Coffee break
11:00	Nonreligion in a nonreligious environment: Estonian perspective Olga Schihalejev and Atko Remmel, Tartu Religious ‘nones’ in a secularizing society. The case of Hungary Gergely Rosta, Muenster/Budapest Conclusion, new insights, prospects for further research Linda Woodhead, Lancaster

› Organisation

Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”
Coordinated Project Group Sociology of Religion
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› Venue

Hörsaalgebäude des Exzellenzclusters | Room JO 101
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› Registration

until 28.04.2017
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