

NEWSLETTER OF THE CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE

January 2021



Annual Theme 2020/21
BELONGING AND DEMARCATION
Dynamics of social formation

CONTENT

EDITORIAL	3
NEWS FROM THE CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE	5
ANNUAL THEME “BELONGING AND DEMARCATION”	5
HANS BLUMENBERG VISITING PROFESSORSHIP	7
RESEARCH ON THE CORONA PANDEMIC	8
RESEARCH NEWS	10
INDIVIDUAL STAFF	13
EVENTS	14
EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS	15
PUBLICATIONS	16
RESEARCH COMMUNICATION	21
TRANSFER NEWS	21
PRESS REVIEW	22
CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE “RELIGION AND POLITICS”	26
IMPRINT	26

EDITORIAL

Dear colleagues,

The Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics” at the University of Münster has launched the programme for its first annual theme, and will deal in 2020/21 with the social challenges of **“belonging and demarcation”**. Using case studies from antiquity to the present day, we will explore how group affiliations and identities arise, how they trigger conflicts, and how social balance can be achieved. The annual programme was launched by the **lecture series “Empires, Identities and Belonging”**, which looked at the influence of large colonial empires on the social, cultural and religious populations in their countries, as well as the lasting consequences today. Our guests included the Berlin political scientist Prof. Dr. Herfried Münkler, the Freiburg historian Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Reinhard, and the historian Prof. Dr. Lora Wildenthal from Houston.

So, as you can see, we have been able – despite corona – to continue our interdisciplinary and international discussions, albeit creatively in different digital formats. You can look forward in the coming months to an annual programme that transverses disciplines and epochs, starting with a research project on threat, belonging, and the acceptance of democracy in Europe. This will be followed by events organized with the Mannheim social scientist Prof. Dr. Marc Helbling, whose research is on integration, xenophobia, and the dynamic role of religion, and who will be coming to the Cluster of Excellence in the summer term as Hans Blumenberg Visiting Professor. We also invite you to a topical series of talks in which the academic and political worlds debate demarcations in the democratic system, integration, and populism. The series will also include research podcasts on “belonging and demarcation”, including a podcast series as part of national commemorations of 1,700 years of Jewish life in Germany.

The current winter term is shaped by our conversations with the Hans Blumenberg Visiting Professor, the renowned cultural scientist and Egyptologist **Prof. Dr. Jan Assmann**. His work on the relationship between religion and politics from antiquity to the present day has already been a great inspiration to our research in the past. Jan Assmann is now particularly concerned at the Cluster of Excellence with the relationship between religion and culture from Ancient Egypt to early Judaism and Christianity in the modern era, as well as with the effects of digitalization on the notion of cultural memory.

In the ongoing corona pandemic, we have continued to be occupied with **research on epidemics** in the past and present. The **thematic dossiers** on our website give the initial results of the interdisciplinary work on the Covid-19 situation and on how epidemics have been dealt with politically and ideologically in the past and present, and in particular on conspiracy theories surrounding epidemics. A sociological survey is currently providing important insights into correlations between religiosity and how corona is dealt with.

The Cluster of Excellence has also expanded its **research programme** with five projects from the disciplines of the sociology of religion and political science, as well as ancient studies and history. The new projects deal with religious conservatism and the support given to right-wing populist parties, as well as with ways of dealing with religion specific to organizations and countries. The historical projects deal with issues of localism and religion in ancient Greece, Ephesus and its cult spaces, and divination and politics in the early-modern period.

The phenomenon of divination is also the concern of the exhibition “Signs of the Future”, which began in December at the Germanisches Nationalmuseum Nuremberg with the participation of the Cluster of Excellence, initially digitally due to corona. The chapter in our newsletter on **research communication** provides information on a variety of other research transfer activities. For example, “Religions Journalism”, the first such advanced training course in Germany, has begun. Organized by the Cluster of Excellence and the ifp School of Journalism in Munich, the course has involved, besides researchers from the Cluster of Excellence and specialist journalists from Die ZEIT, Evelyn Finger, and Deutsche Welle, Christoph Strack, the lawyer and human rights activist Seyran Ateş, the former Federal Constitutional Court judge Dieter Grimm, representatives of Jewish communities and institutions, Mike Samuel Delberg and Jo Frank, and the religious politicians Konstantin von Notz and Lars Castellucci. The selection in the newsletter’s **press review** reveals the range of themes on which members of the Cluster contribute their expertise publicly in interviews, guest articles, as well as TV and radio contributions.

You can read more news in the chapters **Research News, Individual Staff, Supporting Early-Career Researchers**, and **Events**. For example, historians from the Cluster of Excellence have presented interim results and initial insights regarding abuse in the Münster diocese between 1945 and the present. When Hagia Sophia was rededicated as a mosque last summer, other Cluster members provided a **thematic dossier** on the web that gives historical depth to the issue of converting religious buildings. In the near future, researchers will hold a conference to address the role of Protestant theologians as parliamentarians in the course of German history.

We are pleased that new research projects involving Cluster members have been acquired, including the NRW Research College “Religious Plurality” at the Universities of Münster and Bochum, and the cooperation group “Normative Challenges of the European Asylum System”. The results of our Cluster research regularly appear in **publications**. The newsletter contains a selection from the complete list of books and essays (**website section Publications**), ranging thematically from the staging of rule and power in the Egyptian temple, to the history of indigenous nations in the USA, to political studies on sustainability as a principle of responsibility.

We thank you for your interest

Prof. Dr. Nils Jansen
Speaker of the
Cluster of Excellence

Dr. Iris Fleßenkämper
Head of Management
of the Cluster of Excellence

Viola van Melis
Head of
Research Communication

P.S.: For the latest information from the Cluster of Excellence, follow our social media channels **@religionpolitik** (Twitter) and **@religionundpolitik** (Instagram).

To recommend the newsletter (in German and English), you can use this subscription link:
<https://www.uni-muenster.de/Religion-und-Politik/en/newsletter/index.html>.

NEWS FROM THE CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE

ANNUAL THEME “BELONGING AND DEMARCATION”



“We are seeing serious conflicts across the world over belonging and demarcation”

The Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics” at the University of Münster deals in its first annual theme 2020/21 with the social challenges of “belonging and demarcation”. Speaking at the start of the annual programme, which bears the subtitle “Dynamics of social formation” and comprises diverse event and media formats, sociologist of religion Prof. Dr. Detlef Pollack and legal historian Prof. Dr. Nils Jansen explained: “Conflicts that arise from tensions between different political, cultural and religious groups in the population, that raise questions of identity, and that are of great concern to us today, have always shaped societies – and especially so when there has been concern about immigration or foreign rule. Such challenges take on a new quality in our globally networked world, and we are seeing serious conflicts across the world”.

Members of the Cluster and guests from academia and politics use case studies from antiquity to the present day to discuss how affiliations to groups and identities arise, how they provoke conflicts, and how social equilibrium comes about. “When we deal today with religious radicalization and political polarization, or with racism and anti-Semitism, we find that these dynamics play an absolutely key role”.

The annual theme gives unity to the Cluster’s academic programme and sharpens its public profile by focusing on specific research themes and highlighting interdisciplinary strengths. The annual programme includes, for example, a major interdisciplinary research project on threat, belonging, and the acceptance of democracy in Europe, led by the sociologists of religion Prof. Dr. Detlef Pollack and Dr. Olaf Müller, psychologists Prof. Dr. Mitja Back and Prof. Dr. Gerald Echterhoff, and political scientist Prof. Bernd Schlipphak; the Hans Blumenberg Visiting Professorship, which will be held in the summer term of 2021 by social scientist Prof. Dr. Marc Helbling from Mannheim, who is concerned in his research with integration, xenophobia, and the dynamic role of religion.

In a series of talks organized by philosopher Dr. Matthias Hoesch and political scientist Prof. Dr. Bernd Schlipphak on “Social Belonging and Political Demarcation”, science and politics will come together to discuss demarcations in the democratic system, as well as integration and populism. [Read more](#)

Annual theme starts with lecture series “Empires, Identities and Belonging”



© exc

As a prelude to the first annual theme “Belonging and Demarcation”, the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics” at the University of Münster has focused in the winter term 2020/21 on the implications of colonial legacies for social, cultural and religious affiliations and identity constructions of subject populations, past and present. “Societies in the Global South are still shaped today by their colonial past: throughout the postcolonial world, people, regardless of their religious affiliations, live in nation states based on the European model, and speak French, Spanish or English”, explained anthropologist Prof. Dr. Dorothea E. Schulz and legal historian and Cluster speaker Prof. Dr. Nils Jansen at the start of the lecture series “Empires, Identities and Belonging”.

“Current debates on racism and colonial monuments cannot be understood without a consideration of colonial history. This also applies to many other religious, political and cultural conflicts in the post colonial world that cause problems – for example, conflicts over participation in national wealth and the rights of women and minorities”. Colonial empires encompassed subject populations of different linguistic background and with different religious affiliations and social traditions, and thus laid the ground for subsequent conflicts over communal affiliations and particularistic identities. To make sense of these historical processes

and their present-day implications for issues ranging from identity politics to international Human Rights controversy, scholars need to critically reflect on the concepts and epistemological assumptions that informed conventional analyses of empires and of state formation processes in the Western world, say Jansen and Schulz. [Read more](#)

All lectures available as videos



© exc

All lectures of the series “Empires, Identities and Belonging” can be viewed as videos mostly in German language [on the website of the Cluster of Excellence](#). Among the lecturers are political scientist Prof. Dr. Herfried Münkler, the historians Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Reinhard and Prof. Dr. Lora Wildenthal, and Protestant theologian and Jewish scholar Prof. Dr. Lutz Doering from the Cluster of Excellence. [Read more](#)

- **Sensitivity of cultures (Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Reinhard, Freiburg)**
- **Jews in the Roman Empire (Prof. Dr. Lutz Doering, Cluster of Excellence)**
- **Theories of imperialism and empire (Prof. Dr. Herfried Münkler, Berlin)**
- **Affiliations in the multi-ethnic Russian Empire (Prof. Dr. Malte Rolf, Oldenburg)**
- **Belonging in Colonialism and Human Rights Activism (Prof. Dr. Lora Wildenthal, Houston (USA))**

HANS BLUMENBERG VISITING PROFESSORSHIP

Cultural scientist Jan Assmann at the Cluster of Excellence

WWU MÜNSTER

Öffentlicher Abendvortrag mit Prof. Dr. Jan Assmann

**RELIGION UND KULTUR:
ÄGYPTEN – ISRAEL – ABENDLAND**

Hans-Blumenberg-Gastprofessur für Religion und Politik
Dienstag, 02.02.2021 | 18.15 Uhr via Zoom

ÖFFENTLICHER VORTRAG
„Religion und Kultur: Ägypten – Israel – Abendland“
02.02.2021 | 18.15 Uhr via Zoom

ANMELDUNG
Schreibweise per E-Mail an: veranstaltungen@religion-politik.uni-muenster.de

ORGANISATION
Kooperationspartner „Religion und Politik“
Prof. Dr. Angelika Lohwasser, Appellstraße 1
Prof. Dr. Johannes Schnocks, Katholische Theologie
Klosterstraße 1, 48143 Münster
Tel. +49 (0) 251 81-23376
religionundpolitik@uni-muenster.de

Twitter: @religionundpolitik
Instagram: @religionundpolitik
www.religionundpolitik.de

wissen.leben

ReligionundPolitik

© exc

The cultural scientist and Egyptologist Prof. Dr. Jan Assmann is the Hans Blumenberg Visiting Professor at the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics” at the University of Münster in the winter term 2020/21. He focuses during his time at the Cluster of Excellence on the relationship between religion and culture from Ancient Egypt, to early forms of Judaism, and to Christianity in the modern era, as well as on the effects of digitalization on the concept of cultural memory. Interested parties are invited to the public evening lecture **“Religion and Culture: Egypt – Israel – Occident”**, which will be held via zoom on 2 February 2021.

“Jan Assmann has been studying for decades the relationship between religion and politics from ancient cultures to modern societies that build upon them, and has been a major source of inspiration for research at the Cluster of Excellence”, say Egyptologist Prof. Dr. Angelika Lohwasser and Catholic theologian Prof. Dr. Johannes Schnocks of the Cluster of Excellence. “What has also given us important ideas is his concept of cultural memory. We will have the opportunity to discuss with him how in this context the global use of the Internet impacts on cultures.”

The new Hans Blumenberg Visiting Professor himself says: “In Ancient Egypt, religion and culture were identical. Religion was all-encompassing and best rendered by the Egyptian term ‘ma’at’, which encompassed cult, law and cosmic order”. With Israel, a new form of religion emerged in the 6th century BC that distinguished between religion and culture, and that subordinated culture to religion. “This form of religion also emancipated itself from the state”. Christianity then ushered in the “age of faith” by “making the new religion accessible to all peoples and revolutionizing the ancient world through its rapid spread”. In the Christianized West, new tensions developed between religion and state, and between religion and culture.

Cultural memory in times of digital change



© Martin Kraft

Jan Assmann will use an interdisciplinary workshop to discuss “Cultural memory in times of changes in digital media” with members of the Cluster of Excellence. “The starting-point is the idea that culture connects people through rules and values, and creates a bridge from yesterday to today through the memory of a shared past. Images and writing make it possible to reclaim the forgotten”. Assmann will also work with the Cluster’s early-career researchers and advanced students in a master class on “Religion – Violence – Memory”, which deals with religious violence and cultures of remembrance. [Read more](#)

RESEARCH ON THE CORONA PANDEMIC



© Wikimedia Commons, imago-images, jwwaterhouse.com, MA 8 – Wiener Stadt- und Landesarchiv; Souleymane Diallo, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München

Wide-ranging research in the humanities and social sciences on epidemics

Since the beginnings of the corona pandemic, members of the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics” have conducted wide-ranging research in the humanities and social sciences on epidemics in the past and present. First results can be read up in public formats, such as the website dossiers **“Religion and conspiracy theories in the time of the corona epidemic”** and **“Epidemics: perspectives from cultural studies”**.

The former dossier focuses on the connection between religion and conspiracy theories, with the topics ranging from conspiracy theories in London 300 years ago, to conspiracy in the arts, and to theoretical reflections on possible structural analogies between conspiracy theories, science, and other interpretations of the world. The latter dossier shows in short text and image contributions how all kinds of media and the arts have portrayed epidemics from antiquity to the present day, and how they have influenced the perception of time, space, and visibility at different periods.

Under the title **“Epidemics”**, Cluster members will continue to look at the changing interpretation of epidemics in the past and present from the perspective of many disciplines and epochs, and investigate how religious, political, and scientific communities and institutions have dealt with epidemics from antiquity to the present day.

Members have brought a great deal of expertise to the public debate on the current corona pandemic via their media contributions: for example, texts and interviews on fundamental moral questions and the suspension of basic rights, on epidemics in earlier eras, on whether the crisis is a trigger of cohesion or division, on rituals and fears, and on the relationships between science, politics, and the media. We invite you to read a **collection** of print and online media, as well as radio and television contributions, from different disciplines and perspectives.

Read more

Survey: Corona pandemic is influencing religiosity



© unsplash

Initial results of a survey conducted by political scientist Carolin Hillenbrand of the Cluster of Excellence on the link between the corona pandemic and religiosity are now available. They show that the COVID 19 crisis is having an impact on people's faith. More than half of those surveyed say that their faith is providing them with comfort, hope and strength in the corona period. Predominant among this group are those who identify themselves as religious, pray more, and attend church services. The corona pandemic is strengthening the religiosity of believers in particular, with the faith of people who do not belong to any religion tending to weaken in contrast. The results of the first evaluations of the non-representative online survey are available [here](#) in German.

Political scientist Carolin Hillenbrand, who is collecting the data as part of her research in the Cluster of Excellence's graduate school, belongs to an international team of researchers investigating the influence of the corona pandemic on people's social, political and religious attitudes and behaviour. The doctoral project, which adopts an empirical and comparative approach to the role of religion in social cohesion in various countries, is supervised by the sociologist of religion Prof. Dr. Detlef Pollack from the Cluster. [Read more](#)

RESEARCH NEWS

New research projects expand the range of themes at the Cluster of Excellence



Religion and Politics

CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE | WWU MÜNSTER

The Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics” has expanded its research programme with five projects from the fields of the sociology of religion and political science, as well as from classical studies and history. The new projects deal with themes ranging from “Religious conservatism and the support for right-wing populist parties” and “Localism and religion in ancient Greece”, to “Divination and politics in the early-modern period” and “Ephesus and its cult spaces: projections of political and religious practice”, to “Cross-organizational and cross-national differences in religious accommodation”.

Of the new Cluster members, two scholars were appointed to the University of Münster in the winter term of 2019/20. The historian Prof. Dr. Ulrike Ludwig is the new chair for Modern and Contemporary History with a special focus on the early-modern period, while the sociologist Prof. Dr. Ines Michalowski is the new chair for the Sociology of Religion.

The Cluster of Excellence will also be strengthened by the Professor of Comparative Political Science, Dr. Armin Schäfer, and by the classical scholars Prof. Dr. Hans Beck and Prof. Dr. Patrick Sängler, chair for Ancient History with a focus on Greek history, and for Ancient History with a focus on auxiliary sciences respectively. The five University of Münster scholars have been incorporated into the Cluster of Excellence as part of an ideas contest organized by the Cluster to establish new research projects on “Religion and Politics”.

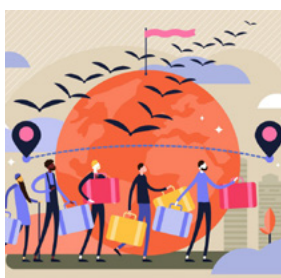
[Read more](#)



© WWU – Peter Leßmann

Initial findings on abuse in the diocese of Münster

Led by historians Prof. Dr. Thomas Großbölting (former member of the Cluster of Excellence) and Prof. Dr. Klaus Große Kracht (current member), historians from the University of Münster and the Cluster have presented their initial findings and theses on abuse in the diocese of Münster since 1945. [Read more in German](#)



© Adobe Stock / VectorMine

Psychologists on refugee integration

Psychologists Prof. Dr. Mitja Back und Prof. Dr. Gerald Echterhoff of the Cluster of Excellence have developed a model of the psychological factors that are critical for successful integration of refugees. [Read more](#)



©C.H. Beck

“The Indians”

Historian Prof. Dr. Heike Bungert has written a new book on the history, culture and religion of indigenous nations in the USA. In an interview in German language with the University of Münster’s newspaper, “wissen. leben”, she points to the clichés that are still common today.

[Read more in German](#)



© unsplash/adliwahid

“Historically, conversions like Hagia Sophia are no isolated cases”

From a historical perspective, the conversion of religiously and politically charged buildings such as Hagia Sophia in Istanbul is no new phenomenon, branching back to antiquity. “The background and context of such transformations always have to do with changes in the balance of power and the desire to make these clearly visible”, write Prof. Dr. Katrin Kogman-Appel and Franziska Kleybolte from the Cluster of Excellence in a web dossier. Byzantinist Prof. Dr. Michael Grünbart emphasises in his dossier article on the “national(istic) affectivity” concerning Hagia Sophia. [Read more](#)



© creative commons

“Important pioneer of European business ethics”

The Latin work of an important pioneer of modern business ethics, Leonardus Lessius (1554–1623), is being made available in German for the first time. The Dutch legal scholar and moral theologian developed innovative legal and ethical principles, says editor legal historian Prof. Dr. Nils Jansen. The first of ten volumes has been published by frommann-Holzboog Verlag. [Read more](#)



© transcript

“The dissatisfied Volk”

Sociologist Prof. Dr. Detlef Pollack has contributed a new study to the debate on the contribution of the East German population to the peaceful revolution of 1989 and to the shaping of a reunified Germany thereafter.

[Read more in German](#)



© WWU – Hans Beck

Historian Hans Beck's research on the role of the local in ancient Greece

Ancient historian Prof. Dr. Hans Beck has presented research results on the influence of localism in the globalized world of ancient Greece. His new book “Localism and the Ancient Greek City-State” provides detailed insights into local everyday worlds from the eighth to the first centuries BCE. The historian shows how his studies can be incorporated into current discussions on globalisation. [Read more](#)



© WWU – Forschungsstelle Asia Minor

Excavations provide insights into church construction

Archaeologists of the University of Münster under the direction of Prof. Dr. Engelbert Winter have uncovered an early Christian basilica in south-eastern Turkey. The DFG project in the ancient city of Doliche is closely linked to Engelbert Winter's research at the Cluster of Excellence. [Read more](#)



© Religious Culture Publishing House

Theory of Religious Diversity meets with research interest in China

Religious Studies scholar and theologian Prof. Dr. Perry Schmidt-Leukel's theory that religious diversity displays fractal patterns is at the center of his recent book “To See a World in a Flower”. The book exemplifies the theory by an analysis of the typological differences between Buddhism and Christianity. It is based on five lectures which Schmidt-Leukel held in Beijing in 2017 on the invitation of the Minzu University. [Read more](#)

INDIVIDUAL STAFF



© Thomas Schmitz

Perry Schmidt-Leukel receives “Frederick J. Streng Award”

The Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies has given the “Frederick J. Streng Award for Excellence in Buddhist-Christian Studies” for the year 2020 to Prof. Dr. Perry Schmidt-Leukel from the Cluster of Excellence. The award was given on 2 December for Schmidt-Leukel’s book “Buddha Mind – Christ Mind”, a Christian commentary on the Bodhicaryāvatāra.

[Read more](#)



© Bruno Biermann

Theologian Hans-Peter Großhans new president of EuARE

Protestant theologian Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Großhans was unanimously elected as the new President of the European Academy of Religion (EuARE). EuARE’s annual conference will take place at the University of Münster in Münster between 30 August and 2 September 2021, focusing on the topic “Religion and Change”. [Read more](#)



© Caroline Queda

Schwerter Working Group for Catholicism Research

Historian Dr. Sarah Thieme was elected in November 2020 to the team of spokespersons of the Schwerter Working Group for Catholicism Research, which seeks to widen research on Catholicism by incorporating social and psychological history. [Read more in German](#)

EVENTS



©DBT/Nic Tenwiggenhorn

Protestant theologians as members of parliament

A conference organized by social ethicist Prof. Dr. Arnulf von Scheliha and Protestant theologian Uta Elisabeth Hohmann will take place at the end of February to examine the role played in German history by Protestant theologians working as members of parliament. [Read more in German](#)



© Bibliothèque nationale de France

Appropriations of history/ies

Historian Dr. Marcel Bubert invited international scholars to the Cluster of Excellence from 26 to 28 November 2020 to examine strategies of legitimation in the historiography of the Middle Ages. [Read more in German](#)



© exc

Programme of events of the annual theme “Belonging and demarcation”

- Interdisciplinary events dedicated to a research project on threat, belonging, and the acceptance of democracy in Europe ([Research project B3-30](#))
- Hans Blumenberg Visiting Professorship in the summer term 2021 with social scientist Marc Helbling (Mannheim) and research on integration, xenophobia, and the dynamic role of religion
- Discussion series “Social belonging and political demarcation” with debates from the academic and political worlds
- [International Workshop “Rifle, Quill, and Rosary: Competing sources and corporate struggles for political legitimacy in Mali”](#)
- [Lecture series “Empires, identities and belonging”](#)

EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS

International comparison of religious diversity – NRW graduate school enters second funding phase



Forschungskolleg Regionale Regulierung Religiöser Pluralität im Vergleich

© RePLiV

The NRW graduate school “Religious Plurality” at the universities of Münster and Bochum is to be extended and will in future examine regional religious diversity in comparison with different countries. This was announced by the University of Münster’s Centre for Religion and Modernity (CRM) and the University of Bochum’s Centre for Religious Studies (CERES). The graduate school, which will receive 2.3 million Euros in funding from the NRW Ministry of Science from 2021 to

mid-2024, explores, for example, country-specific differences in how religious communities regulate themselves, the regulation of religious groups in different economic systems, and how these religious groups are represented in the media and education.

Under the new name “Comparing the regional regulation of religious plurality”, the graduate school will again support five doctoral students each in Münster and Bochum in their doctoral projects. The directors of the graduate school are the political scientist Prof. Dr. Ulrich Willems from the CRM and the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics” at the University of Münster and the religious scholar Prof. Dr. Volkhard Krech from the RUB. In its first funding phase from 2016 to 2020, the graduate school, under the name “Religious plurality and its regulation in the region”, explored the challenges of growing religious diversity in the Münsterland and Ruhr area. In the new funding phase, it will again work with partners from the field, such as administration, religious communities, and organizations in civil society. [Read more](#)



© WWU – Sophie Pieper

Award-winning dissertations

The University of Münster’s rectorate has awarded prizes to the 117 doctoral dissertations that received “summa-cum-laude” distinctions in 2020. Among them were the doctoral projects conducted by the Catholic theologian Daniel Sebastian Bugiel and the philologist Christin Möllenbeck at the Cluster of Excellence. [Read more in German](#)

PUBLICATIONS

The research findings of the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics” appear regularly in publications. Here is a selection from the complete list of books and articles published in the past few months ([website section Publications](#)). Click on the bibliography for further information.



DECEMBER 2020

Barbato, Mariano: **„Die Mauer ist keine Lösung“. Die Migrationspolitik von Papst Franziskus** (Centrum für Religion und Moderne, vol. 21), Frankfurt a. M.: Campus Verlag 2020.

Lohwasser, Angelika / Becker, Meike / Blöbaum, Anke Ilona: **Inszenierung von Herrschaft und Macht im ägyptischen Tempel**. Religion und Politik im Theben des frühen 1. Jahrtausend v. Chr., Münster: Zaphon-Verlag 2020.

Brunner, Benedikt: **Volkskirche. Zur Geschichte eines evangelischen Grundbegriffs** (1918–1960) (Arbeiten zur Kirchlichen Zeitgeschichte, vol. 77), Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht 2020.

Fuchs, Doris / Klinkenborg, Hannah / Siepker, Lena: **„Nachhaltigkeit als Verantwortungsprinzip“**, in: *Diakonia* 51 / 2020, Nr. 4, pp. 232–238.

Grundmann, Regina / Hartmann, Bernd J. / Siemens, Daniel (eds.): **„Was soll aus uns werden?“ Zur Geschichte des Centralvereins deutscher Staatsbürger jüdischen Glaubens im nationalsozialistischen Deutschland**, Berlin: Metropol Verlag 2020.

Grünbart, Michael (ed.): **Epistularum Graecarum Initia usque ad annum MD. Conscriptit Michael Grünbart** (Alpha-Omega: Reihe A, vol. 265), Hildesheim / Zürich / New York: Olms-Weidmann 2001 / 2020.

Kamphuis, Kirsten: **‘An Alternative Family: An Elite Christian Girls’ School on Java in a Context of Social Change, c.1907–1939’**, in: *BMGN – Low Countries Historical Review* 135 / 2020, Nr. 3–4, pp. 133–157.

NOVEMBER 2020

Strube, Julian / Krämer, Hans Martin (eds.): **Theosophy across Boundaries: Transcultural and Interdisciplinary Perspectives on a Modern Esoteric Movement**, Albany: State University of New York Press 2020.

Kamphuis, Kirsten / Busschers, Iris / Kloos, David: **'Teachers, missionaries, and activists. Female religious leadership and social mobility in Southeast Asia, 1920s–1960s.'**, in: IAS Newsletter 85 / 2020, pp. 6–7.

Jansen, Nils (ed.): Leonardus Lessius: **De iustitia et iure caeterisque virtutibus cardinalibus. Über die Gerechtigkeit und das Recht und die übrigen Kardinaltugenden.** Ins Deutsche übersetzt von Klaus Wille, unter Mitarbeit von Konstantin Liebrand; Teil I. De prudentia / Über die Klugheit. De iustitia in genere eqs. / Grundbegriffe (PPR I.15.1), Stuttgart: frommann-holzboog 2020.

Mohseni, Amir: **„Ist der Auftakt in Hegels Rechtsphilosophie individualistisch?“** Hegel-Studien 2020, Nr. 53 / 54, pp. 191–207.

Pollack, Detlef / Pohlig, Matthias: **Die Geburt der Moderne aus dem Geist der Religion**, Berlin: Berlin University Press 2020.

Steckel, Sita: **'From Crisis to Reconfiguration. Cultural Change around 900 and Beyond'**, in: Wissen und Bildung in einer Zeit bedrohter Ordnung. Der Zerfall des Karolingerreiches um 900 / Knowledge and Culture in Times of Threat: The Fall of the Carolingian Empire (ca. 900), edited by Pézé, Warren, Stuttgart: Hiersemann, pp. 399–427.

Wolf, Hubert: **„Coronavirus in den Vatikanischen Archiven“**, in: Corona Stories. Pandemische Entwürfe von Kai Brodersen u.v.a., herausgegeben von Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, Darmstadt: Theiss 2020, pp. 161–167

OCTOBER 2020

Bungert, Heike: **Die Indianer. Geschichte der indigenen Nationen in den USA**, München: C. H. Beck 2020.

Michalowski, Ines / Behrendt, Max. 2020. **'The Accommodation of Muslim Body Practices in German Public Swimming Pools'**, in: Ethnic and Racial Studies online first, pp. 1–19.

Pollack, Detlef: **Das unzufriedene Volk. Protest und Ressentiment in Ostdeutschland von der friedlichen Revolution bis heute**, Bielefeld: transcript 2020.

Strube, Julian: **'Hinduism, Western Esotericism and New Age Religion'**, in: Handbook of Hinduism in Europe, Jacobsen Knut, Sardella Ferdinando (eds.), Leiden: Brill, pp. 152–173.

Völker, Fabian: **Philosophie der Nondualität. Religionshistorische Einordnung und philosophische Kritik der Buddhismusinterpretation David R. Loys** (Welten der Philosophie, vol. 19), Freiburg i. Br.: Verlag Karl Alber 2020.

Wagner-Egelhaaf, Martina: **„Figuren des Hasses. Prolegomena zu einer Literatur- und Kulturgeschichte“**, Jahrbuch für Internationale Germanistik 52/2020, Nr. 1, pp. 81–90.

SEPTEMBER 2020

Beutel, Albrecht: **Der „fromme Laie“ Justus Möser. Funktionale Religionstheorie im Zeitalter der Aufklärung**, Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck 2020.

Doering, Pia: **Praktiken des Rechts in Boccaccios Decameron. Die novellistische Analyse juristischer Erkenntniswege**, Berlin: Erich Schmidt Verlag 2020.

Hoesch, Matthias/Mooren, Nadine (eds.): **Joseph Carens: Between Aliens and Citizens**, Cham: Springer 2020.

Meyer, Thomas: **Verantwortung und Verursachung. Eine moral- und rechtsphilosophische Studie zu Hegel** (Hegel-Studien, Beiheft 69), Hamburg: Meiner Verlag 2020.

Schmitt, Rüdiger: **Die Religionen Israels / Palästinas in der Eisenzeit. 12.-6. Jh.** (Ägypten und Altes Testament, vol. 94), Münster: Zaphon-Verlag 2020.

Steckel, Sita: **‘Satirical Depictions of Monastic Life’**, in: The Cambridge History of Medieval Monasticism in the Latin West, Beach, Alison I./Cochelin, Isabelle (eds.), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2020, pp. 1154–1170.

AUGUST 2020

Doering, Pia Claudia: **„Die ‚patria potestas‘ in Boccaccios Decameron“**, in: Das Mittelalter 25/2020, Nr. 1, pp. 66–82.

Hahn, Johannes/Menze, Volker (eds.): **The Wandering Holy Man. The Life of Barsauma, Christian Asceticism, and Religious Conflict in Late Antique Palestine**, Oakland: University of California Press 2020.

Khorchide, Mouhanad: **Gottes falsche Anwälte. Der Verrat am Islam**, Freiburg i.Br.: Herder Verlag 2020.

Siep, Ludwig: **Technisierung der Natur – Historisierung der Moral. Ziele und Grenzen**, Paderborn: mentis Verlag 2020.

Thieme, Sarah: **„Kirchliche Akteure vor den Herausforderungen des urbanen Strukturwandels 1955 – 1995: Manchester und Essen im Vergleich.“**, in: Mitteilungen für Kirchliche Zeitgeschichte 14/2020, pp. 145–151.

Wagner-Egelhaaf, Martina: **Sich entscheiden. Momente der Autobiographie bei Goethe**, Göttingen: Wallstein Verlag 2020.

Wolf, Hubert: **Der Unfehlbare: Pius IX. und die Erfindung des Katholizismus im 19. Jahrhundert**, München: C. H. Beck 2020.

JULY 2020

Hoesch, Matthias: **„Wie sollen wir handeln? Derek Parfit“**, in: Analytische Philosophie. Eine Einführung in 16 Fragen und Antworten, Müller-Salo, Johannes (ed.), Paderborn: utb 2020, pp. 189–203.

Jansen, Nils: **„Der Gegenstand der Rechtswissenschaft“**, in: Juristenzeitung 5 / 2020, pp. 213–223.

von Scheliha, Arnulf/ Bernhard, Justus (eds.): **Emanuel Hirsch: Christliche Rechenschaft I. ‚Erläuterungen‘ zum ‚Leitfaden zur christlichen Lehre‘**, Kamen: Hartmut Spenner 2020.

Schmidt-Leukel, Perry: **To See a World in a Flower: A Fractal Interpretation of the Relation between Buddhism and Christianity**, Beijing: Zong jiao wen hua chu ban she (Religious Culture Publishing House) 2020.

Seewald, Michael: **El dogma en evolución. Cómo se desarrollan las doctrinas de fe**, SalTerrae: Bilbao 2020.

JUNE 2020

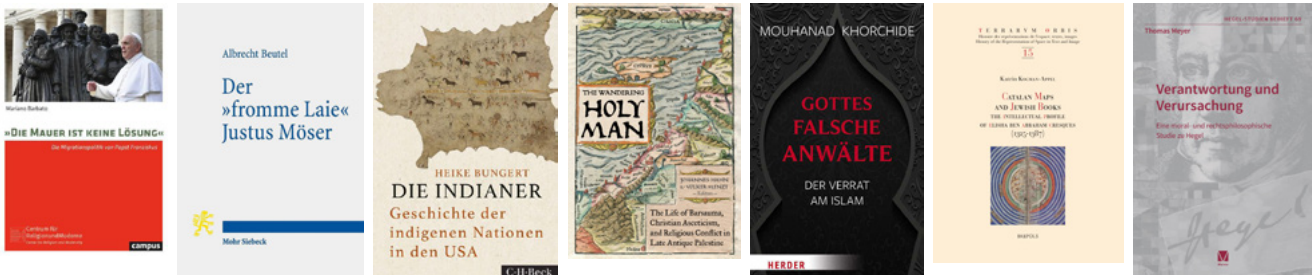
Doering, Pia Claudia: **„Beichte und religiöse Heuchelei in den Novellen Boccaccios und Marguerite de Navarres“**, in: Reformation(en) in der Romania. Zur Frage der Interkonfessionalität in den romanischen Literaturen der Frühen Neuzeit, Fliege Daniel, Gerrits Rogier (eds.), Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2020, pp. 293–310.

Jensz, Felicity: **‘Miscarriage and Coping in the Mid-Nineteenth Century: Private Notes from Distant Places’**, in: Gender & History 32/2020, pp. 270–285.

Kamphuis, Kirsten / van Nederveen Meerkerk, Elise: **‘Education, Labour and Discipline: New Perspectives on Indigenous Children in Colonial Asia’**, in: International Review of Social History 65/2020, Nr. 1, pp. 1–14.

Kogman-Appel, Katrin: **Catalan Maps and Jewish Books: The Intellectual Profile of Elisha ben Abraham Cresques (1325 – 1387)**, Turnhout: Brepols 2020.

Westerwelle, Karin: **Baudelaire und Paris. Flüchtige Gegenwart und Phantasmagorie**, München: Wilhelm Fink Verlag 2020.



© Berlin University Press, Religious Culture Publishing House, Sal Terrae, Karl Alber, Wallstein, Wilhelm Fink, C. H. Beck, campus, Mohr Siebeck, C. H. Beck, University of California Press, Herder, Brepols, Felix Meiner

RESEARCH COMMUNICATION

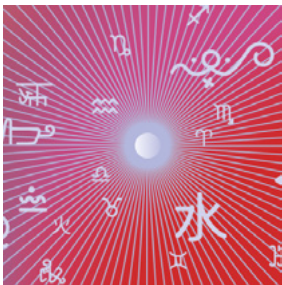
TRANSFER NEWS



© exc

Continuation of training programme “Religious Journalism”

The in-service training programme “Religious Journalism” run by the Cluster of Excellence and the School of Journalism (ifj) in Munich has continued with a focus on religion and law. The second module, organized digitally because of the corona pandemic, was entitled “‘The undisturbed practice of religion is guaranteed’. Challenges of Constitutional Law on Religion”. Speakers included the lawyer and women’s rights activist Seyran Ateş, the former federal constitutional judge Prof. Dr. Dieter Grimm, and the Berlin theologian Prof. Dr. Rolf Schieder. [Read more in German](#)



© Germanisches Nationalmuseum Nürnberg

Exhibition on divination in East Asia and Europe

The exhibition “Signs of the Future” has started in December at the Germanisches Nationalmuseum Nuremberg with the participation of the Cluster of Excellence, initially digitally due to corona. It examines divination in East Asia and Europe. The exhibition includes results of the DFG project led by Prof. Dr. Ulrike Ludwig, on divination in Europe from the 17th to the early 20th century. [Read more](#)



© WWU – Sophie Pieper

Historian Jana Weiß on racism in the USA

Historian Dr. Jana Weiß, who has been researching civil religion in the USA at the Cluster of Excellence, talked about racism, divisions, and unrest in the USA on the University of Münster podcast, where she placed the current debate on racism within the country’s history. [Read more in German](#)

PRESS REVIEW

Selected media contributions on the coronavirus pandemic

Radio and TV

- **Corona-Politik ohne Werte-Kompass?**
(Prof. Dr. Nils Jansen, in: WDR 5 „Politikum“, 11 December 2020)
- **Gründe für Verschwörungstheorien**
(Prof. Dr. Bernd Schlipphak, in: WDR-Hörfunkprogramm Cosmo, 23 July 2020)
- **Epidemien und Verschwörungsmythen: Parallelen zwischen 1720 und heute**
(PD Dr. André Krischer, in: DLF „Forschung aktuell“, 22 July 2020)
- **Querdenken 711 – Wie sich das Weltbild der Hygiene-Aktivist*innen zusammensetzt**
(PD Dr. Julian Strube, in: Deutschlandfunk Nova „Grünstreifen“, 27 August 2020)
- **Datenschutz in Zeiten von Corona: Ein unantastbares Grundrecht?**
(Prof. Dr. Hinnerk Wißmann, in: Deutschlandfunk Kultur, 26 May 2020)
- **Welche Corona-Politik brauchen wir?**
(Prof. Dr. Oliver Lepsius, in: SWR 2 „Kultur neu entdecken“, 27 August 2020)
- **Nah und fern** (Prof. Dr. Barbara Stollberg-Rilinger, in: DLF, 11 July 2020)
- **Corona-Marathon** (Prof. Dr. Gerald Echterhoff, in: WDR 5 „Politikum“, 9 October 2020)
- **Wie Seuchen Gesellschaften verändern**
(Dr. Katharina Wolff, in: SR „Abendrot“, 22 June 2020)

Guest contributions and Interviews

- **Die gerechte Strafe Gottes** (Prof. Dr. Detlef Pollack and Carolin Hillenbrand, in: FAZ, 7 January 2021)
- **Augenkontakt ist unersetzbar** (Prof. Dr. Peter Oestmann, in: Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 6 June 2020)
- **Aus Corona-Krise für Klimakrise lernen**
(Prof. Dr. Nils Jansen, in: WAZ am Sonntag, 30 August 2020, Seite 4)
- **Verfehlter Bürgerstatus (Prof. Dr. Hinnerk Wißmann)**, in: Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 10 August 2020)
- **Pandemien: Gottes Strafe, Gottes Hilfe**
(Prof. Dr. Eva-Bettina Krems und Prof. Dr. Jens Niebaum, in: Frankfurter Rundschau, 3 September 2020)

Print and Online

- **Der Drost des 18. Jahrhunderts** (PD Dr. André Krischer, in: Kurier, 26 June 2020)
- Geisteswissenschaften und Corona (Prof. Dr. Hubert Wolf, in: DIE WELT, 27 June 2020)
- Forscherin: Corona stärkt Religiosität (Carolin Hillenbrand, in: Rheinische Post 17 November 2020)
- Das Strafrecht macht sich locker (Prof. Dr. Oliver Lepsius, in: Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 3 June 2020)
- Keine Bilder für Corona (Prof. Dr. Eva-Bettina Krens, in: Christ in der Gegenwart, Nr. 39/2020, Seite 427)
- **Die Angst vor dem Unsichtbaren** (Prof. Dr. Dorothea Schulz, Prof. Dr. Martina Wagner-Egelhaaf, in: Kirchenbote, 5 August 2020)

Selected media contributions on other themes

Radio and TV

- **Die Kirche bin ich – wie der Papst unfehlbar wurde** (Prof. Dr. Hubert Wolf and Prof. Dr. Michael Seewald, in: Österreicher Rundfunk „kreuz und quer“, 15 December 2020)
- **Welchen Einfluss hat der Papst auf die Politik? Neues Buch „Wage zu träumen!“** (Prof. Dr. Doris Fuchs, in: Deutschlandfunk Kultur „Interview“, 4 December 2020)
- **Die dunkle Seite der amerikanischen Geschichte** (Prof. Dr. Heike Bungert, in: Deutschlandfunk „Aus Kultur- und Sozialwissenschaften“, 29 October 2020)
- **Mission Klima – Hilft Religion beim Klimaschutz** (Prof. Dr. Perry Schmidt-Leukel, in: SWR Fernsehen, 15 November 2020)
- **Religion nach 30 Jahren Einheit** (Prof. Dr. Detlef Pollack, in: WDR 5 „Diesseits von Eden“, 4 October 2020)
- **Der Fall Salman Rushdie: Ein Schriftsteller als „Satan“** (Prof. Dr. Martina Wagner-Egelhaaf, in: Deutschlandfunk Nova „Hörsaal“, 21 June 2020)
- **Umwandlung der Hagia Sophia typisch für politischen Islam** (Prof. Dr. Mouhanad Khorchide, in: DLF, 19 July 2020)
- **Die Kreuzzüge – Töten im Auftrag der Kirche** (Prof. Dr. Gerd Althoff, in: Spiegel Live-Podcast, August 2020)
- **Philosophie: 250 Jahre Hegel** (Dr. Thomas Meyer, in: arte „Kultur News“, 28 August 2020)
- **Die Hölle im Wandel. Im Jenseits fast erkaltet** (Prof. Dr. Perry Schmidt-Leukel, in: Deutschlandfunk Kultur, 9 August 2020)
- **Über Wege aus der Austrittswelle** (Prof. Dr. Detlef Pollack, in: domradio.de, 12 August 2020)

- **Migrationsethiker erklärt – User-Frage: Warum soll Deutschland bei der Aufnahme von Flüchtlingen vorgehen?** (Dr. Matthias Hoesch, in: Focus Online Sprechstunde, 16 September 2020)

Guest contributions and Interviews

- **Italien fällt vom Glauben ab**
(Prof. Dr. Detlef Pollack, in: Der Tagesspiegel, 10 August 2020)
- **„Auf keinen Fall Squaw sagen“**
(Prof. Dr. Heike Bungert, in: Spiegel, 19 September 2020)
- **Alles Rassisten?**
(Prof. Dr. Levant Tezcan, in: taz, 28 July 2020)

Print and Online

- **German Cultural Leaders Warn Against Ban on Israel Sanctions Movement**
(Prof. Dr. Stollberg-Rilinger, in: New York Times online, 11 December 2020)
- **Danish-German project seeks to shine light on ancient Jerash’s pottery production**
(Prof. Dr. Achim Lichtenberger, in: The Jordan Times, 2 September 2020)
- **»Die Pharmaindustrie macht sich ganz hervorragend als Bösewicht«** (PD Dr. Christian Sieg, in: Spiegel+, 25 November 2020)
- **Wie Experten die Aussagen des Papstes zu gleichgeschlechtlichen Paaren bewerten**
(Prof. Dr. Michael Seewald, in: Spiegel online, 22 October 2020)
- **Darum war das Mittelalter so blutig**
(Prof. Dr. Gerd Althoff, in: Spiegel+, 11 June 2020)
- **„Der Rechtsstaat funktioniert nicht, nur weil Gerichte entscheiden“** (Prof. Dr. Oliver Lepsius, in: Legal Tribune Online, 10 November 2020)
- „Zugehörigkeit und Abgrenzung“ Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”, in: Westfälische Nachrichten Münster-Stadt, 30 October 2020)
- Themenjahr zu politischen und religiösen Spannungen an Uni Münster (Prof. Dr. Detlef Pollack and Prof. Dr. Nils Jansen, in: epd Landesdienste, 26 October 2020)
- Immer wieder Machtsymbol (Prof. Dr. Katrin Kogman-Appel, Franziska Kleybolte, Prof. Dr. Johannes Hahn, in: Westfälische Nachrichten Münster-Stadt, 1 August 2020)
- Schrecken im Geheimarchiv (Prof. Dr. Thomas Großbölting and Prof. Dr. Klaus Große Kracht, in: Süddeutsche Zeitung, 3 December 2020)
- „Das System Kirche verstehen“ (Prof. Dr. Thomas Großbölting, in: Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger Köln, 4 November 2020)
- Der Sündenfall (Prof. Dr. Hubert Wolf, in: Süddeutsche Zeitung, 18 July 2020)

- Frühe Texte der Wirtschaftsethik erscheinen erstmals auf Deutsch (Prof. Dr. Nils Jansen, in: KNA Basisdienst, 28 September 2020)
- Muss der Kaiser abdanken? (Prof. Dr. Olaf Blaschke, in: Welt am Sonntag Nordrhein-Westfalen, 7 June 2020)
- **Blind auf den ersten Blick** (Prof. Dr. Mitja Back, in: spektrum.de, 11 June 2020)
- **Warum Wanderer öfter grüßen** (Prof. Dr. Gerald Echterhoff, in: Westfälische Nachrichten, 15 August 2020)
- **Wenn Taufen plötzlich ungültig sind** (Prof. Dr. Clemens Leonhard, in: furche.at, 2 September 2020)
- **„Wahre Christen können nicht antijüdisch sein“** (Prof. Dr. Johannes Schnocks, in: Kirche+Leben, 8 November 2020)
- **Traditionsabbruch Ursache für Kirchenaustritte** (Prof. Dr. Detlef Pollack, in: evangelisch.de, 26 June 2020)

CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE “RELIGION AND POLITICS”

The Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics. Dynamics of Tradition and Innovation” 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 focus in the funding phase (2019 to 2025) on the “dynamics of tradition and innovation”. They analyze in transepochal studies ranging from antiquity to the present day the conditions and factors that make religion an engine of political and social change, with their focus being above all on the paradox that religions often develop their innovative potential precisely by drawing on their traditions. The researchers concentrate on the monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and on their polytheistic precursors. The focus of interest is on Europe and the Mediterranean region, as well as on their entanglements with the Near East, Africa, North and Latin America.

The research network is the largest of its kind in Germany; and, of the Clusters of Excellence, one of the oldest and the only one to deal with the issue of religion. It will receive funding of 31 million euros from 2019 to 2025.

Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”

Johannisstraße 1

48143 Münster

Tel. +49 251 83-23376

religionundpolitik@uni-muenster.de

 @religionpolitik

 @religionundpolitik

www.religion-und-politik.de/en

IMPRINT

Published by Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”
of the University of Münster (WWU)

Editorial staff Centre for Research Communication of the Cluster of Excellence
“Religion and Politics” of the University of Münster (WWU)

Design Centre for Research Communication, BOK + Gärtner

Münster, January 2021