

Final Report

Research Platform Religion and Transformation in Contemporary European Society (RaT) 2010-2013 at the University of Vienna

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I. Part: Report:

1. General introduction

The research platform “**Religion and Transformation in Contemporary European Society**” (**RaT**) investigates the contribution of religion to contemporary transformation processes and, in turn, examines the influence of transformation processes on religion. The programme focuses on the growing diversity of European societies and its impact on issues of pluralistic participation in social, political, religious and cultural spheres. In the broader context of migration, we look at mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion, which are often related to value systems and social as well as religious structures. The relevance of this topic is made evident by the fact that religion can be either an integrative factor in society or contribute to discrimination and exclusion. In addition to questions of inclusion and exclusion’ as well as ‘transgression’ that are closely related to the issue of ‘religion and migration’, the research platform is concerned with monotheistic religions’ universal ethical and noetic claims, condensed and expressed in conceptions of God in the context of a multicultural society. The analysis also covers the legal aspects of religious and religion-related transformation processes as well as the paradigmatic changes in constructions of social meaning and value systems. In view of the political crisis that Europe faces at the moment, the platform sees an urgent need to enquire into the role and the possible contribution of religion(s) to the further development of the political-cultural European project based on the vision of a pluralist, democratic and solidary *civitas* founded on mutual recognition.

From its **beginning in March 2010**, the research platform has become both an international forum for research on religion(s) at the University of Vienna and a public forum for the discourse on religion in Austria. A research platform that deals with religion has to appear in public because it deals with an issue that is highly relevant for society. Thus, **RaT's homepage** (**www.religionandtransformation.at**) is used as gateway portal by journalists and scientists working in the field of research on religions. RaT's flyers, newsletters and events have made the research platform well-known to a wider public interested in religion and to political representatives and religious leaders. In a carefully drawn up timetable, the 17 scholars of the platform have been **meeting regularly in research symposia and lectures** ever since. They have developed and applied for research projects, and built up an **infrastructure for excellent research**. Meanwhile, more than **30 scholars**, including **10 young**

Part I: Report

General Introduction

RaT's research
question

RaT started in
March 2010

Homepage

Regular meetings

researchers, are involved in RaT and show great interest in RaT activities. Thus, the former core team of RaT has expanded and RaT's impact on international scientific discourse on the research of religion has increased.

1.1 The organization of the research platform RaT

Head of the platform is **Kurt Appel**, who is in charge of the communication with the rectorate. He is supported by deputy head **Sieglinde Rosenberger**, the two RaT managers **Angelika Walser** (post-doc/30h) and **Rudolf Kaisler** (pre-doc/30h), and the assistant officer **Manuela Böhm** (10h). The latter three were in charge of organizational, administrative, public relations, networking and funding tasks. Rudolf Kaisler started his work on 1 May 2010. Angelika Walser started her work on 1 September 2010.¹

A **steering committee** assisted in the coordination of managerial procedures and the development of the research agenda. This committee met once a month and consisted of Kurt **Appel**, Sieglinde **Rosenberger**, Sighard **Neckel**², Christian **Danz**, Richard **Potz**, Angelika **Walser** and Rudolf **Kaisler**. The **scientific advisory boards** of the two theological faculties have advised the platform.

Further official members of RaT have been: Marianne **Grohmann**, Hans Gerald **Hödl**, Hamid **Kasiri**, Mouhanad **Khorchide**³, Ulrich **Körtner**, Rudolf **Langthaler**, Rüdiger **Lohlker**, Ludger **Müller**, Regina **Polak**, Birgit **Sauer**, Wolfram **Reiss** and Herman **Westerink**. The members of the research platform had a joint meeting each semester.

1.2 Summary of the main activities 2010-2013

1.2.1 Highlights

Highlights of the platform's activities have been the congress ***Religion in Europa heute*** (Religion in Europe today, publication included), the preparation of the final conference **Rethinking Europe with(out) religion** (publication to be released after congress), the open conference for a broader public ***Kruzifix und Minarett. Religion im Fokus der Öffentlichkeit*** (Cross and Minaret. Religion in the focus of public discourse, publication included) and the public discourse with leading representatives of the Austrian religions ***Religionen für***

Infrastructure for
excellent research

Organization of
RaT

Speakers

Managers

Leading team-
members

Official members

RaT's main
activities

Highlights

Congresses

¹The first person chosen as manager of the platform, Matthew Meyer, received a call for Boston University College (USA).

² Till his departure as Professor at Vienna University at the end of 2010 to become Professor of Sociology at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main.

³ Mouhanad Khorchide left the University of Vienna to become Professor at the Center of Religious Studies at the Westfälische Wilhelms-University of Münster. He is still in close contact with the platform.

Europa. Welchen Beitrag können Religionen für das Projekt Europa leisten?

Activities also include the **lecture series** *Religion und Gemeinschaft. Die Frage der Integration aus christlicher und muslimischer Perspektive* (Religion and community. The issue of integration from Christian and Muslim perspectives, publication included) and *Religion und Europa. Eine konfliktreiche Beziehung?* (Religion and Europe. A conflictual relationship, publication included). Further milestones of the platform are the documentation of all religious communities in Vienna in the project 'Mapping Religions', the workshops with José **Casanova**, 'Religion in Modernity as Global Challenge', and especially with Charles **Taylor**, 'Secularity and the Future of Christianity', four accepted **third-party funded projects**, the launch of a scientific **book series** with the platform's title und also the creation of a homepage (including a newsletter), which increasingly links the research on religion of Vienna University and beyond.

Altogether the platform has organized **35 scientific conferences and workshops** with more than **77 guest speakers**. A total of € **710.660** could be raised in funding.

1.2.2 Main activities (by year)

The **first year** of the platform was dedicated to establishing an optimal infrastructure for research activities and public relations.

An international opening conference (17-18 March 2011) *Religion in Europa heute* (Religion in Europe today) was the first RaT highlight. At this conference the platform was presented to a larger scientific audience and information on ongoing research activities was shared. The conference brought together excellent scholars from various disciplines, departments and faculties, as well as from the platform and from cooperating institutions of various European countries (see list of participants in I.2.1).

In the **second year** the platform's focus was on the work of the RaT members in the five subgroups installed along the platform's **five thematic key areas** (for a detailed description of the five thematic areas see application text):

a. Inclusion and exclusion: The role of religion in processes of inclusion and exclusion of social groups, particularly with regards to migration, integration and gender politics.

Lecture series

José Casanova

Charles Taylor

RaT's balance sheet

Main Activities

First year

Second year

Five thematic
research areas

Speaker: Sieglinde Rosenberger / Sighard Neckel⁴.

b. Critique of religions and conceptions of God: The challenges of religious pluralism from the perspective of the philosophy of religion.

Speaker: Rudolf Langthaler / Christian Danz

c. Legal challenges in multi-religious societies in Europe: The regulation of the encounter of religion, religious confessions and secular states in a legal framework.

Speaker: Richard Potz

d. Constructs of meaning and values in Europe: Religious constructions of meaning in secular social structures and institutions and their influences on values.

Speaker: Herman Westerink

e. Reception and hermeneutics of religious texts: Interpretations, translations and receptions of canonical texts at the level of religious communities and on an individual level.

Speaker: Marianne Grohmann / Rüdiger Lohker

The research carried out within these five subgroups is documented in various publications (see I.2.4). The cooperation within the subgroups also included initiating third-party projects and joint teaching activities (see I.2 and I.3).

The major tasks performed in the **third year** have been to design and prepare the international congress for 20-23 February 2013, '**Rethinking Europe with(out) Religion**' and to prepare further **texts for publications in the RaT book series**. RaT members also developed and submitted research projects that would support young researchers. In addition, efforts were made in the third year to explore the possibility of transforming RaT into a "Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Religion" which would integrate the different research activities concerning religion in a new formal structure. (see the paper of various leading institutional representatives of religious studies at Vienna University in Appendix E).

Third year

2. RaT research activities

The following **conferences, lectures, lecture series** and **research symposia** were central to (1) the development of RaT's main research agenda and teaching activities, (2) RaT's research activities in the specific thematic areas, (3) the

Research activities

⁴When Sighard Neckel departed from the University of Vienna at the end of 2010, Regina Polak and Gerald Hödl became his substitutes. However, there is still a good cooperation between RaT and Sighard Neckel who belongs to a new research group at the Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main called "Religious Plurality".

acquisition of third-party funding, (4) RaT's public visibility and its dissemination strategy, (5) RaT's international cooperation and (6) the promotion of emerging researchers. The following list highlights some milestones, for a detailed compilation on all events see Appendix A.

2.1 Research-based conferences and teaching activities of the whole platform

a. International opening conference: *Religion in Europa heute* (17-18 March 2011)

At this conference the key topics of the platform were presented in plenary sessions organized along the thematic fields of the five subgroups. The participants discussed the role of religions in Europe today from the perspective of social and political sciences, law, religious studies and theology.



Conferences and teaching activities

Opening conference

Picture: Opening conference (3/2011)
Evening lecture

RaT members Christian **Danz**, Rüdiger **Lohlker**; Richard **Potz**, Sieglinde **Rosenberger** and Herman **Westerink** plus the following guest speakers participated in the conference: Almuth **Bruckstein** (Judaistics/Philosophy/Ha'atelier Berlin),), Niels Christian **Hvidt** (Psychology of Religion/University of Southern Denmark); Michael **Minkenberg** (Political science/European University Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder); Herbert **Schnädelbach** (Philosophy/Humboldt-University of Berlin), Ferdinand **Sutterlüty** (Sociology of Religion/Goethe University Frankfurt am Main) and Rik **Torfs** (Law/Catholic University of Leuven).



Picture: Opening
conference (3/2011)
Second day

The results of the opening congress are published in: Appel, Kurt / Danz, Christian / Potz, Richard / Rosenberger, Sieglinde / Walser, Angelika (eds.): *Religion in Europa heute. Sozialwissenschaftliche, rechtswissenschaftliche, und hermeneutisch-religionsphilosophische Perspektiven* (=Religion and Transformation in Contemporary European Society 1), V&R unipress, Göttingen 2012.

Publication

b. Lecture series: *Religion und Gemeinschaft. Die Frage der Integration aus christlicher und muslimischer Perspektive* (Summer term 2011)

Lecture series I
(summer term 2011)

The lecture series explored the roles of Christianity and Islam in migration, integration and transformation processes within European societies.

RaTmembers Ednan Aslan, Christian Danz and Richard Potz plus the following guest speakers participated in the conference: Bishop Michael **Bünker** (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Austria); Rauf **Ceylan** (Religious Studies/University of Applied Sciences Osnabrück), Reinhard **Feldmeier** (Theology/University of Göttingen), Franz **Gmainer-Pranzl** (Theology/Paris-Lodron University of Salzburg), Bishop Margot **Käßmann** (Chairperson of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany, EKD), Michael **Landau** (Caritas-Director, Arch Diocese of Vienna), Martin **Rothgangel** (Theology/University of Austria), Friedrich **Schweitzer** (Theology/University of Tübingen), Ursula **Struppe** (Head of the Municipal Department Integration and Diversity, Vienna), Aysun **Yasar** (Islamic Theology/Goethe University Frankfurt am Main).

The results of this lecture series are published in: Rothgangel, Martin / Aslan, Ednan / Jäggle, Martin (eds.): Religion und Gemeinschaft. Die Frage der Integration aus christlicher und muslimischer Sicht (= Religion and Transformation in Contemporary European Society 3), V&R unipress, Göttingen 2013.

c. Lecture series: *Religion und Europa. Eine konfliktreiche Beziehung?* (Winter term 2011/12)

In view of the rediscovery of religions in philosophy and social sciences, the lecture series explored the conflictual relationship between religion and Europe and the role of religions in the transformation processes of different European countries.



RaT member Hans Gerald **Hödl** and the following guest speakers participated in this lecture series: Samir **Arnautovic** (Philosophy/University of Sarajevo), Daniel **Gerson** (Judaistics/University of Bern), Günter **Dux** (Sociology/University of Freiburg), Jean-Marc **Ferry** (Philosophy and Political Sciences/Université Libre de Bruxelles), Dzevad **Hodzic** (Islamic Studies/University of Sarajevo), Marcello **Neri** (Theology/University of Münster), Paul **Nolte** (History/Freie Universität Berlin), Walter **Pohl** (History/University of Vienna), Brigitte **Schinkele** (Law/University of Vienna), Monika **Wohlrab-Sahr** (Religious Studies/Leipzig University)

The results of this lecture series will be published in: Religion and Transformation in Contemporary European Society, V&R Unipress, October 2013.

d. Conference: *Kruzifix und Minarett. Religion im Fokus der Öffentlichkeit* (13-15 October 2011)

The conference was organized by RaT and its cooperation partner *Europäisches Institut für interkulturelle und interreligiöse Forschung* (Liechtenstein). The conference analysed and compared the situation of religions in the public sphere

Publication

Lecture series II
(winter term
2011/12)

RaT's poster motive

Publication

Conference *Kruzifix
und Minarett*
(10/2011)

in Austria, Switzerland and Germany from the perspectives of theology, religious studies, law, sociology and political science.

RaTmembers Christian **Danz**, Richard **Potz** and Birgit **Sauer**, plus the following guest speakers participated in the conference: Farid **Hafez** (Oriental Studies/University of Vienna), Kurt **Imhof** (Sociology/University of Zurich), Frank **Mathwig** (Theology/University of Bern), Thorsten **Moos** (Theology, FEST), René **Pahud de Mortanges** (Law/Université de Fribourg), Konrad **Raiser** (former General Secretary of the Oecumenical Council of Churches), André **Ritter** (Director Europäisches Institut für interkulturelle und interreligiöse Forschung), Katharina **Weilert** (Law/Forschungsstätte der Evangelischen Studiengemeinschaft e.V. FEST)

The results of the conference are published in: Danz, Christian / Ritter, André (Hrsg.): Zwischen Kruzifix und Minarett. Religion im Fokus der Öffentlichkeit (=Studien zum interreligiösen Dialog 11), Waxmann Verlag, Münster-NewYork-München-Berlin 2012.

e. Lecture of José Casanova: Religion in Modernity as Global Challenge (14 June 2011)

Publication

Guest lecture by
José Casanova



José Casanova introduced **different ways of thinking secularization**. He criticized a secularist dogma in Europe and Eurocentric world views and emphasized the resources of religions that contribute to global development.

f. Research symposium with Charles Taylor: Secularity and the Future of Christianity (19 June 2012)

Taylor characterized secularity as **pluralism of agnosticist, atheist and religious ways of living** competing with and questioning each other. Thus, secularity is not in contrast to religion but the condition for both religious and non-religious ways of living. In the second part of the research symposium he outlined the **future perspectives on Christianity**, which depend on the ability of coping with inner-Christian plurality. According to Taylor, the central focus of **Christianity** consists in **networks of agápe**.



The symposium was organized in cooperation with the Catholic-Theological Faculty and RaT cooperation partner IWM. The next symposium with Charles Taylor will be held on 13-15 June 2013 at the IWM. A continuation of this project and a publication will follow in September 2014.

g. Research symposium Muhammad Al-Ghazali: *Wider die Gottheit Christi – ein Streitgespräch zwischen christlicher und islamischer Theologie* (29 May 2012)

The symposium was held on the occasion of the 900th anniversary of the death of Muhammad Al-Ghazali to foster the interreligious dialogue between Christian and Islamic theologians.

Participants: Leijla **Demiri** (Islamic Theology/University of Tübingen), Andreas **Feldtkeller** (Religious Studies/Humboldt University Berlin), Ingeborg **Gabriel** (Interreligious Dialogue/University of Vienna), Helmut **Hoping** (Theology/University of Freiburg), Milad **Karimi** (Islamic Philosophy and

Research
Symposium with
Charles Taylor

Picture: Charles
Taylor exchanging
arguments with RaT
members

Research symposium
Al-Ghazali

Theology/University of Münster), Rüdiger **Lohlker** (Oriental Studies/University of Vienna), Jan-Heiner **Tück** (Theology/University of Vienna)

The results of this conference will be published by Milad Karimi in 2013.

h. International Congress: Rethinking Europe with(out) Religion (20-23 February 2013)

RaT invited leading European philosophers, sociologists, political scientists and theologians to reflect on the political role of religions for the (process of) European unification in times of crisis. The following key note speakers will participate: Tahir **Abbas** (Sociology/Fatih University Istanbul), Erhard **Busek** (former Vice Chancellor of Austria), Isolde **Charim** (philosopher and journalist, Austria), Jakub **Kloc-Konkolowicz** (Philosophy/University of Warsaw), Cristina **Lafont** (Philosophy of Religion/Northwestern University), Marcello **Neri** (Theology/University of Münster), Detlef **Pollack** (Sociology/University of Münster), Sabrina Petra **Ramet** (Political science/NTNU Trondheim), Martin **Riesebrodt** (Sociology/Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies Geneva), Thomas M. **Schmidt** (Philosophy of Religion/Goethe University Frankfurt am Main), Katharina **von Schnurbein** (EU advisor for churches, religious associations or communities as well as philosophical and non-confessional organizations/BEPA).⁵

The results of this congress will be published in January 2014.

2.2 Research activities within the five thematic areas

The following research symposia can be regarded as milestones in terms of internal communication and cooperation (in terms of interdisciplinary discourse, sharing frameworks and funding), interdisciplinary discourse and the development of third-party projects.

a. Research symposium of the subgroup "Inclusion and exclusion" in cooperation with the research platform "Migration and Integration Research": *(Im)Migration, Religion and Society. Religion als Ressource und Konfliktpotential* (7 June 2011)

Guest Speaker: Martin Baumann (University of Luzern/ZRWP).

Taking the referendum on the building of mosques in Switzerland (2009) as starting point, Martin Baumann and RaT members discussed the meaning of

International
Congress Rethinking
Europe with(out)
Religion

Publication

**Research activities
within the five
thematic areas**

Inclusion and
Exclusion

⁵ Romano **Prodi** accepted the invitation to open the congress and has already registered. However, due to his appointment as Special Envoy for Sahel by the United Nations Secretary-General, he had to cancel his key note speech. He will give a talk for RaT on another occasion.

religions as a factor of both exclusion and inclusion in contemporary European societies. The result of this research symposium is a DACH project proposal, which will be applied for at the end of 2013 (see II 3.2.3). The results of this research symposium of the subgroup will be published in May 2013 by Regina Polak/Wolfram Reiss (eds.): *Religion und Migration. (= Religion and Transformation in Contemporary European Society 7)*, V&R unipress, Göttingen 2013.

b. Research symposia of the subgroup "Critique of religions and conceptions of God":

Befremden: Die Rede von Gott in postsäkularer Kultur (28-30 March 2011).

Guest speaker: **Hans-Joachim Höhn** (Systematic Theology, Philosophical Faculty, University of Cologne)

Hans-Joachim Höhn developed his understanding of religion as a special kind of rationality, coping with the limited conditions of human existence.

Eine neuere Religionsauffassung im Licht einer älteren. Habermas und Kant (19-20 May 2012)

Guest speaker: **Bernd Dörflinger** (Philosophy, University of Trier)

Bernd Dörflinger compared Habermas' concept with Kant's concept of religion. He argues for Kant's concept as being more ambitious and challenging on the rationality of religion.

Religiosität ohne Glauben? (8 June 2011)

Guest speaker: **Peter Strasser** (Philosophy, Karl Franzens University, Graz)

Peter Strasser outlined modern religiosity as a cultural, economic and psycho-social factor – that is, as a form of consciousness without any consistent belief or belonging.

The results of these research symposia will be published in February 2013 by Langthaler, Rudolf / Appel, Kurt (eds.): *Religion in der Moderne. Religionsphilosophische Gespräche zu einer aktuellen Diskussion (= Religion and Transformation in Contemporary European Society 5)*, V&R unipress, Göttingen 2013.

c. Research symposium of the subgroup "Reception and hermeneutics of religious texts": *Religion übersetzen/Translating Religion. Übersetzungen und Textrezeption als Phänomen der Inkulturation und Transformation von Religion.* (27 May 2011)

The research group investigated the role of texts for transformation processes of religion and societies.

Publication

Critique of Religions
and Conceptions of
God

Publication

Reception and
Hermeneutics of
Religious Texts



Picture: Research
 Symposium
 Translating Religion

The results of this research symposium are published in: Grohmann, Marianne / Ragacs, Ursula (eds.): Religion übersetzen. Übersetzung und Textrezeption als Transformationsphänomene von Religion (=Religion and Transformation in Contemporary European Society 2), V&R unipress, Göttingen 2012

Publication

d. Research symposium of the subgroup "Legal challenges in multi-religious societies in Europe": *Zwei Seiten einer Medaille? Zum Verhältnis von positiver und negativer Religionsfreiheit* (21 November 2012)

Legal challenges in
 multi-religious
 societies in Europe

The research symposium explored the relationship between the meanings and consequences of positive 'religious freedom' and negative 'freedom from religion' and compared the treatment in Austrian and Swiss law.

Guest speakers: Adrian **Loretan** (Canon Law, University of Luzern) and Brigitte **Schinkele** (Department of Legal Philosophy, Law of Religion and Culture, University of Vienna)

The results of the research symposium will be published in the RaT Book Series (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht) in December 2013.

For a detailed chronological list of all conferences, research symposia, workshops and lectures see Appendix A.



Picture: Research
 symposium
 „Positive and
 negative legal
 perspectives of
 religious freedom“

3. Successful acquisition of third-party funding

a. Mapping Religions in Vienna I

Thematic area: Inclusion and exclusion

Project leader: Hans Gerald Hödl

Participation and cooperation: Edmund Aslan, Karl Baier, Astrid Mattes, Regina Polak, Wolfram Reiss, Simon Steinbeiss

International cooperation partners: Lukas Pokorny (University of Aberdeen), Martin Baumann (ZRWG)

Funding: The project “Mapping Religions in Vienna I” was financed by the *Staatssekretariat für Integration*, affiliated to the Federal Ministry of the Interior and by the *Jubiläumsfonds* of the City of Vienna. Six research assistants were employed for 5 months at 16h/wk. Total third-party funding was € 42.000.

Duration: October 2011 – February 2012

Content: The project “Mapping I” collected and presented comprehensive data about religious groups in Vienna from the neutral perspective of religious studies. Meanwhile, the database counts more than 800 data-set entries. Some of the data on Islamic institutions were transferred from a research project conducted at the Department of Islamic Religious Teaching at the University of Vienna, led by Ednan Aslan.

The data are published on an interactive website (<http://kartrel.univie.ac.at>) that shows Vienna's religious landscape. The project is also the basis for Mapping **Religions in Vienna II** (see II 2.3.3) and further explorations in

Successful acquisition of third- party funding

Mapping religions in
Vienna

different research projects: (1) Hans Gerald Hödl: *Mission in Wien*; (2) Astrid Mattes (PhD thesis): *Glaube als Motiv, Partizipation als Ziel? Eine Untersuchung zum integrativen Potential muslimischer Jugendorganisationen in Wien*; (3) Simon Martin Steinbeiß / Lukas Pokorny: *Geschichte der Vereinigungsbewegung in Österreich*. The project continues.

b. Orthodox Christianity and Politics: Multiple secularism, liberal norms and traditional religion

Thematic area: Inclusion and exclusion

Project leader: Kristina Stöckl

Participation and cooperation: Sieglinde Rosenberger

International cooperation partners: IWM, Center for the Study and Documentation of Religions and Political Institutions in Post-secular Society (University of Rome Tor Vergata).

Funding: The project is funded by an APART scholarship of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Third-party funding volume € 213.100.

Duration: March 2012 to March 2015.

Content: The overall aim of the research-project “Orthodox Christianity and politics: multiple secularisms, liberal norms and traditional religion” is to investigate religion-state relations in the context of Orthodox Christianity, thus exploring the normative-theoretical and conceptual challenges that traditional religious arguments pose to contemporary debates on religion and politics and post-secularism. In particular, the research project contributes to the definition of ‘multiple secularisms of modern democracies’ (Alfred Stepan) with regard to Orthodox Christianity through the study of religion-state relations in Greece, Russia, Ukraine and Orthodox diaspora communities.

c. One Truth in Many Modes: The systematic foundation of the relationship between natural reason and revealed theology in Meister Eckhart's Latin writings

Research area: Reception of religious texts, critique of religion and conceptions of God

Project leader: Martina Roesner

Participation and cooperation: Kurt Appel, Christian Danz, Rudolf Langthaler

International cooperation partners: Loris Sturlese (University of Salento), Silvia Bara Bancel (Universidad Pontificia Comillas)

Funding: Lise Meitner stipend (FWF). Third-party funding volume € 145.560.

Duration: 1 December 2012 –20 November 2014.

Orthodox
Christianity and
Politics

One Truth in Many
Modes: Meister
Eckhart

Content: The question of the relationship between truths of natural reason and revealed truths is a problem that dates back to the very origins of Christianity. From the late 12th and early 13th century onwards, the reappropriation of Aristotelian philosophy, which had been unknown to the Latin West since late Antiquity, brings about an important epistemological paradigm shift. Based on Aristotle's idea of an irreducible pluralism of scientific object-spheres and principles of knowledge, 13th century scholasticism replaces the vertical hierarchy between theology and profane sciences by a horizontal scheme, where revealed theology is only one science among others. Most scholastic thinkers of the 13th and early 14th century try to avoid a conflict of disciplines by conceding that philosophy can come to know certain fundamental properties of God by means of natural reason only, whereas the knowledge about the central doctrines of Christian faith, especially the Trinity and the Incarnation, are considered the exclusive privilege of revealed theology. Meister Eckhart, by contrast, develops in his Latin writings an epistemological scheme in which the delimitation between scientific disciplines is not defined in terms of object-spheres but in terms of form and method. In his eyes, the Old Testament, the New Testament and Aristotelian philosophy have identical content and differ only in their respective forms of exposition. The individual people and events mentioned in Holy Scripture can claim to convey truth only insofar as they appear as exemplary realizations of laws and principles that enjoy universal validity in the domain of metaphysics, natural philosophy, ethics and art. The project is based on the hypothesis that this specific interpretation of the relationship between theology and natural knowledge is the expression of a new system of epistemological categories, especially with regard to the notions of individuality and universality, contingency and necessity, which are ultimately rooted in Eckhart's anthropological thesis of the complex unity between the singular, hyper-contingent "I" and the empirical, created person. Moreover, the project sustains the thesis that Eckhart's idea of a perfect convertibility between revealed and natural truth implies the concept of a performative science which provides a transcendental framework for all the other disciplines. With respect to the choice of topic of the platform, one issue is especially highlighted: to what extent can Eckhart's relationship between revelation and metaphysics be integrated into today's dialogue between religious and secular reason?

d. Commentary on Friedrich W. Nietzsche's *Die Fröhliche Wissenschaft*

Thematical area: Reception of religious texts, critiques of religion and conceptions of God

Project leader: Hans Gerald Hödl

Participation and cooperation: Kurt Appel, Rudolf Langthaler

International cooperation partners: Marie Luise Haase (Humboldt-Universität Berlin), Martin Stingelin (Technical University Dortmund), Andreas Urs (Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities),

Funding: FWF. Third-party funding volume € 310 000.

Duration: May 2013 - May 2016.

Content: The application refers to ongoing work on the *Nachberichtsband* (supplementary volume containing commentary, annotations and further documents) of Volume 2, *Die Fröhliche Wissenschaft*, of the fifth section of the critical edition of the works of Friedrich Nietzsche (henceforth: KGW). Friedrich Nietzsche's work *Die Fröhliche Wissenschaft* (henceforth: FW; first print: 1882) is one of the great books of Western thought. It contains, among other topics, critical reflections on truth, knowledge, morality and religion; actually, it is a key text on the relationship of modernity and religion. FW also includes inquiries into the field of aesthetics and expositions on the stages of culture. Within this state-of-the-art critical edition, all text volumes will be accompanied by a respective *Nachberichtsband*. In the present case, it will comprise a philological commentary, a detailed description of the composition of the first print of FW, annotations referring to the context of the book within Nietzsche's work, to the sources used by Nietzsche, to the work's place in the history of ideas and finally to perspectives which will introduce this opus into today's discourse on the relation between religion and modernity as the central topic of Europe.

Commentary on
Nietzsche's „Die
Fröhliche
Wissenschaft“

4. Social impact and dissemination strategy

4.1 Public visibility

The **homepage** www.religionandtransformation.at offers comprehensive information on the activities of the platform members. It provides RaT's latest news on research activities, publications and cooperation partners. The homepage is also accessible via new **social media** (Facebook). Lately, the homepage has become a forum for international networking activities. Especially young scholars from all over Europe contact RaT in order to find

**Social impact and
dissemination
strategy**
Public visibility
Homepage

Social media

scientists from the University of Vienna. Furthermore, the RaT folder and two newsletters have encouraged public interest beyond the scientific community (see Appendix A). RaT has become a forum for communication between experts and for the encounter of an interested general public with scholars of religion.

Certainly the congress **Rethinking Europe with(out) Religion** in February 2013 is drawing public attention. Moreover, there were various occasions for RaT to appear in public, e.g. with the two lecture series mentioned in I.2.1.

A milestone in terms of public notice was the **public debate** among **leaders of the three monotheistic religions: *Religionen für Europa. Welchen Beitrag können Religionen für das Projekt Europa leisten?*** (24 January 2012). The following guest speakers discussed the contribution of religions to the project Europe: Bishop Manfred **Scheuer** (Roman-Catholic church/Austria), Bishop Michael **Bünker** (Protestant church A.B, Austria), Bishop Vicar Nicolae **Dura** (Romanian-Orthodox church, Chair of the Oecumenical Council of Churches in Austria), Rabbi Chaim **Eisenberg** (Jewish community of Vienna), and Zekirija **Sejdini** (Chair of Schura Council, Vienna).



The research platform cooperates with religious and political leaders, most prominent among them are Bishop Michael **Bünker** (Evangelical church/A) and Zekirija **Sejdini** (Chair of Schura, Vienna), Heinrich **Neisser** (former vice-president of the Austrian parliament), Erhard **Busek** (former vice-chancellor of Austria) and Franz **Fischler** (former EU commissioner of agriculture). The last three joined the group preparing the congress in February 2013 and helped to establish contacts throughout Europe, for example with Katharina **von Schnurbein** (European policy advisor for the European Commission,

Final congress
(2/2013)

Public debate among
leaders of
Christianity, Islam
and Judaism
concerning Europe
(1/2012)

Picture: Panel at the
public debate
Left to right:
Bünker, Dura,
Eisenberg, Scheuer,
Sejdini

BEPA/Brussels) who will represent the European Commission at the congress. Thus the research platform has reached political and public recognition and is well-prepared to expand at European and international level.

The **Austrian media** (*Der Standard, Die Presse, Salzburger Nachrichten, Die Furche, ORF Austrian public service broadcasting*) has been reporting regularly about RaT activities and has used RaT's connections with religious leaders, theologians, philosophers and international scientists like José **Casanova** or Charles **Taylor** for newspaper articles. RaT cooperates with Gerhard **Klein**, head of the science department at Austrian Broadcasting (TV and radio), to increase public awareness of RaT issues, e.g. by presenting the mapping project (Gerald Hödl) in 'Open Innovation' – a special broadcasting format of Austrian Broadcasting radio channel Ö1, to encourage the involvement of the population in scientific work.

For a list of press reviews see Appendix C.

4.2 Launch of a book series at Vienna University Press

On 25 January 2011, RaT established the book series **Religion and Transformation in Contemporary European Society** in cooperation with Vienna University Press. The book series is peer-reviewed. It presents results of RaT research to the scientific community. In addition to the editorial board there is a pool of international scholars who agreed to be peer reviewers for the book series, including Stefan **Alkier** (Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main), Hans **Alma** (University of Utrecht), Klaus **Hock** (University of Rostock), Branko **Klun** (University of Ljubljana), Antonius **Liedhegener** (ZRWP/CH), Georg **Pfleiderer** (ZRWP/CH), Thomas **Schmidt** (Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main). During the second period of RaT, a Scientific Advisory Board will be generated from this pool.

Three volumes have been published to date, another six will be forthcoming within the next year:

1. Appel, Kurt / Danz, Christian / Potz, Richard / Rosenberger, Sieglinde / Walser, Angelika (eds.): **Religion in Europa heute. Sozialwissenschaftliche, rechtswissenschaftliche, und hermeneutisch-religionsphilosophische Perspektiven** (= Religion and Transformation in Contemporary European Society 1), V&R unipress, Göttingen 2012.

The volume presents religion(s) in Europe as a challenge to the humanities, i.e. philosophy, theology, sociology, political science, law, cultural studies, Jewish and Islamic studies.

European
Commission

Media

RaT book series

Published volumes



Picture: Cover of the first volume of the RaT book series

2. Grohmann, Marianne / Ragacs, Ursula (eds.): ***Religion übersetzen. Übersetzung und Textrezeption als Transformationsphänomene von Religion*** (= Religion and Transformation in Contemporary European Society 2), V&R unipress, Göttingen 2012.

The volume explores the transformation processes of Christian, Jewish and Islam religion caused by the tension between canonized texts and their interpretations.

3. Rothgangel, Martin / Aslan, Ednan / Jäggle, Martin (eds.): ***Religion und Gemeinschaft. Die Frage der Integration aus christlicher und muslimischer Sicht*** (= Religion and Transformation in Contemporary European Society 3), V&R unipress, Göttingen 2013.

The volume investigates the resources of Islam and Christianity for the integration of migrants into European societies.

4. Deibl, Jakob Helmut: ***Menschwerdung und Schwächung. Annäherung an ein Gespräch mit Gianni Vattimo. Mit einem Vorwort von Gianni Vattimo*** (= Religion and Transformation in Contemporary European Society 4), V&R unipress, Göttingen 2013.

The volume is a theological approach to and dialogue with the Italian philosopher Gianni Vattimo.

in print

5. Westerink, Herman (ed): ***Constructs of Meaning and Religious Transformation: Current Issues in the Psychology of Religion*** (= Religion

Volumes in print

and Transformation in Contemporary European Society 5), V&R unipress, Göttingen 2013.

The volume brings together various perspectives and approaches present in current discussions on the issue of an individual's capacity to construct meaning, the underlying affective and/or cognitive mechanisms, and whether religious construction of meaning supports well-being or the ability to cope in the context of a mental condition (mental health) and/or social environment.

in print

6. Langthaler, Rudolf / Appel, Kurt (eds): *Religion in der Moderne. Religionsphilosophische Gespräche zu einer aktuellen Diskussion* (= Religion and Transformation in Contemporary European Society 6), V&R unipress, Göttingen 2013.

The volume contains controversial dialogues between contemporary philosophers of religion and theologians.

in print

7. Polak, Regina / Reiss, Wolfram (eds): *Religion und Migration*. (= Religion and Transformation in Contemporary European Society 7), V&R unipress, Göttingen 2013.

The volume explores the mutual influences of religions and migration processes in European societies. Forthcoming publication in May 2013.

8. Appel, Kurt / Danz, Christian / Rosenberger, Sieglinde / Potz, Richard (eds): *Religion und Europa - eine konfliktreiche Beziehung!*

The volume asks for the role of religions in different European societies and seen from the perspective of different disciplines.

Forthcoming publication in December 2013

9. Loretan, Adrian / Potz, Richard / Schinkele, Brigitte (eds): *Legal Challenges in Multi-religious Societies in Europe: Zwei Seiten einer Medaille? Zum Verhältnis von positiver und negativer Religionsfreiheit*.

The volume explores the changes of meaning of the term 'religious freedom' in the European legal framework.

Forthcoming publication in January 2014.

4.3 Selected publications of RaT members (in the context of the platform)

See Appendix B: Further RaT Publications 2010-2013

Forthcoming
Volumes

Further RaT
Publications

see Appendix B

5. International cooperation

RaT cooperates with various organizations at national and European level. Here is a selection of international cooperation:

Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, Institute for Philosophy of Religion (Thomas M. Schmidt, Knut Wenzel, Lutz Bachmann) and Institute for Social Sciences, specifically the new research group ‘Religious Plurality’ (Sighard Neckel): The cooperation included the peer-review process for volume 6 of the RaT book series and a regular exchange of ideas in recent years.

ZRWP: Zentrum für Religion, Wirtschaft und Politik (Universities of Basel, Lausanne, Luzern und Zürich, and Collegium Helveticum): The cooperation included mutual support on publications (peer-review process of RaT volume 1, exchange of reviews); informal and formal meetings to establish networks in the field of religious studies; exchange of 3 doctoral students (outgoing in September 2012: Astrid Mattes; incoming in October 2012: Veronika Lutz, Katharina Imacher) and guest speakers for RaT research symposia (Martin Baumann and Adrian Loretan); development of a third-party funded DACH project at the occasion of the RaT conference ‘Rethinking Europe with(out) Religion’.

Europäisches Institut für interkulturelle und interreligiöse Forschung (Vaduz/Principality of Liechtenstein): RaT, together with the ‘European Institute of intercultural and interreligious research’ organized the conference *Minarett und Kruzifix* and documented the results in a conference volume (see Appendix B). The institute has invited RaT to hold a follow-up conference in 2013.

Marmara University (Istanbul/Turkey), Department of Philosophy of Religion and Department of Sociology: Both departments supported RaT in finding guest speakers for the Al-Ghazali research symposium in May 2012, as well as engaging in regular scientific exchange and mutual invitations to scientific symposia.

IWM: Together with the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), RaT organized the research symposium with Charles **Taylor** in June 2012 and 2013. Meanwhile, RaT member Kristina Stöckl (Research Group INEX, European Institute Florence) has become research fellow at IWM.

International cooperation (selection)

Goethe University
Frankfurt am Main

ZRWP

Europäisches Institut
für interkulturelle
und interreligiöse
Forschung

Marmara university
Istanbul

IWM Vienna

European-Arabian-Network (Rehburg-Loccum): RaT participates in an EU application 2013-2016 (FP 7) for the formation, expansion and consolidation of a European and European-Arab citizens network. Participating institutions:

Coordination: Protestant Academy Loccum (EAL/GE); Participants: Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS/Egypt), Sigtunastiftelsen (SE), Policy Research Center Islamic Foundation Leicester (GB), Le Liebfrauenberg/ Château du Liebfrauenberg (F), Orthodox Academy of Crete (GR), Conference of European Churches/ Commission on Church and Society (BE), Deutscher Evangelischer Kirchentag (GE), Danmission (DK), University of Vienna/ Department of Economics, Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam (DIA, NE), Georg August University Göttingen/ Theological Faculty (GE), Valamo Folk High School Institute/ Lay Academy (FI), Ekumenicka Akademie Praha (CZ), Muslimische Akademie in Deutschland (GE), St. Andrew's Biblical Theological Institute (RU).

European-Arabian-
Network

RELIGARE: First steps have been taken to contact RELIGARE (Religious Diversity and Secular Models in Europe. Innovative Approaches to Law and Policy). The network is funded by the European Commission (FP 7). Sieglinde Rosenberger presented a paper on religion and populism at a conference of RELIGARE hosted in Florence in May 2012. Julia Mourao-Permoser (Institute of Political Science) attended the RELIGARE conference in December 2012, established a network for future cooperation and participates in the project Religion at the European (RelEP).

RELIGARE
Brussels

Excellence Cluster Münster "Religion and Politics": Contacts have been established e.g. with Klaus Müller and Detlev Pollak. The latter, deputy speaker of the Excellence Cluster, was invited as guest speaker to the conference 'Rethinking Europe with(out) Religion'.

Excellence Cluster
Religions and
Politics“ Münster

University of Warsaw, Institute of Philosophy: Currently, there are joint events on the topic of 'Europe's Religious and Cultural Heritage'. Jakub Klockonkolowicz, one of the leading members of the institute, is also guest speaker at the conference 'Rethinking Europe with(out) Religion'.

University of
Warsaw

Facoltà teologica dell'Italia Settentrionale (FTIS): Many contacts have been established, amongst them with rector Pierangelo Sequeri. Together with Sequeri the platform has applied for a Marie-Curie scholarship for Isabella Guanzini who currently works in the team of RAT post-docs.

FTIS Milano

University of Salzburg: Zentrum Theologie interkulturell und Studium der Religionen: The ‘Center of intercultural theology’ organized the conference ‘Migration as a sign of the times. Perspectives from social sciences, philosophy, and theology’ (Salzburg, 12-14 April 2012) with the active support and participation of RaT.

6. Promotion of young researchers

The platform is committed to promoting junior researchers and provides assistance and infrastructure for excellent research activities. A major achievement is support with applying for third-party funded research projects. Special care was taken to support (funding, travel costs, interdisciplinary tutorial of the research papers) female researchers Isabella **Guanzini** (philosophy/theology), Astrid **Mattes** (religious studies/political science), Ana **Mijic** (sociology), Julia **Mourao-Permoser** (political science), Martina **Rösner** (philosophy) and Kristina **Stöckl** (political science). The cooperation network established by RaT further helps to advance these junior researchers, who take a very active part within RaT, by providing the opportunity to present their research projects at international conferences, exchange ideas, support the platform with their strong belief in the value and potential of interdisciplinary work. Some of these researchers as well as Rudolf **Kaisler** (RaT management), Edina **Kiss** (psychology of religion), Maria **Neuhold** (religious studies), Simon **Steinbeiss** (religious studies) and Anne **Unterwurzacher** (sociology) attended the **Day of emerging scholars** on 21 May 2012 - a meeting dedicated explicitly to discussing research projects of junior scholars in RaT. Following the positive feedback of the participants, this kind of meeting will be institutionalized. Ana **Mijic** (sociology), Julia **Mourao Permoser** (political science), Orhan **Elmaz** (oriental studies), Rudolf **Kaisler** (theology), and Angelika **Walser** (theology) developed the **interdisciplinary seminar** and contributed to the **joint project *Grundlagentexte des europäischen Religionsdiskurses*** (winter term 2011/12). This seminar was dedicated to reading key texts on the European discourse of religion. Together with the interdisciplinary **lecture series *Religion und Europa. Eine konfliktreiche Beziehung!*** (winter term 2011/12), the seminar was implemented within the framework of the three main faculties involved in RaT.

In order to support the advancement of junior scholars at international level, there was a **Call for papers for the international and interdisciplinary congress ‘Rethinking Europe with(out) religion’** (20-23 February 2013,

Universität Salzburg

**Advancement of
young researchers**

Interdisciplinary
seminar teaching

CFP Rethinking
Europe with(out)
Religion

Juridicum, Vienna), disseminated by RaT cooperation partners. More than 30 students from all over Europe and USA/Russia submitted papers, of which eight excellent proposals were chosen. **The eight emerging scholars' travel costs and accommodation will be covered by RaT.**

The steering committee of RaT prepares to install a **graduate programme** (Doc-Team, Austrian Academy of Sciences). In its first period RaT applied for a Doc-Team at the Austrian Academy of Sciences ('Conversion and Social Identity in Vienna'). The junior researchers reached the final stage of the selection procedure (1 out of 3), but were rejected and invited to apply again.

7. Reflection on strengths and limits

After two and half years of intensive work the **outcomes of the research platform** are **significant** and **of high quality**: RaT has increased and improved the cooperation between scholars in the field of religion at the University of Vienna. Not only the former core team of 17 scholars has benefitted from the forum by **sharing ideas**, exchanging and reviewing **research projects**, initiating the research projects of **junior scholars**, and organizing **research symposia**. RaT has also attracted many colleagues from the University of Vienna who are interested in participating in research symposia, **lectures** and **publications**. Thus the number of interested RaT scholars has significantly increased in the last two years, notably the number of junior scholars aware of the benefits of a good **network** and highly interested in the study of religious issues.

Discussions within RaT have not been limited to the scientific community but have drawn the attention of a wider audience. RaT has attracted important researchers, politicians and religious leaders. Public media in Austria have been interested in RaT activities from its very beginning and reported about RaT activities throughout. Thus the **social relevance is one of the most important strengths of RaT.**

Even with these strengths of the platform, there is still some work to be done. In particular, the **international presence of RaT will be strengthened** in the near future. RaT should **intensify its presence at conferences** and its **voice in public debate** on a European level.

In spite of the high future potential of RaT, **limits of interdisciplinary approaches** must be addressed here openly: interdisciplinary research in the humanities has proved a **difficult and time-consuming task**. RaT took up the challenge of creating a space for its activities at the University of Vienna – a challenge which can be understood both metaphorically and literally:

Graduate
programme
application

Reflection on
strengths and limits

Strengths

Limits and
challenges

interdisciplinary research still seems to exist in the ‘gap’ between different disciplines. It is difficult to attribute responsibilities and overcome bureaucratic barriers. Although research on religious issues requires hermeneutical, analytical and empirical approaches, it cannot be denied that there is still a long way to go when it comes to real interdisciplinarity. Thus the encounters of disciplines in RaT can be more properly described as ‘transdisciplinarity’.

II. Part: Main future activities

1. General introduction

In recent years, one question has been increasingly imposed on RaT and has therefore been explicitly thematized in the final conference. It is one of the starting points of the second period, i.e. the role and possible contributions (whether acclaimed or contested) of religious traditions and their secular transformations for Europe’s further political and societal development – especially at a time of major crisis in the European Union and its efforts of collaboration and unification. The idea of a pluralist and democratic Europe is at stake here, where not only various religions, traditions and experiences coexist peacefully, but where also a shared vision of humans and politics acknowledging human creativity, uniqueness and vulnerability can manifest itself. Beside the empirical and hermeneutic questions of the platform, the main normative question is, according to Julia Kristeva, whether religion can contribute to a new humanism that transcends common national, confessional and social oppositions, or whether religion will be much more an instrument of social control guaranteeing the exclusion of certain identities and communities. For the platform, however, the question arises which potentials of meaning religion holds for future Europe – beyond consumerism and virtual identities. Many of RaT’s future projects will result from this fundamental impetus, which has already made an impact on the RaT activities listed above.

Three projects of the second period of the platform have to be mentioned as projects of the whole platform. They will be further outlined in point II.3.2.3. Starting with the final conference ‘Rethinking Europe with(out) Religion’, RaT poses the normative question how and whether religion can contribute to a vision of Europe in general and for the European Union in particular as a democratic and pluralist ‘open’ and ‘hospitable’ sphere. This project includes a Doc-Team project for a group of young researchers at the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW). The second major project, ‘Mapping Religions in Vienna

II. Part: Main future activities

General introduction

Contributions of religions for Europe’s future?

New humanism

Projects of the whole platform:
Rethinking Europe with(out) religion

Mapping Religions

II', is the continuation of 'Mapping Vienna I'. It provides a systematic overview of Vienna's religious landscape (and in the long run of the whole of Austria). Third, the platform launches an interdisciplinary investigation into **Nine-Eleven**, a key event for the relation between religion and society. It has marked a deep hiatus in the perception of religion, not only in the USA, but also in Europe, insofar as it has become necessary to consider the limits of the idea of a melting pot. The current projects 'One Truth in Many Modes' (Lise-Meitner) and 'Orthodox Christianity and Politics' (APART) will be continued; the accepted project 'Commentary on Friedrich W. Nietzsche's *Fröhliche Wissenschaft*' will start in May 2013 at the latest. Further projects in the context of the platform are carried out by individual (or a group of) RaT members. All of them have been submitted for third-party funding. (II.3.2.3)

In its second period RaT will again reach out to the (scientific) public by organizing **congresses** and **workshops** and will keep up activities in the field of **interdisciplinary lectures**. The **book series** continues, the **homepage** and the presence in the social media will be expanded. Plans are afoot to launch a peer-reviewed **online journal** named after the platform. Efforts at Vienna University to **focus and network research of religion** with a view to establish a 'Center for the interdisciplinary study of religion' continue.

2. Mid-term considerations for creating a Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Religions

Before presenting RaT's individual activities and plans in detail, some fundamental considerations for the advancement of the platform in a long-term **Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Religion** as a key objective after a possible second three-year period of the RaT platform must be addressed.

In its first period RaT achieved three major tasks: **first**, the **development of joint research projects**, **second**, the creation of a **network**, the support and further development of existing research on and teaching in the field of religion at the University of Vienna, and **third**, the **formation of a forum** at the interface of religion and scientific public activities, e.g. transdisciplinary research of religion. An additional fourth task was processing international requests for cooperation (Liechtenstein Foundation, DACH etc.).

This means that RaT sees the preparation of a **Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Religion** at the University of Vienna as one of its key objectives. The Alma Mater Rudolphina presents itself as the ideal place for such a center because of the many established university institutions that study religion.

in Vienna

Nine-Eleven

Activities in RaT's second period

Considerations for the submission of a center for the interdisciplinary study of religions

Research projects
Network

Forum

Beside the **RaT platform** there is the **Catholic Theological Faculty**, the **Protestant Theological Faculty**, the **Department of Islamic Studies**, the **Department of Legal Philosophy, Law of Religion and Cultural**, the **teaching platform Department of Sciences of Religion** (which is about to be institutionalized), and various departments, chairs and tenure tracks in the study of religion (**Islamic Sciences, Judaist, Buddhist Studies, Philosophy of Religion, Psychology of Religion**, etc.). This provides the opportunity to connect theological research (Catholic theological, Protestant theological, Islamic theological) and research in religious studies, philosophy of religion, psychology of religion and sociology of religion in a productive scientific center. This will be the appropriate forum for the scientific reflection of societal discourses on religion as well as for communication with the wider public.

Many individual scholars currently working in the study of religion and representing various institutional functions already participate in the RaT platform or are at least closely related to the platform. That was one of the major preconditions for concrete deliberations on the establishment of such a center. In a meeting on 14 December 2012, in which the most important representatives of scientific institutions for the study of religion took part, a joint statement was drawn up that is now added as an attachment to the request for extension (see Appendix E).

The center should have the following tasks:

- Initiating new inter- and trans-disciplinary research projects and institutionalization of information exchange between current and future research initiatives.
- Creating an organizational infrastructure for interdisciplinary research projects.
- Promoting the growing visibility of the study of religion at the University of Vienna (homepage, clustering of international networks, etc.)
- Connecting institutions in the field of the study of religion that currently do not have a proper institutional place at the university but are not large enough to be full-fledged faculties
- Creating a nexus for information about teaching activities and study programmes in the field of religion at the University of Vienna.

In anticipation of the center, a cooperation of RaT with the platform **Department of Islamic Studies** (Ednan Aslan, who heads the department, is a

Current resources for
the study of religion
at Vienna University

Main tasks of the
center

Cooperation of
research platforms

member of RaT) has already been established and a cooperation set up with the protagonists of the planned teaching platform ‘Religious Studies’ coordinated by Hans Gerald Hödl. If RaT is extended, the platform could be seamlessly transformed into a Center for the Study of Religion after the platform’s second period (2013-2016). In view of this, it should be noted that the platform is already the major forum for contact requests, the initiation of research projects, but also for doctoral students of the study of religion. The center will continue to improve and advance all these activities.

For research the transformation of the RaT platform into a **Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Religion** would mean that the research scope and cooperation could be broadened beyond Europe without losing track of ‘Religion and Europe’. There is concrete interest in such cooperation, notably the chair of intercultural philosophy at the University of Vienna (Georg Stenger).

3. Organization and research of the platform

3.1 Organization and leadership of the platform

The **scientific communication and the conceptualization of research intentions** have so far proceeded on two levels. On the one hand, organization and coordination of the research projects have been administered at **platform-level** and, on the other hand, updating of research has taken place in one of the **five thematic areas** (see I.2.2). In the meantime, due to a continuously growing cooperation at platform level and due to the development of concrete interdisciplinary research projects, this form of updating research is unlikely to take place in the research areas anymore. Should RaT be extended, these **areas** will be reduced to **four groups** for maintaining important tasks such as promoting informal contact between members, structuring international contacts, contributing to public communication, hosting workshops and symposia, and developing new research ideas and projects.

In the second period of RaT (2013-2016), Kurt **Appel** (fundamental theology, Catholic Theological Faculty) will continue to be the speaker of the platform. Sieglinde **Rosenberger** (political sciences) will remain deputy speaker. Other members of the platform’s **leadership team**, which meets once a month, are Christian **Danz** (systematic theology, Protestant Theological Faculty), Hans-Gerald **Hödl** (religious studies) and Richard **Potz** (Department of Legal Philosophy, Law of Religion and Culture). Closely connected to the platform’s

Organization and
research of RaT

Organization and
leadership of RaT

Four research areas

Speaker

Deputy speaker

Leadership team

core team are Ednan **Aslan** (Department of Islamic Pedagogic of Religion), Rudolf **Langthaler** (philosophy of religion), Rüdiger **Lohlker** (Islamic sciences), Regina **Polak** (pastoral theology, Catholic Theological Faculty), Birgit **Sauer** (political sciences) und Herman **Westerink** (psychology of religion).

A **third circle** around the core and extended team are the post-docs who closely cooperate with RaT, partly through third-party funding, partly through other constructs, yet without a position at the University of Vienna. These include: Orhan **Elmaz** (oriental studies, University of Vienna), Jakob **Deibl** (fundamental theology), Isabella **Guanzini** (philosophy, Milano, Facoltà teologica dell'Italia Settentrionale), Astrid **Mattes** (religious studies, political sciences, University of Vienna), Ana **Mijic** (sociology, University of Vienna), Julia **Mourao Permoser** (political sciences, RelEP Brussels), Martina Roesner (philosophy, University of Vienna), Kristina **Stöckl** (political sciences, University of Vienna).

Finally, there are other scholars working in the RaT platform, some in concrete research projects (II.3.2), some on a more informal basis. These include Marianne **Grohmann** (Old Testament studies, Protestant Theological Faculty), Birgit **Heller** (religious studies), Gerhard **Langer** (Jewish studies) and Wolfram **Reiss** (religious studies).

The **leadership team** meets monthly; **all members** of the platform meet once per semester, in addition all **junior researchers** gather once per semester to discuss their projects. For the second period of the platform the meetings in the **thematic areas** remain in principle scheduled on a monthly basis. In terms of group membership these meetings are fairly open; that is to say, members of the platform can be engaged in more than one thematic area. The thematic areas will be pursued in order to communicate the central topics of the platform to external parties and to interlink the platform internally. At the same time the scientific and personal exchange within the core group (see I.2.2) has intensified. The areas are: **Inclusion and exclusion** (led by Regina Polak, Sieglinde Rosenberger), **Legal challenges in multi-religious societies in Europe** (led by Richard Potz), **Constructs of meaning and values in Europe** (led by Herman Westerink). The thematic areas 'Reception and hermeneutics of religious texts' and 'Critique of religion and conceptions of God' will be combined into one area: **Reception of religious texts, conceptions of God and critique of religion** (led by Christian Danz, Rudolf Langthaler). This is because the question of the reception of religious texts (and of texts expressing critique of religion) will be a central issue in all future RaT research projects on religion in

Post-docs

Further members

Thematic areas

a pluralist and democratic European context.

3.2 Research

We distinguish between: 3.2.1 Current projects in progress and accepted proposals started in the First Period of RaT, 3.2.2. Submitted project proposals of the first period, and 3.2.3 Projects related to the second period of RaT. The latter are embedded in the platform in different ways: (1) Central joint projects of the whole platform staff; (2) Further projects in the context of RaT

3.2.1 Current projects in progress and accepted proposals started in the first Period of RaT

a. Mapping religions in Vienna II

see part II.3.2.3 Projects related to the second period of the platform

b. Orthodox Christianity and politics: multiple secularism, liberal norms and traditional religion

see part I.1.3b Successful acquisition of third-party funded projects

c. One truth in many modes: the systematic foundation of the relationship between natural reason and revealed theology in Meister Eckhart's Latin writings

see part I.1.3c Successful acquisition of third-party funded projects

d. Commentary on Friedrich W. Nietzsches *Die Fröhliche Wissenschaft*

see part I.1.3d Successful acquisition of third-party funded projects

3.2.2 Submitted project proposals of the first period

a. The messianism of agape

Thematic area: reception of religious texts, critique of religion and conceptions of God

Project leader: Kurt Appel/Isabella Guanzini

Participation and cooperation: Christian Danz, Hans Gerald Hödl, Rudolf Langthaler

International cooperation partners: Goethe University Frankfurt am Main (Knut Wenzel), Facoltà di teologia dell'Italia Settentrionale (Pierangelo Sequeri)

The project was submitted to the Austrian Science Fund FWF (Lise Meitner) and received a positive review but was put on hold for financial reasons; the

Research

Current projects in progress and accepted proposals

Submitted project proposals of RaT I

The messianism of agape

next meeting of the FWF will be held in March 2013. It was also submitted within the Marie-Curie programme.

Content: The role of religious issues and practices and the interactive coherence of religious notions and the socio-cultural transformation processes in contemporary Europe are at present under discussion. The project investigates the possibility of the biblical category of agape and its textual foundations to constitute an innovative impetus for social interaction, as a catalyst for the multidimensional dynamics of inclusion and exclusion in the post-metaphysical and pluralistic epoch of globalization. The project also seeks to explore the biblical category of agape in the light of a messianic logic, with particular reference to the thinking of the Italian philosopher Massimo Cacciari, of the Slovenian sociologist, cultural critic and philosopher Slavoj Žižek, and of the Italian theologian Pierangelo Sequeri. The concept of agape, both in the thought of the two secular philosophers and in the perspective of the Catholic theologian, assumes a strategic function. Within their hermeneutics, the biblical category of love represents both a significant contribution to a new self-understanding of religion and a reaction to the lack of future and to the risk of nihilism in postmodern individualized society. With respect to the perspectives of these authors, the project aims to transcend a mere rhetorical and romantic theorisation of love and its fundamentals. To this end the question of love needs a multidisciplinary approach, since it involves sociological, psychological, phenomenological, theological and biblical-exegetical essential issues. The interdisciplinary character of the project consists of applying both the hermeneutical dimension of critical social theory and the hermeneutics of religious and philosophical texts. Only this multidimensional approach could prevent this biblical category from being confined to the fruitless logic of a metaphysical discourse with no actual pertinence to the contemporary socio-cultural dimension.

b. Conceptualizations of spirituality in psychology of religion and mental health literature

Thematic area: Constructs of meaning and values in Europe

Project leader: Herman Westerink

Participation and cooperation: Birgit Heller, Hans Gerald Hödl, Regina Polak

International cooperation partners: Jacob Belzen (University of Amsterdam); Lucy Bregman (Temple University); Eckhard Frick (Interdisciplinary Center for Palliative Care, Clinic of the University of Munich); Ralph W. Hood

Conceptualizations
of spirituality in
psychology of
religion and mental
health literature

(Department of Psychology, University of Tennessee); N.C. Hvidt and Dr. P. la Cour (Research Center of Health, Man and Society, Institute of Public Health, University of Southern Denmark, Odense); Heinz Streib and Constantin Klein (Center for the Interdisciplinary Research on Religion and Society, University of Bielefeld); John Swinton (School of Divinity, History and Philosophy, King's College University of Aberdeen,); H. Zock (Department of Philosophy and Psychology of Religion, Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Groningen).

Duration: 2013-2016

Content: The objective of the proposed research is the descriptive analysis of conceptualizations of spirituality in psychological and mental health research literature from a cultural-historical perspective (including theological, philosophical and anthropological perspectives) in order to identify, analyse and clarify various dimensions of the concept of spirituality. The aim of this study is therefore (1) to identify the various dimensions of conceptualizations of spirituality and (2) to evaluate the philosophical, theological and anthropological premises and assumptions in the various conceptualizations of spirituality. This clarification of the multidimensionality of spirituality will make an important contribution to current (mainly empirical) research on spirituality. It has recently been suggested that the fuzzy and obscure concept of spirituality is of little or no use in empirical psychological studies, “unless it is followed by one or two notions, signifiers or keywords that frame what is meant in a specific setting; whether in a questionnaire or clinical environment,” and unless it is defined in a precise and accurate way. This implies that research on the concept of spirituality cannot be limited to the *emic* term ‘spirituality’, but should include the *etic* term as well. The proposed research’s objective is exactly such an analysis and evaluation of the various *etic* conceptualizations of spirituality.

3.2.3 Projects related to the second period of RaT

Main joint projects of the whole platform

a. Rethinking Europe (with)out religion

Project leadership: Kurt Appel

Participants: Ednan Aslan, Christian Danz, Isabella Guanzini, Hans Gerald Hödl, Gerhard Langer, Rudolf Langthaler, Rüdiger Lohlker, Regina Polak, Richard Potz, Sieglinde Rosenberger, Kristina Stöckl

Cooperation partners: Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, Facoltà teologica

Projects related to RaT II

Main joint projects:
Rethinking Europe
with(out) Religion

dell'Italia Settentrionale, Marmara University, Northwestern University, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies Geneva, University of Münster, Fatih University Istanbul, NTNU Trondheim, University of Warsaw, lecturers and institutions present at the final congress.

Duration: starting with the prolongation of the platform

Contents:

The issue of religion's contribution to a possible new vision of Europe is the common thread that runs throughout the platform's work. The final congress organized at the end of the first funding period will both summarize research results of the past three years and mark the transition to a second period dedicated to deepening the understanding of this subject. The focus is on the question of how genuine forms of knowledge and religious convictions may reshape the intellectual landscape of Europe. This raises the issue of whether the European humanist perspective that finds expression in the idea of human rights, the (albeit precarious) social contract and the (equally eroding) basic democratic consensus is additionally jeopardized by religious validity claims or if, on the contrary, religion can inspire a new culture of acknowledgement and offer alternative sources of meaning beyond the destructive forms of consumerism.

Related questions concern both Europe's and religion's ability to practice pluralism, as well as the configurations of what has often been described as the post-secular age. Does secularization, in this context, amount to considering human beings, economy and society as mere mechanical objects, or does it 'humanize' the sacred with a view to human dignity? Can this dignity, in turn, be separated from any transcendent dimension (yet to be determined) that prevents humanity from being fitted into the paradigm of complete determinability and availability? Do the traditional, institutionalized forms of religious communities still provide places where this transcendence can be experienced?

This raises the issue of a new spirituality capable of a new approach towards nature, as well as the question whether a new perception of the humane is required, especially in respect of the immigration flows, a reception which reaches far beyond what sufficed until now in relatively stable homogenous cultural-religious traditions.

Another important issue concerns the subject area 'religion and law' that deals with the increasingly complex challenges to our legal and judicial system, not only with regard to religion but also to the loss of traditional social consensus. The common acceptance of human values can no longer be tacitly assumed but

has to be regained in the light of economic coercions (be it real or ideological) and their often devastating social consequences (youth unemployment, etc.), the extreme tendency towards individualization and the arrival of new demographic groups whose life situation renders them particularly vulnerable.

The first milestone of the second period in respect to this joint research topic is an internal congress of the platform (but inviting partners of the University of Frankfurt), including the post-docs and young researchers, to respond to the results of the final congress and to present new research considerations. The results of this congress will be published and subsequently be enlarged upon in workshops and concrete third-party funded projects drawn up (FWF, Österreichischer Zukunftsfond, Doc-team). On the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World-War in 2014, a follow-up project will debate the contribution of religion(s) (from the Christian, Jewish, Muslim and secular point of view) to the issue of a new *civitas*.

b. Mapping religions in Vienna II

Thematic area: Inclusion and exclusion

Project leader: Hans Gerald Hödl

Participation and cooperation: Edmund Aslan, Astrid Mattes, Regina Polak, Simon Steinbeiss, Wolfram Reiss

International cooperation partners: Lukas Pokorny (University of Aberdeen), Martin Baumann (ZRWG)

Funding: Staatssekretariat für Integration, Zukunftsfond der Republik Österreich, Hochschuljubiläumsstiftung der Stadt Wien

Duration: started in January 2013.

Content: Currently the database currently holds more than 800 entries and thus covers the majority of religious institutions and places in Vienna. In a next step, Hans Gerald Hödl and his team shall expand this data set. At the same time, the main target of the project shifts from collecting basic data to building on the results of the first stage through further research and analysis. The next stage of the project focuses on creating brief descriptive articles on the individual religious communities and their underlying traditions. This entails literature research as well as getting in touch with the communities listed in the database in order to write scientific encyclopaedia-style descriptions. These articles are disseminated to the general public via the website that currently shows the results of the research project. At the moment the data collected by the project assistants in the first stage is presented in the form of an interactive map based on Google Maps. This concept will be expanded and a list view will help make

Mapping religions in
Vienna

the data more accessible by offering proper filter and sorting mechanisms. As the search function was an ancillary item in the first stage of the project and is therefore somewhat rudimentary, it will be improved to support natural (ethnic) language search.

c. Nine-Eleven - A scientific turning point?

Project leader: Sieglinde Rosenberger

Participation and cooperation: Kurt Appel, Christian Danz, Astrid Mattes, Richard Potz.

Content:

The events of 11 September 2001 strongly influenced and changed research in both social sciences and religious studies; many regard it as a turning point. After Nine-Eleven, religion is being focussed on again in different complementary fields of research: for political science (1) the terrorist acts of Nine-Eleven and their global political effects have initiated a renewed debate on international relations, wars and conflicts. Since Nine-Eleven, religious studies (2) have contributed to this change by questioning the politicization, violence and fundamentalism in religions, thus clearly showing an interest in political issues. The theological discourse (3) identifies Nine-Eleven as a turning point, which evoked new reflections and discussions of global ethical and interreligious concepts.

Nine-Eleven can thus be understood as a turning point in the social sciences as well as in religious studies and in the interreligious dialogue – but a turning point of what? To what extent could this turning point only be a construct of these three research fields - with what kind of consequences in terms of revised problem interpretations, challenges and issues? Are there any differences or similarities in the analysis of the situation? Do these events mark a transition from the idea of a ‘melting pot’ towards new necessities in the discourse of acknowledgement? At this point the trans- and interdisciplinary self-reflection of the sciences involved should explore the importance of the terrorist attacks of Nine-Eleven, both for the specific discipline and across disciplines in order to better understand their implications and consequences for scientific debates.

Further research projects affiliated to RaT

d. Effects of governmental incorporation conditions on the religious orientation of young Muslim and young Orthodox Christians in Austria and Switzerland (DACH)

Thematic area: Inclusion and exclusion

Nine-Eleven – A scientific turning point?

Further research projects affiliated with RaT:

DACH project

Project leader: Gerald Hödl (RaT)

Participation and cooperation: Regina Polak, Wolfram Reiss, Astrid Reiss

International cooperation partners: Martin Baumann (ZRWG), Andreas Tunger-Zanetti (ZRWG).

Funding: DACH (FWF, SNF, DFG).

Content: The project explores the religiosity of Muslims and Orthodox Christians in youth groups in Austria and Switzerland. Religious governance in these two countries is very different: since Islam and Christian Orthodoxy are officially recognized as religious communities by the state of Austria, they can both offer confessional religious education in public schools and benefit from better financial facilities for religious associations. In Switzerland they are neither officially recognized by the state nor do they receive any financial support for the activities of religious youth groups. These differences in the external conditions influence the form of religiosity, both on an individual level and in youth groups. Furthermore, a key factor for religious orientation of young Muslims and Orthodox Christians are religious authorities, since their acceptance or denial is essential for the identification with or the refusal of a religious position. The research project focuses on the following questions: (1) Which religious authorities and institutions do Muslim and Christian Orthodox young people accept? (2) How do they receive religious content and translate it into their life? (3) How do they approach both traditional institutions and famous representatives of religious pop culture? (4) How do different incorporation conditions in Austria and Switzerland influence the religiosity of young people? (5) How does the public discourse about the two religions determinate the position of young people? (6) Which predictions about the future development of religious communities can be made? The research project takes existing field studies about Orthodox and Muslim youth groups as a starting point and investigates a selection of four Orthodox and four Muslim youth groups from different parts in Austria and Switzerland. It demands a qualitative approach, i.e. interviews with youth groups as well as biographic interviews with individual participants. A quantitative element (questionnaire) is added.

e. Cultural and religious diversity as a challenge for penal institutions

Thematic area: Inclusion and exclusion

Project leader: Wolfram Reiss

Participation and cooperation: Hans Gerald Hödl, Richard Potz

Funding: FWF

Cultural and religious diversity as a challenge for penal institutions

Duration: If approved, the project will run from June 2014-2016.

Content: The long-term and interdisciplinary research project in cooperation with the ministry of justice aims to (a) document different approaches in dealing with cultural and religious diversity for penal institution in an international comparison, (b) to develop practical recommendations for granting religious freedom and for mentoring in prisons. The research project could be of international significance far beyond Austria. The project is based on the doctoral theses of seven students and their supervising tutors (i.e. Wolfram Reiss, Richard Potz and Gerald Hödl): 1.) Support of Muslim prisoners in Germany and Switzerland. 2.) The observance of religious dietary laws and bans in prisons. 3.) Russians and Serbs as independent groups in penal institutions. 4.) Younger religious communities in prisons. 5.) Buddhist meditation in penal institutions. 6.) The Naikan method in prisons: basic organizational and architectural conditions for intercultural and interreligious support.

f. Convivence and diversity: the contribution of Christian migration parishes to plurality and difference in Vienna

Thematic area: Inclusion and exclusion

Project leader: Regina Polak

Cooperation partners: Caroline Bergmann, Hans Gerald Hödl, Sieglinde Rosenberger, Staatssekretariat für Integration.

Funding: FWF and a private German foundation.

Duration: May 2014 to May 2018.

Content: Lately Christian migration parishes in Central and Eastern Europe have become an issue of research for both practical theology and social sciences. Neither Christian churches nor society have really become aware of them. However, it is a fact that, especially in European cities like London and Hamburg, Christian migration parishes represent the majority of Christians. At the same time, they contribute to transformation processes, to pluralisation and to diversification, in the field of religion and to the globalization of European Christianity. Current studies show the contribution of religious communities to the social capital of social integration and to the way of living together in diversity. On the other side, there are tendencies towards exclusion and self-marginalization, especially in the context of xenophobia and racism. The project analyses the contribution of Christian migration parishes for living together in diversity and difference (convivence). It is based on the hermeneutics of Theo Sundermeier's model of convivence, which will be developed further at a meso-level and applied to practical theology by Regina Polak. The project explores

Convivence and
Diversity

five parishes by asking the following questions: (1) What kind of social, political and cultural potential exists in Christian migration parishes? (2) Which factors support, which factors constrain the realization of this potential? (3) What is the role of religion in this process? (4) How can these potentials be supported?

g. Gender and religion

Thematic area: Inclusion and exclusion

Project leader: Birgit Sauer

Participants: Birgit Heller, Marianne Grohmann,

Cooperation: Gender Research Office at the University of Vienna.

Funding: FWF or Austrian Academy of Sciences (two doctoral students).

Content: The research project focuses on the hermeneutical and analytical category of gender within the research field of religion. Lately the dualistic anthropological concepts in the three Abrahamic religions have been discussed in conferences and publications, both in political science and in religious studies. The research project investigates the social consequences of the religion-based dualistic anthropology in different research fields, i.e. in (1) political science and (2) religious studies. (1) Birgit Sauer explores the influence of religion-based gender constructions in state and society today. Since the 17th century the modern state has emerged from both the dissociation and the conflict with the church. At the same time it has acquired fundamental structures of legitimacy from the church. A gender dualism based in religion or partially on ontology is still emphasized today. Women are being assigned to the private sphere, men to the public domain, with the state being assigned to the public (male) and religion to the (female) domain at the same time. Based on the analysis of historical and contemporary key texts on the relationship between religion, secularism and gender equality, this project investigates the accuracy of this dualism. (2) Birgit Heller explores the religiosity of women and men by means of healthcare. According to modern empirical sociological and psychological studies, women have significantly higher scores on the various dimensions of religion (self-assessment, individual practice, active social participation). Are women more religious than men? Even more interesting than this question are the reasons that are given for the supposedly greater religiosity of women (e.g. the socio-psychological differences between the sexes, traditional gender roles and historical-cultural developments, biblical texts). The research project analyses and compares these statements.

Gender and religion

h. A language for Islam's scientific communication in a German-speaking context

Thematic area: Reception of religious texts, conceptions of God and critique of religion

Project leader: Rüdiger Lohlker

Participants: Ednan Aslan

Cooperation partners: Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, Institut für Studien der Kultur und Religion des Islam (Fachbereich Sprach- und Kulturwissenschaften)

Funding: Fritz-Thyssen-Foundation. The research team will consist of two project groups (2 post-docs, 4 pre-docs).

Duration: October 2013 to October 2016.

Content: The project develops a German terminology for Islam's scientific communication by taking the following steps: (1) Compilation of a corpus of Islamic texts, translated into German by the different disciplines of Islamic science. (2) Compilation of a dictionary of instances based on the existing translations and on condition that the polysemy is preserved. (3) Establishment of a database in connection with the internet dictionary Frontend, presented via an internet platform. (4) The internet platform can then be used for further collaborative development of a scientific terminology of Islam.

i. Nietzsche as religious figure. A contribution to a European history of religion

Thematic area: Reception of religious texts, conceptions of God and critique of religion

Project leader: Gerald Hödl

Cooperation: Kurt Appel

Funding: FWF

Content: After the completion of the commentary on Nietzsche's *Jugendschriften*, Gerald Hödl, together with the Nietzsche Foundation Naumburg, will continue his work on Nietzsche in 2014. Based on Nietzsche's writings at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century documented in the Documentation Center Naumburg, he will investigate Nietzsche's role as a critic of religion with regard to new and antireligious movements at the time.

4. Teaching activities

In the second period the platform will also put an emphasis on teaching. In

A language for
Islam's scientific
communication in a
German speaking
context

Nietzsche as
religious figure

Teaching activities

addition to the main research topics, **research seminars** will be held that are partly conceived as **interdisciplinary**, including lectures each semester within the topical context of the platform. They will be announced on the homepage of the platform. A contribution to the research-guided teaching is given with the **seminars of the doctoral students**, in which young researchers can deepen the topics of the platform. **Lectures held by young researchers** of the platform (some jointly and interdisciplinarily) have proved especially successful. Therefore an **interdisciplinary seminar of the post- and pre-docs** will be held at least once a year in the second cycle of the platform to address theoretical concepts of religion and Europe.

5. Promotion of young researchers

In the second period of RaT the promotion of young researchers is expanded by **reinforced efforts to attract third-party funding for projects**. Post-docs and pre-docs will be fully integrated in the activities of RaT. The platform participates in the Vienna University **call for doctoral programmes** and at the **ÖAW Doc-team** (Austrian Academy of Sciences). It will consider a joint **doctoral course at the FWF** (Austrian Science Fund). Once a year the post-docs and the young researchers organize a **symposium** to present the state of research in their current papers and may invite other **young researches from abroad** as well as **international experts** to provide an external response. An important instrument for the scientific promotion of young researchers is the supervision of theses and papers. At present there is an increasing number of enquiries from all over the world to participate in RaT in the form of a PhD project. The collaboration among RaT members also provides broad exchange and valuable assistance for post-docs and young researchers. In its second period, the platform will put the focus on the **possibility for young researchers to publish** some of their papers in international (peer-reviewed) journals.

6. Public relations

During the second period the platform will make secure its public visibility with one or more **scientific presentations** per year. On the **100th anniversary of the outbreak of the first World War in 2014**, a symposium will be held, in which the contributions of religion(s) to the issue of a new civitas will be discussed (from the Christian, Jewish, Muslim and secular point of view; Jewish and Muslim representatives will engage in a dialogue). In 2014/2015 this will be

Promotion of young researchers

Public relations

followed with a public presentation of the project **Mapping Religions** (in cooperation with the Austrian broadcasting service ORF) and in 2015 with a **public congress** of the related project **Convivence and Diversity: The Contribution of Christian Migration Parishes to Plurality and Difference in Vienna**. In 2016 the **final congress of the platform** will be organized to present research results of ‘Rethinking Europe with(out) Religion’ and the other main projects. In the second period the platform remains a **forum for interreligious dialogue** and will use its contacts with political and religious leaders – to be further expanded - for topical meetings to react to **current public and political issues**. Annual **newsletters** sent out to members and to the scientific community, as well as the **homepage** have proved to be valuable for the public relation activities of RaT. Should the life of the platform be extended, the newsletter will be published biannually.

7. International cooperation

During the first three years of its existence, RaT could establish international contacts to numerous individuals and institutions in various countries throughout Europe (for a selection of the institutions, see I.5). In the second period of RaT, some of these contacts will be intensified and bilateral projects will be further developed, e.g. with the **Goethe University of Frankfurt/Main** (project ‘Rethinking Europe with(out) Religion’) and with the **Center for Religion, Economy and Politics (ZRWG)** of the University of Basel, Lausanne, Lucerne and Zurich (project ‘Effect of Governmental Incorporation on the Religious Orientation of Young Muslims and Young Orthodox Christians in Austria and Switzerland’). The cooperation with the **IWM** in Vienna will also be deepened. Contacts with **Anglo-Saxon countries** will be systematically developed by cooperating with Lukas Pokorny (University of Aberdeen, as part of the project ‘Mapping Religions’. Contacts at institutional level will generally be intensified (development of bilateral projects with scientific institutions) and will complement the personal level. For the scientific book series ‘RaT’ an **international advisory board** will be established, which also will demonstrate and deepen the international partnerships.

8. Dissemination strategy

The scientific **book series of RaT** will be continued. The informal board of peer reviewers will be turned into an official scientific board advising the publishers.

International cooperation

Dissemination strategy

There are plans afoot to establish a **biannually online-journal** (peer-reviewed) of the platform, which may serve as an additional trademark. Current signs are promising because of financial support offered by the FWF. This online journal with the platform's title can complement the series and shall be edited by the head of the platform in collaboration with an international scientific board.

9. Schedule

Summer term 2013	Rethinking Europe with(out) Religion II	Publication Religion and Migration	Homepage update	
Winter term 2013/14	Publication congress „Rethinking Europe with(out) Religion I“	Interdisciplinary course „Rethinking Europe with(out) Religion I	DACH project	Establishment of RaT online journal
	Publication Religion and Europe		Cultural and religious diversity as a challenge for penal institutions	
	Publication Legal Challenges		Convivence and diversity	
Summer term 2014	100 th anniversary World War I: The Contribution of religion(s) to a new Civitas	Research course 9/11 project	A language for Islam's scientific communication in a German-speaking context	Gender and religion
			International emerging scholars meeting I (with experts)	Nietzsche as religious figure. A contribution to a European history of religion
Winter term 2014/15	RaT online journal I	Mapping religion in Vienna project	Interdisciplinary course: Rethinking Europe with(out) Religion II	Rethinking Europe ÖAW Doc Team / FWF Sonderforschungsbereich
Summer term 2015	Convivence and Diversity	International emerging scholars meeting I (with experts)		
Winter term 2015/16	RaT online journal II	Interdisciplinary course: Rethinking Europe with(out) Religion III		
Febr-Mar 2016	Final congress			

Third-party funding

Congress

Teaching

Emerging scholars

Publication

Public relations

10. Administrative and financial resources

At the moment RaT employs one post-doc (75%, 30 hours), one pre-doc (75%, 30 hours) and one secretary (25%, 10 hours). In the second period, speaker and deputy speaker should be supported by two post-docs, each from disciplines considered to be the main pillars of the platform. Theology, religious studies, philosophy of religion, on the one hand; political sciences, sociology and law, on the other. It is essential to increase one post-doc post from currently 75% to 100%, to manage the platform. In the light of the enormous workload of the first period, the second post-doc post must be increased 50% (equivalent to one pre-doc) to 75%. Again a secretary is needed for the platform (25%, 10 hours). See financial calculation below:

Administrative and financial resources

Two post-docs

Secretary

1. Personnel costs (incl. DGA*, index-adjusted/ according to KV*)					
Position	Hours/Week	2013 (9 months)	2014 (12 months)	2015 (12 months)	2016 (3 months)
Post-doc	40	43.826,83	62.418,07	64.290,61	16.554,83
Post-doc	30	32.870,12	46.813,55	48.217,96	12.416,12
Secretary	10	8203,68	10.638,04	10.957,18	2821,47
Student assistant	10 (5 month)	3.372,12	3.473,29	3.577,49	-
Total/Year	-	88.272,75	123.343,28	127.043,24	31.792,42
Total personnel costs		EUR 370.451,69			

2. Materials				
Materials	2013	2014	2015	2016
Computing (Notebook)	1.000	-	-	-
Office supplies	300	400	400	100
Flyers/Posters print	400	500	500	200
Publication costs	3.000	5.000	5.000	3.000
RaT online journal	3.000	-	-	-
Translation	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Total/Year	9.700	6.900	6.900	4.300
Total material costs		EUR 27.800		

3. Travel				
Travel	2013	2014	2015	2016
Travel expenses post-docs	1.500	2.000	2.000	1.000
Travel expenses of cooperation partners	2.000	3.000	3.000	1.000
Travel expenses for internal workshops	2.000	2.000	2.000	-
Total/Year	5.500	7.000	7.000	2.000
Total travel costs		EUR 21.500		

*Abbreviations:

DGA Dienstgeberanteil (employer's social security contributions)

KV Kollektivvertrag (collective labour agreement)

Summary

The activities and achievements of RaT should of course be taken as work in progress. However, we want to stress that the broad range of networking activities and the establishment of an interdisciplinary research agenda realized in the course of the last three years have to be appreciated against the background of modest infrastructure and resources. The pleasure to expand one's own academic reasoning, to contribute to comprehensive findings on religion and society, and the opportunity to provide a forum for scholarly exchange to young and not so young scientists have been a valuable reward for the effort invested so far. In sum, these are major reasons and motivations to apply for a second stage and thus for the continuation of RaT.

Summary

Appendices

Appendix A: RaT activities 2010-2013

Date	Activity	Speakers	Title
2013			
20.- 23.2.2013	International congress	ABBAS Tahir BUSEK Erhard CHARIM Isolde KLOC-KONKOLOWICZ Jakub LAFONT Cristina NERI Marcello POLLACK Detlef RAMET Sabrina P. RIESEBRODT Martin SCHMIDT Thomas M. SCHNURBEI VON Katharina	“Rethinking Europe with(out) Religion”
2012			
21.11.2012	Research symposium of the subgroup “Legal challenges in multi-religious societies in Europe”	LORETAN Adrian	„Zwei Seiten einer Medaille? Zum Verhältnis von positiver und negativer Religionsfreiheit“
14.11.2012		WEIGELIN-SCHWIEDRZIK Susanne	„Religion und Moderne in der Volksrepublik China: Erkundungen zur Wiederbelebung der traditionellen Volksreligionen im ländlichen China“
27.6.2012		VERWEYEN Hansjürgen	„Christentum in der Herausforderung gegenwärtiger Kultur“
21.6.2012	Inauguration lecture	APPEL Kurt	„Christentum als Projekt eines Neuen Humanismus. Theologisch-Geschichtsphilosophische Erwägungen“
20.6.2012		WENZEL Knut	„Theologie der Säkularisierung“
29.5.2012	Research symposium	DEMIRI Leijla FELDTKELLER Andreas HOPING Helmut KARIMI Milad	„Muhammad Al-Ghazali: Wider die Gottheit Christi. Ein Streitgespräch zwischen christlicher und islamischer Theologie“
21.5.2012	Workshop		“Day of emerging scholars“
24.1.2012	Public debate	BÜNKER Michael DURA Nicolae HOFMEISTER Schlomo SCHEUER Manfred SEJDINI Zekirija	„Religionen für Europa. Welchen Beitrag können Religionen für das Projekt Europa leisten?“
19.1.2012		TAYLOR Charles	“Secularity and the Future of Christianity. Cooperation with IWM and the Faculty of Roman Catholic Theology“
18.1.2012		NERI Marcello	„Gottes Sein ist zerbrechlich – Dem leiblichen Gott nachdenken / Zerstreuung ohne Sammlung – Marginalität des Christlichen und die Zukunft Europas“
2011			
17.-19.11. 2011	Research symposium of the subgroup “Critique of religion and conceptions of God” (Cooperation with “Società Forum für	CARTERWOOD John ERTL Johann SZTAJER Slawomir WAGNER-TSUKAMOTO Sigmund	„Dem Kaiser, was Gottes ist? Religion und Kapitalismus?“

	Ethik, Kunst und Recht")		
10.11.2011	Research symposium of the subgroup "Constructs of meaning and values in Europe"	COELEN Marcus ENSSLIN Felix RASCHKE Carl	„Lacan und Luther: Symbolische Ordnung – verborgene Abgründe“
4.11.2011	Research symposium of the subgroup "Inclusion and exclusion" (Cooperation with the "Österreichische Forschungsförderung für internationale Entwicklung")	MARTIKAINEN Tuomas	„Geteilte Welten. Werte – Demokratie – Religion in der Migrationsgesellschaft. Ein Kommentar zur Europäischen Wertestudie“
20.10.2011	Conference		„ZUKUNFT. WERTE. EUROPA. Die europäische Wertestudie 1990-2010“
14.10.2011- 17.01.2012	Lecture series (platform staff)	ARNAUTOVIC Samir DUX Günter FERRY Jean Marc GERSON Daniel HODZIC Dzevad NERI Marcello POHL Walter WOHLRAB-SAHR Monika	„Religion und Europa. Eine konfliktreiche Beziehung“
13.- 15.10.2011	Conference (whole platform staff; cooperation with the "Europäisches Institut für interkulturelle und interreligiöse Forschung" in Liechtenstein)	IMHOF Kurt MATHWIG Frank MOOS Thorsten PAHUD DE MORTANGES René RAISER Konrad WEILERT Katharina	„Kruzifix und Minarett: Religion im Fokus der Öffentlichkeit“
14.6.2012		CASANOVA José	„Religion in Modernity as global Challenge“
8.6.2011	Research symposium of the subgroup "Critique of religion and conceptions of God"	STRASSER Peter	„Religiosität ohne Glauben?“
7.6.2011	Research symposium of the subgroup "Inclusion and exclusion" (cooperation with the research platform "Migration and integration research")	BAUMANN Martin	„Im(migration), Religion und Gemeinschaft. Religion als Ressource und Konfliktpotential“
27.5.2011	Research symposium of the extended subgroup "Reception and hermeneutics of religious texts"		„Religion übersetzen. – Translating Religion. Übersetzungen und Textrezeption als Phänomen der Inkulturation und Transformation von Religion“
19.- 20.5.2011	Research symposium of the subgroup "Critique of religion and conceptions of God"	DÖRFLINGER Bernd	„Eine neue Religionsauffassung im Licht einer älteren. Habermas und Kant“
11.5.2011	Symposium (cooperation with the „Institut für Religion und Frieden“)	BSTEH Petrus FREISTETTER Werner GRABUS Nedžad STADLER Christian	„Vom ‚christlichen Abendland‘ zum ‚Europa der vielen Religionen‘“?

14.4.2011		HENNIGFELD Jochen	„Die Überwindung tragischer Freiheit in Resignation und Glaube. Schelling und Kierkegaard“
25.- 26.3.2011	Workshop of the subgroup “Inclusion and exclusion”		“Mapping Religions in Central Europe”
17.- 18.3.2011	Opening conference (whole platform staff)	BRUCKSTEIN Almut HVIDT Niels Christian MINKENBERG Michael SCHNÄDELBACH Herbert SUTTERLÜTY Ferdinand TORFS Rik	„Religion in Europa heute“
9.3.2011		NEISSER Heinrich	„Die Theorie der ‚Politischen Religionen‘ in Eric Voegelins Denken“
9.3.- 10.6.2011	Lecture series (extended platform staff)	BÜNKER Michael CEYLAN Rauf FELDMEIER Reinhard GMAINER-PRANZL Franz KÄSSMANN Margot LANDAU Michael SCHWEITZER Friedrich STRUPPE Ursula YASARA Aysun	„Religion und Gemeinschaft. Die Frage der Integration aus christlicher und muslimischer Perspektive“
28.2.2011	Research symposium of the subgroup “Critique of religion and conceptions of God”	HÖHN Hans-Joachim	„Befremden: Die Rede von Gott in postsäkularer Kultur“
10.1.2011- 23.1.2012	Interdisciplinary seminar		„Grundlagentexte des europäischen Religionsdiskurses“
2010			
23.- 24.11.2010	Workshop of the subgroup „Inclusion and exclusion“	SCHNEIDER-STENGEL Detlev	„Moscheen – Zwischen Heimat, Dialog und Herausforderungen. Der Umgang mit dem Fremden“
16.11.2010	Research symposium of the subgroup „Inclusion and exclusion“	SUTTERLÜTY Ferdinand	„Zur Bedeutung religiöser Zugehörigkeiten und Identitäten“
19.10.2010	Workshop of the subgroup “Reception and hermeneutics of religious texts“		
7.-10.10. 2010	Congress of the subgroup “Critique of religion and conceptions of God” (cooperation with „Deutsche Paul-Tillich-Gesellschaft“)		„Paul Tillichs Theologie der Kultur. Aspekte – Probleme – Perspektiven“
13.7.2010		BAHR Hans-Dieter	„Die Sprache des Gastes“

Appendix B: Further RaT Publications 2010-2013

For a list of the volumes of the book series “Religion and Transformation in Contemporary European Society” see I.4.2

Monographs

DEIBL, Jakob Helmut: *Menschwerdung und Schwächung. Annäherung an ein Gespräch mit Gianni Vattimo*. Mit einem Vorwort von Gianni Vattimo (=RaT 4), Göttingen 2013. (*in print*)

ELMAZ, Orhan: *Studien zu den koranischen Hapaxlegomena unikaler Wurzeln* (Jenaer Beiträge zum Vorderen Orient 8), Harrasowitz Verlag, Wiesbaden 2011.

GUANZINI, Isabella: *L'origine et l'inizio*. Hans Urs von Balthasar eMassimo Cacciari, Edizione philosophica ETS, Milano 2012

HEINE, Susanne / Lohlker, Rüdiger / Potz, Richard: *Muslime in Österreich. Geschichte – Lebenswelt - Religion, Grundlagen für den Dialog*, Innsbruck/Wien 2012.

HÖDL, Hans Gerald / FUTTERKNECHT, Veronika (Hrsg.): *Religionen nach der Säkularisierung*. Festschrift für Johann Figl zum 65. Geburtstag (Schriftenreihe der Österreichischen Gesellschaft für Religionswissenschaft Bd. 4), Wien 2010.

HÖDL, Hans Gerald: *Der letzte Jünger des Philosophen Dionysos. Studien zur systematischen Bedeutung von Nietzsches Selbstthematizierungen im Kontext seiner Religionskritik* (MTNF 54), Berlin/New York 2009.

KASIRI, Hamid: *Theologie des Herzens. Erfahrung der Anwesenheit Gottes im Islam* (Islam 21 Bd. I), Wien 2012.

LANGTHALER, Rudolf: *Zwischen hoffnungslosigkeit und dogmatischem Trotz. Geschichte, Ethik, Religion im Ausgang von Kant*, Akademie Verlag, Berlin 2013 (*in print*)

LOHLKER Rüdiger: *Online Discourses and Representations*, Göttingen 2013.

LOHLKER, Rüdiger: *Islamisches Recht* (Reihe Islamica Band 4), Frankfurt 2011.

POLAK, Regina: *Mission in Europa? Auftrag - Herausforderung – Risiko* (Spiritualität und Seelsorge Bd. 4), Innsbruck 2012.

POLAK, Regina (Hg.): *Zukunft. Werte. Europa. Die europäische Wertestudie 1990-2010. Österreich im Vergleich*, Wien/Köln/Weimar 2011.

ATAÇ, Ilker / ROSENBERGER, Sieglinde (Hg.): *Politik der Inklusion und Exklusion*, Göttingen 2013.

Rosenberger, Sieglinde/Sauer, Birgit (Hg.): *Politics, Religion and Gender. Framing and regulating the veil*, London/New York 2011.

SIQUANS, Agnethe: Die alttestamentlichen Prophetinnen in der patristischen Rezeption. Texte - Kontexte – Hermeneutik (Herders Biblische Studien 65), Freiburg im Breisgau/Wien 2011.

WESTERINK, Herman: The Heart of Man's Destiny. Lacanian Psychoanalysis and Early Reformation Thought (Psychoanalytic Explorations 1), New York/London 2012.

Articles

APPEL, Kurt: Christentum als Sicht eines Neuen Humanismus. Geschichtstheologisch-Geschichtsphilosophische Erwägungen im Ausgang von Bibel, Hegel und Musil, Milano 2013 (*forthcoming publication*)

APPEL, Kurt: Die Gabe des Gastes, in: Irrgang, U. / Baum, W. (Hg.), Die Wahrheit meiner Gewissheit suchen. Theologie vor dem Forum der Wirklichkeit. Festschrift Albert Franz, Echter Verlag 2012, 13-24.

APPEL, Kurt / KAISLER, Rudolf: Europas Herausforderung, in: Stimmen der Zeit 1/2013, 55-57.

APPEL, Kurt: Die Bildung Europas und ihre religiösen Implikationen, in: Gerl-Falkovitz, H. -B. / Kaufmann, R. / Sepp, H.R. (Hg.), Die Bildung Europas. Eine Topographie des Möglichen im Horizont der Freiheit, Dresden 2012, 25-35.

APPEL, Kurt: „Nur in der Geschichte der Zeugen kann Gott in seinem Christus geschichtlich wahr werden“. Die messianische Gemeinschaft und der Homo sacer im Zeugnis von Giorgio Agamben und Johann Reikerstorfer, in: Appel, K. / Metz, J.B. / Tück, J.-H. (Hg.), Dem Leiden ein Gedächtnis geben. Thesen zu einer anamnetischen Christologie. Festschrift Reikerstorfer (Wiener Forum für Theologie und Religionswissenschaft 4), Göttingen 2012, 281-301.

APPEL, Kurt: Il ritorno filosofico di Paolo: una sfida per l'universalismo cristiano, in: Angelini, G. / Brambilla, F.G. / Sequeri, P. (Hg.), Cristianesimo e occidente: quale futuro immaginabile? (Disputatio 21), Milano 2011, 69-91.

APPEL, Kurt: Die Zeit und das Ereignis des Gastes, in: Arens, E., Zeit, Lebenszeit, Ewigkeit (QD 234), Freiburg u.a. 2010, 101-115.

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DANZ, Christian: Religiöse Identität und gesellschaftliche Integration. Zur Funktion von Religion in gesellschaftlichen Inklusions- und Exklusionsprozessen, in: Rothgangel, Martin / Aslan, Ednan / Jäggel, Martin: Religion und Gemeinschaft. Die Frage der Integration aus christlicher und muslimischer Perspektive (RaT 3), Göttingen 2013, 33-47.

DANZ, Christian: Religion zwischen Öffentlichkeit und Privatheit. Zur Deutung der Religion in der Moderne: in: Danz, Christian / Ritter, André (Hg.), Zwischen Kruzifix und Minarett. Religion im Fokus der Öffentlichkeit, Münster 2012, 157-168.

DANZ, Christian: Eine protestantische Theologie der Religionen? Die dogmatische Dimension des Dialogs, in: Hauschild, F. (Hg.), Dialog der Religionen. Grundlegende theologische Aspekte, praktische Erfahrungen und offene Fragen (Kirchliches Jahrbuch für die Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland 2004/2005, 131./132. Jahrgang), Gütersloh 2011, 40-60.

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Appendix C: RaT Press review 2010-2013

- Congress announcement 'Rethinking Europe with(out) Religion' in religion.orf.at (7.11.2012):
<http://religion.orf.at/stories/2557824/>
- *Falter* interview 'Am Apparat' with Sieglinde Rosenberger (2.7.2012)
<http://rutheisenreich.wordpress.com/2012/02/07/frau-rosenberger-sind-alle-osterreicher-rassisten-telefonkolumne/>
- Research colloquium with Charles Taylor (uni:view, 19.6.2012)
- Austrian Broadcasting report on the research project 'Mapping Religions in Vienna' (Ö1, Praxis, 30.5.2012)
- Austrian Broadcasting report on the research project 'Mapping Religions in Vienna' (Ö1, Religion aktuell, 14.5.2012)
- Austrian Broadcasting report on the research project 'Mapping Religions in Vienna' (religion.ORF.at 19.4.2012):
http://religionv1.orf.at/projekt03/news/1204/ne120419_kartographie.html
- Report on the public debate 'Religionen für Europa. Welchen Beitrag können Religionen für das Projekt Europa leisten?' (religion.ORF.at 25.1.2012):
http://religionv1.orf.at/projekt03/news/1201/ne120125_diskussion.html
- Report on the contribution of Paul Nolte to the lecture series ("Religion und Europa: eine konfliktreiche Beziehung": "Wozu noch Religion in Europa?") (religion.ORF.at 19.1.2012)
http://religionv1.orf.at/projekt03/news/1201/ne120119_nolte2.html
- FM4 interview with Sieglinde Rosenberger about the *Europäische Wertestudie* (18.1.2012)
http://medienservicestelle.at/migration_bewegt/2012/01/17/migrantinnen-in-osterreich-besonders-unerwünscht/
- Interview with José Casanova in *Die Furche* after his lecture for RaT (Die Furche, 14.6.2011)
- Report religion.ORF.at on the conference 'Vom 'christlichen Abendland' zum 'Europa der vielen Religionen'?'
http://religionv1.orf.at/projekt03/news/1105/ne110512_symposium_fr.htm
- Interview with Ulrich Körtner about the subgroup 'Reception and hermeneutics of religious texts' (ORF.at (22.4.2011)
<http://science.orf.at/stories/1681651>
- Interview with Herbert Schnädelbach (Opening conference 'Religion in Europa heute') in *Salzburger Nachrichten* (5.4.2011)
<http://search.salzburg.com/articles/17794948?highlight=josef+bruckmoser>
- Report on Herbert Schnädelbach and interview with Kurt Appel and Sighard Neckel about RaT (3.4.2011)
http://religionv1.orf.at/projekt03/tvradio/orientierung/or_110403_fr.htm
- Report on the opening conference 'Religion in Europa heute' in *Salzburger Nachrichten* (22.3.2011)

- Report on the opening conference in *Die Furche* (10.3.2011)
- Report on the opening conference in *Die Presse* (12.2.2011)
http://diepresse.com/home/panorama/religion/633598/Forschungsplattform_Religioeser-Analphabetismus?from=suche.intern.portal
- Report in *Der Standard* about the public debate *Religion im politischen Wertediskurs* (5.11.2010)
<http://derstandard.at/1288659657828/Europaeische-Studie-Religiositaet-entscheidet-nicht-ueber-Stimmverhalten>
- Report of the Catholic Press Agency kipa/acip (15.6.2010)
<http://www.kipa-apic.ch/index.php?pw=kineupa&na=0,0,0,0,d&ki=209102>
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http://religion.orf.at/projekt03/news/1006/ne100615_plattform.htm
- Research newsletter of Vienna University 47 (May 2010)
https://typo3.univie.ac.at/fileadmin/fnl/201005_FNL_Mai.pdf

Appendix D: CVs of RaT members

Kurt APPEL, Speaker of the platform	
1. Personal Information	
Date of birth	28.10.1968
Current Position	Professor of Fundamental Theology, University of Vienna Visiting Professor at the Facoltà teologica dell'Italia Settentrionale, Milano
2. Education	
1988-1998	Studies of Theology, Philosophy, History and German
1998	Master in Theology and Religious Pedagogy
1999	Master in Philosophy
2000	PhD in Philosophy (University of Vienna)
2002	PhD in Theology (University of Vienna)
2002-2005	Studies for the Habilitation in Milano and Vienna
3. Appointments	
2001-2003	Docent for Fundamental Theology at the Faculty of Catholic Theology at St. Pölten
2005	Venia Legendi (Habilitation) in Fundamental Theology
2005	Associate Professor of Fundamental Theology (University of Vienna)
2006	Deputy Head of the Studies Service Center
2008-2009	Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Catholic Theology
2009	Visiting Professor at the Facoltà teologica dell'Emilia Romagna, Bologna
2010-	Visiting Professor at the Facoltà teologica dell'Italia Settentrionale, Milano
2011-	Full Professor of Fundamental Theology (University of Vienna)
4. Professional Activities	
2006-	Member of the Council of "ARGE Dogmatik und Fundamentaltheologie des deutschsprachigen Raumes"
2005-2007	Head of the Research Cluster "Thesis" (Theology, Ethics and Sciences in Society) of the Faculty of Catholic Theology (Vienna)
2006-2007	Head of the Graduate School "Concepts of God and their Ethical Implications"

Sieglinde ROSENBERGER, Deputy speaker of the platform	
1. Personal Information	
Date of birth	21.1.1957
Current	Professor of Political Science at the Department of Political Science, University of Vienna

Position	Member of the Senate of the University of Vienna
2. Education	
1977-1982	Studies in Economy and Political Science
1994-1998	PhD, School of Social Science and Economy, University of Innsbruck
3. Appointments	
1988-1996	Associate Professor for Political Science at the University of Innsbruck
1991/92	Research Fellow San Diego State University/CA, Department of Women's Studies (Schrödinger Scholarship funded by the FWF)
1995	Venia Legendi (Habilitation) for Political Science
1996/97	Visiting Professor for Gender Studies at the University of Vienna
1998-	Full Professor of Political Science (University of Vienna)
2003/04	Schumpeter Fellow at the Center for European Studies/Harvard University
2007	Visiting Fellow at the European University Institute/Firenze
4. Professional Activities	
2005-	Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for European History and Public Spheres (Academic Mentor)
2006-	Member of the Senate of the University of Vienna
2006-	Faculty Member of the Graduate School "Vienna School of Governance"
2006-2009	VEIL. Values, Equality and Differences in Liberal Democracies. Debates about Female Muslim Headscarves in Europe. FP 6, Project Coordinator (together with Birgit Sauer)
2006-2009	Attitudes and Expectations of Viennese Pupils with immigration background. Project supported by the City of Vienna. Project Leader (together with Birgit Sauer)
2009-2012	ELECDEM. Training Network in Electoral Democracy. Coordinator
2011-	Politics of Inclusion and Exclusion: Integrationspolitik als Regierungspolitik. Das Staatssekretariat für Integration im Monitoring
2013-2014	INEX. Politics of Inclusion and Exclusion: Giving Voice. Inklusion durch politische Parteien. Project Leader

Christian DANZ, Leading team member	
1. Personal Information	
Date of	28.09.1962

birth	
Current Position	Professor of Systematic Theology Dean of the Faculty of Protestant Theology
2. Education	
1985-1990	Studies in Protestant Theology in Jena
1994	PhD in Theology (University of Jena)
1998-1999	Research fellow at the Faculty of Protestant Theology in Jena
1999	Venia legendi (Habilitation) in Systematic Theology (University of Jena)
3. Appointments	
1999-	Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Protestant Theology in Jena
2000-2002	Professor of Systematic Theology in Essen
2002-	Full Professor of Systematic Theology (University of Vienna)
4. Professional Activities	
2004-2006	Vice-Chairman of the German Paul Tillich Society
2004-	Co-Editor of the International Yearbook for Tillich Research
2006-	Chairman of the German Paul Tillich Society
2006-	Research Associate of the Department of Systematic Theology and Christian Ethics, Faculty of Theology, University of Pretoria (Prof. Dr. Johan Buitendag)
2009-	Member of the Editing Commission of the works of F.W.J.Schelling, Philosophisch-historische Klasse der Bayerischen Akademie der Wissenschaften

Hans Gerald HÖDL, Leading team member	
1. Personal Information	
Date of birth	29.8.1959
Current Position	Associate Professor of Religious Studies Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Catholic Theology Director of the Studies Program of the Faculty of Catholic Theology Deputy Director of the Doctoral Studies Program of the Faculty of Catholic Theology
2. Education	
1979-	Studies in Catholic Theology and Philosophy

1990	
1990	Doctoral thesis in Philosophy and Jewish Studies
2003	Habilitation at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Department of Cultural Studies
3. Appointments	
1989-	Member of the editing staff of the historical-critical edition of Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsches' works
1993-2002	Series of temporary contracts at the Department of Religious Studies
1994-2003	Lecturer at the Department of Christian Philosophy, Faculty of Catholic Theology
1994-1998	Lecturer at the Department of Philosophy, Grund- und Integrativwissenschaftliche Fakultät
1996-	Lecturer and Visiting Professor at the Universities of Dortmund, Szeged, Brno, and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
2002	Associate Professor at the Department of Religious Studies
4. Professional Activities	
1996-2006	Board Member of the deutsche „Nietzsche-Gesellschaft“.
	President of the österreichische „Nietzsche-Gesellschaft“
	Member of the International Ferdinand-Ebner-Society

Richard POTZ, Leading team member	
1. Personal Information	
Date of birth	13.10.1943
Current Position	Professor emer. of Law Head of the Department of Legal Philosophy, Law of Religion and Culture at the Vienna Faculty of Law
2. Education	
1961-1965	Study of Law at the University of Vienna
1965	Dr. iur.
1965-1966	Court practice
1965-1966	Associate Professor at the Institute of Canon and Ecclesiastical Law, University of Vienna, Faculty of Law

1969- 1970	Studies in Thessaloniki, Istanbul and Rome
1972	Habilitation in the subject of Canon Law at the University of Vienna
3. Appointments	
1979-	Ordinary Member of the <i>Austrian Catholic Academy</i>
	Advisor of the <i>Papal Commissio Codici Iuris Canonici Orientalis recognoscendo</i>
	Austrian member of the <i>European Consortium for State and Church Research</i>
1981	Full Professor of Canon and Ecclesiastical Law (University of Vienna)
1984	Director of the Institute for Law and Religion at the Faculty of Law
1997	Visiting Professor in Eskisehir and Ankara
2006- 2010	Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Vienna
4. Professional Activities	
1978-	Co-Editor of the <i>Austrian Archive of Canon Law</i> (since 1999 <i>Austrian Archive for Law and Religion</i>)
1983- 2007	Vice-President of the “ <i>International Society for the Law of the Eastern Churches</i> ”
2001-	Lecturer at the Islamic Pedagogical Academy in Vienna
2001	President of the <i>European Consortium for State and Church Research</i>
	Co-Editor of <i>Kanon (Yearbook of the International Society of the Law of Oriental Churches)</i>
2006-	Ombudsperson of the University of Vienna for Good Scientific Practice
	Cooperation with the “International Christian-Islamic Conferences “ in Vienna („Peace for Humanity” and „One World For All“)
2007- 2011	President of the “ <i>International Society for the Law of the Eastern Churches</i> ”

Extended team (current positions)

ASLAN, Ednan: University Professor of Islamic Pedagogy of Religion, Head of the Department of Islamic Studies

LANGER, Gerhard: University Professor of Jewish Studies, Head of the Department of Jewish Studies

Langthaler, Rudolf: University Professor of Philosophy, Head of the Department of Christian Philosophy

LOHLKER Rüdiger: University Professor at the Department of Near Eastern Studies (Islamic Studies)

POLAK, Regina: Assistant Professor of Theology at the Department of Practical Theology

REISS, Wolfram: University Professor of Religious Studies, Deputy Head of the Department of Systematic Theology and Religious Studies

SAUER, Birgit: University Professor of Political Science at the Department of Political Science, Director of the Doctoral Studies Program Social Sciences

WESTERINK, Herman: Associate Professor for Theology and Psychology of Religion, Deputy Head of the Department of Practical Theology and Psychology of Religion

Team of emerging scholars

BERGHAMMER, Caroline: Assistant Professor at the Department of Sociology, University of Vienna (post-doc)

DEIBL, Helmut Jakob: Assistant Professor at the Department of Systematic Theology, University of Vienna (post Doc)

ELMAZ, Orhan: Arabic - Lecturer at the University of St. Andrews (UK), School of Modern Languages (post-doc)

GUANZINI, Isabella: Coordinator and Teaching Assistant of Aesthetics at the Catholic University Milan (post-doc)

KAISLER, Rudolf: RaT-Manager, Department of Systematic Theology, University of Vienna (pre-doc)

Mattes, Astrid: Research Assistant at the Department of Political Science, University of Vienna (pre-doc)

MIJIC, Ana: Research and Teaching Assistant at the Department of Sociology, University of Vienna. Research Fellow at the IFK Kunstuniversität Linz (pre-doc)

PERMOSER-MOURAO, Julia: Research and Teaching Assistant at the Department of Political Science, University of Vienna. Scientific Partner of the Research Network "Religion at the European Parliament", Université Libre de Bruxelles (post-doc).

ROESNER, Martina: Lise-Meitner-Position at the Department of Systematic Theology, University of Vienna (post-doc).

STEINBEISS, Simon: Pre-Doc at the Department of Religious Studies (Cartography of Religions), University of Vienna.

STÖCKL, Kristina: APART-Position at the Department of Political Science, University of Vienna (post-doc)

WALSER, Angelika: RaT-Manager, Department of Systematic Theology (post-doc)

Cooperation (selection)

GROHMANN, Marianne: University Professor of Old Testament, Head of the Department of Old Testament Studies and Biblical Archaeology, University of Vienna

HELLER, Birgit: Associate Professor of the Study of Religions at the Department of the Study of Religions, University of Vienna

SCHINKELE, Brigitte: Honorary Professor of Law at the Department of Legal Philosophy, Law of Religion and Culture, University of Vienna

Appendix E: Joint statement on a future ‘Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Religion’

One of the main characteristics of the humanities at the University of Vienna is the broad involvement of scholars from different academic disciplines in the study of religion. This joint study of religion establishes valuable connections between different university departments and faculties and encourages co-operative endeavours between renowned academic institutions worldwide. The broad variety of perspectives in the study of religion at the University of Vienna is made evident by the variety of study programmes and cycles that are offered, many of which require further development: introduction of a Bachelor’s degree in Islamic theology; introduction of an Orthodox teaching of religion into the programme for the Master’s degree in Religious Teaching; initiation of the study programme Pedagogic of Religions within the Bachelor Pedagogic of Religion; closer theological cooperation in the PhD programme Advanced Theological Studies.

As regards the institutions involved, there is currently the Faculty of Catholic Theology, the Faculty of Protestant Theology, the Chair in Islamic religious teaching, the research platform ‘Religion and Transformation in Contemporary European Society’ (RaT), the research platform ‘Institute for Islamic Studies’, the department of Legal Philosophy, Law of Religion and Culture, and the teaching platform Department of Religious Studies (IRES), which will be established in the near future. Additionally, other departments, chairs and professors explicitly participating in the study of religion should be mentioned, including those for the Islamic, Jewish, Buddhist studies, those of philosophy of religion and psychology of religion etc.

A special characteristic and a potential for innovative research in the interdisciplinary study of religion at the University of Vienna is that, *first*, different theologies and different theological study programmes are present (Catholic theology, Protestant theology, Islamic theology [which is currently expanding]⁶). *Second*, the interdisciplinary study of religion is based on a broadly defined approach to Religious Studies. *Third*, the university has intensively cultivated various forms of cooperation at the intersection of Religious Studies and theologies. *Fourth*, the potential for further innovative research is guaranteed through the incorporation of various theologies and religious studies into interdisciplinary research areas, such as religion and law, psychology of religion, philosophy of religion, sociology of religion⁷, and others.

In order to promote research and study activities without eroding organizational structures and specific traits, the undersigned scholars agree, in accordance with plans proposed by the rectorate, that a center for the interdisciplinary study of religion should be established in the coming years. This Center should include the existing research platforms Religion and Transformation in Contemporary European Society (RaT) and Islamic Studies, and should continue and advance the platform’s various research activities, publications and dissemination efforts.

⁶ Currently a Master’s degree in Orthodox religious teaching is also being introduced.

⁷ The sociology of religion is currently a weak discipline at the University of Vienna. There is fundamental agreement between the dean of the faculty of sociology, the Catholic Theological Faculty and the Protestant Theological Faculty that a chair or tenure track in the sociology of religion should be established.

The research Centre (or Department) „Interdisciplinary Study of Religion“ should not be developed into a metastructure raised above existing institutionalized faculties, but should further develop activities, that to some extent have already been started by the research platform RaT and be responsible for the following tasks:

- Initiating new inter- and trans-disciplinary research projects and institutionalization of information exchange between current and future research initiatives.
- Creating an organizational infrastructure for interdisciplinary research projects.
- Promoting the growing visibility of the study of religion at the University of Vienna (homepage, clustering of international networks, etc.)
- Connecting institutions in the field of the study of religion that currently do not have a proper institutional place at the university but are not large enough to be full-fledged faculties
- Creating a nexus for information about teaching activities and study programmes in the field of religion at the University of Vienna.

The ‘House of Religions’, as already considered by the rectorate, would provide valuable support to the academic study of religion in its various forms at the University of Vienna.

[Kurt APPEL](#), Speaker of the research platform ‘Religion and Transformation in Contemporary European Society’

[Ednan ASLAN](#), Speaker of the research platform ‘Islamic Studies’

[Christian DANZ](#), Dean of the Faculty of Protestant Theology

[Hans Gerald HÖDL](#), Director of the Master’s and Doctor’s programme in Religious Studies

[Rüdiger LOHLKER](#), Professor of Islamic Sciences

[Sigrid MÜLLER](#), Dean of the Faculty of Catholic Theology

[Richard POTZ](#), Head of the Department of Philosophy, Law of Religion and Culture

[Wolfram REISS](#), Professor of Religious Studies at the Faculty of Protestant Theology and Coordinator of the Cooperation with Arabic partner-universities