

RaT-Newsletter



Dear members and friends of RaT,

Just in time for the start of the new semester, we are excited to bring you a new edition of our newsletter. Once again, we are delighted to share with you some of the activities and achievements of our members from the past few months:

In the last months, 2 new members have joined our centre: We warmly welcome **George Karamanolis** and **Michael Kramer** to RaT! You can find out more about their research below. We also want to congratulate long time RaT member **Regina Polak** on her recent promotion to University Professor for Practical Theology and Interreligious Dialogue!

This time our newsletter includes an interesting new category: We are presenting our readers two current study offers: an **Erasmus+ summer program** and a **new Master's program "Religion in Europe"**. As always, you will find many interesting contributions from our members and the latest RaT publications in the newsletter. For example: **JRAT 10 (2/2024): Bible and Philosophy**. Scroll down to learn more!

Last but not least, there are also news about **EuARe: the Call for Papers is currently open!** You can submit your abstracts until April 4.

All of this and much, much more can be discovered in this edition of our newsletter. We wish you a joyful reading experience!

Kurt Appel, Noemi Call, Jakob Deibl, Marco Fiorletta, Sára Heidl, Sofiia-Olga Kungurtseva, Daniel Kuran, Magdalena Lorenz, Andreas Telser, and Marian Weingartshofer

PS: Please consider forwarding our newsletter to those interested in the topics we work on! If you are not subscribed yet, just click [here](#).

To download a pdf.-version of this newsletter, [click here](#).

RAT-NEWS: EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION



EuARe Update March 2025!

We are pleased to provide you with the latest updates regarding the organization of the European Academy of Religion! The deadline for panel submissions has passed, and we are excited to announce that we have received a total of 218 submissions, including open and closed panels as well as Author meets critique.

The **deadline for paper submissions is still open until April 4th**, so please make sure to submit your papers by then! Paper proposals can be submitted [here](#).

In addition, [registration for side events](#) will open in April, providing opportunities for networking and engagement outside of the formal sessions. We are also accepting applications for [travel grants for young scholars](#) until April 4th, so be sure to apply if you need financial assistance to attend the conference.

Furthermore, **we are looking for student volunteers** (aka stewards) to help with various tasks during the conference. To facilitate this, we have registered a seminar at the University of Vienna (602001 SE Organisation of an Academic Conference (2025S)) specifically for this purpose.

If you know students who might be interested in attending, please let them know about this opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at academic life in practice. Please

check out [u:find](#) for more information. Registration for the course is still possible until April 11th.

If you have any questions regarding the conference, feel free to write us at euare2025@univie.ac.at. We are looking forward to seeing you at EuARE!

Noemi Call, Marleen Thaler, Marco Fiorletta, and Marian Weingartshofer

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to RaT!



Univ.-Prof. Dr. George Karamanolis, Privatdoz. MA

*Faculty of Philosophy and Education
Department of Philosophy*

Univ.-Prof. Dr. George Karamanolis, Privatdoz. MA I am Professor of Philosophy in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Vienna working primarily on ancient philosophy while maintaining research interests in Byzantine and Renaissance philosophy. My publications include the monographs, *Plato and Aristotle in Agreement? Platonists on Aristotle from Antiochus to Porphyry*, Oxford 2006 (revised paperback 2013), *The Philosophy of Early Christianity*, London/Durham 2013 (revised 2nd edition London 2021) and the edited volumes *Studies on Porphyry*, London 2007 (with Anne Sheppard), *The Aporetic Tradition in Ancient Philosophy*, Cambridge 2018 (with Vasilis Politis, paperback 2019), *Introduction to Ancient Philosophy 2017* (Crete University Press, in Modern Greek), *Pseudo-Aristotle On the Cosmos: A Commentary*, Cambridge 2020 (with Pavel Gregorić, paperback 2022). My main research interests lie in ancient Platonism and Aristotelianism and the philosophy of late antiquity, which includes early Christian philosophy. I am currently working on Aristotle's ethics, on Cicero's ethics, on Porphyry, and on various aspects of early Christian Philosophy. I am leading an FWF project aiming at a new edition with commentary of the Aristotelian *Magna Moralia*.

To learn more about George Karamanolis' research, [visit his profile on our website.](#)



Mag. Michael Kramer, PhD

Faculty of Catholic Theology

Department of Islamic-Theological Studies

As an Austrian jurist and political scientist, my research focuses on the diverse living environments of Muslims through an interdisciplinary lens, spanning law, political science, sociology, and religious education. By employing multidisciplinary approaches, I analyse amongst others the complex factors shaping the relationship between the state and Islam, with a particular emphasis on the Islamic Religious Community in Austria (IGGÖ), its members, and the broader non-organized Muslim community. My work aims to conceptualize a socially integrative and pluralistic "Austrian Islam"—an expression of Islam that operates within Austria's legal and political framework while safeguarding human rights, minority protections, civil society, and social cohesion against Islamist threats and ideological challenges, including opposition to civic education. My academic contributions span Islamic dispute resolution, peacebuilding, European-Islamic theology, Islamic and interreligious education, as well as broader inquiries into religious and cultural dynamics in schools, and manifestations of antisemitism and antizionism in Austrian mosque communities.

To learn more about Michael Kramer's research, [visit his profile on our website!](#)

CONGRATULATIONS!




Congratulations to Regina Polak on Her New Professorship!

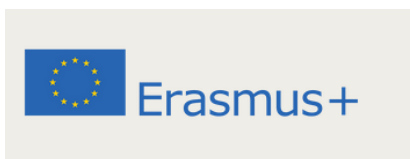
We warmly congratulate Regina Polak on her promotion to University Professor! A total of 50 associate scientists at the University of Vienna applied for the current university-wide §99 (4) procedure. After international review, 20 of them will now be appointed as University Professors, including Regina Polak. The dedication of her professorship will bear the title "Practical Theology and Interreligious Dialogue."

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND EXCHANGES: New Master's programme and ERASMUS+ Summer School

English-Language Master's programme
“Religion in Europe”
 at the University of Vienna



Starting in winter semester 2025
 Apply between 3 March and 7 April 2025!



Discover the new Master's programme “Religion in Europe” at the University of Vienna:

Starting in winter semester 2025, the University of Vienna will launch the English-language Master's programme “Religion in Europe”. This programme offers you a unique opportunity to explore the diverse dimensions of religion and its impact on European society.

Applications are possible between March 3 and April 7, 2025

More information about the programme can be found [here](#). To download the full flyer, click [here](#).

Faith in Context: Exploring Religion across Publics, History, and Society. ERASMUS Blended intensive program (BIP). Summer term 2025

*Online: May, 8, May 22 and June 12 from 4 to 6 PM.
 In Person: August 31 to September 6 (Zagreb - Šibenik).*

Deadline for application: May 2, 2025.

Erasmus+ is the European Union's flagship program for education, training, youth, and sport. It aims to promote international cooperation, cultural exchange, and academic mobility.

A Blended Intensive Program (BIP) is an innovative Erasmus+ initiative that combines virtual learning with a short-term physical mobility experience.

This Blended Intensive Program offers a unique opportunity for students to explore and critically engage with religion across various contexts, publics, and historical settings. It provides a space for comparative learning and reflection on different "spaces of faith," encouraging participants to expand their religious and social imagination.

[More Information can be found here.](#)

PUBLICATIONS: JRAT, JRAT Supplementa and RaT Series

RaT Series (Volume 33): Blicklichter und Grenzgänge. Interdisziplinäre Perspektiven auf Religion, Gender und das Lebensende,

edited by **Lukas K. Pokorny, Leona Mörth-Nicola, and Kerstin Tretina**

The contributions collected in this volume take up impulses from more than three decades of religious studies research by Birgit Heller and take them further in an original, interdisciplinary and practice-oriented way. The 21 contributions on two thematic focal points “Religions and Gender” and “Religions, Death and Spiritual Care” pay tribute to the fruitful work of the pioneer of Austrian religious studies.

[Link to the publication.](#)

Interdisciplinary Journal for
Religion and Transformation
in Contemporary Society

Bible and Philosophy

BRILL | SCHÖNINGH



JRAT 10 (2/2024): Bible and Philosophy, edited by **Kurt Appel**, and **Esther Heinrich**

The present volume ‘Bible and Philosophy’ subjects various biblical texts and motifs, including the fall of man, Noah’s ark, Jacob’s ladder, the Song of Songs, the resurrection of Jesus, the problem of human and divine violence, the singularity and recognisability of God and the Christian understanding of baptism to philosophical reflection. It is based on an understanding of philosophy that does not renounce the question of truth, but does not reduce truth to that which is quantifiable and measurable either. Biblical hermeneutics which closely links the question of truth to the question of the meaning of human existence and the question of justice is given particular consideration.

[Link to the publication \(full access\).](#)

Interdisciplinary Journal for
Religion and Transformation
in Contemporary Society

BRILL | Ferdinand Schöningh

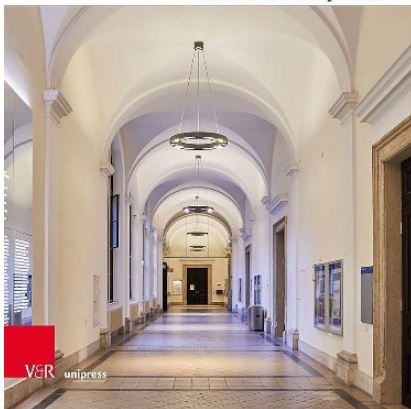


Latest articles published online in advance (all articles are published open access):

- **Sonja Huber:** [“God as an Incarnated Jew – a Contradiction in Terms?”](#)
- **Rüdiger Lohlker:** [Charisma in the Islamic World: Theorizing Sacred Rulership in al-Qalqashandī’s Ma’āthir](#)
- **Montserrat Herrero:** [Martyrs, Katechontes and Heroes as Figures of Disseminated Charisma. A Cross-Referenced Dialogue between Carl Schmitt, Erik Peterson and Ernst Kantorowicz](#)
- **Carlos Alvarez:** [Christian Languages and Cultural Communication. The Problems, Questions, and Challenges Michel de Certeau Poses to Theological Language](#)
- **Marie-Luise Frost:** [“We were healers, witches, we were oracles.” Women’s Transformative Power in African Traditional Religions and African Initiated Churches](#)

- **Pierre Gisel:** [La christologie implicite de Michel de Certeau](#)
- **Bernard Łukasz Sawicki:** [In Search of the Rules of Dance. Michel de Certeau and the Monks](#)
- **Dunja Rašić:** [Strange, Subtle Spirits in the Akbarian Cauldron. The Spiritual Recipes of Muḥyī al-Dīn Ibn ‘Arabī](#)
- **Nikola Pantić:** [The Effusion of Grace within the Sharī‘a Loop: A \(Re-\)Consideration of Sufi-ulamaic Institutional Charisma in Ottoman Sunnism \(c.16th–20th Centuries\)](#)
- **Christian Bauer:** [“Comment penser notre pratique?” Michel de Certeau and the Adventures of Practical Theology.](#)
- **Claire-Anne Baudin:** [L’événement du quotidien](#)
- **Geraldo Luiz De Mori:** [Everyday Life Theology and Pastoral Care. Contributions and Insights from Michel de Certeau](#)

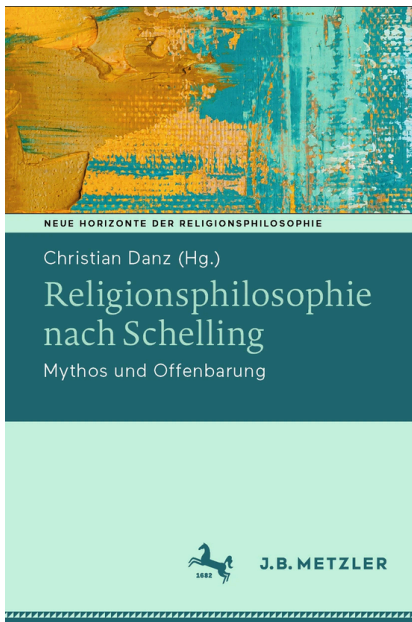
PUBLICATIONS: Monographs & Anthologies



Christoph Augustynowicz, Martina Fuchs, and Florian-Jan Ostrowski (eds.): Alltag – Erinnerung – Aufarbeitung an der Universität Wien. Historische Wissenschaften in Austrofaschismus, Nationalsozialismus und Nachkriegszeit. Vienna: Vienna University Press, V&R 2025.

Remembering is an active, collaborative process to slow down collective forgetting. The history departments of the Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies at the University of Vienna are increasingly dealing with their past in the years of Austrofascism, National Socialism and the post-war period. Many members of the University of Vienna were victims, but many more were enablers and accomplices of National Socialist ideology. Individual results of this reappraisal are presented in this volume. In addition to fundamental remarks on the subject of history at the University of Vienna, on the development of the discipline between the 1930s and 1960s and on everyday university life and the library system, four lecturers are presented under the heading “Between the roles of victim and perpetrator”. Another article commemorates a medievalist from Graz who studied in Vienna and perished in the Theresienstadt ghetto in 1942.

[Link to the publication \(full access\).](#)



Christian Danz (ed.): Religionsphilosophie nach Schelling. Mythos und Offenbarung. Heidelberg/Berlin: Metzler 2024.

F.W.J. Schelling (1775–1854) is one of the most important representatives of the so-called German Idealism. His work is fundamental to the emergence of modern philosophy of religion, which established itself as an independent academic discipline in the 1790s following Immanuel Kant's critique of reason. This volume presents Schelling's philosophy of religion for the first time from hermeneutic and developmental perspectives. In this way, the contributions of the volume not only introduce the complex history of the emergence of the philosophy of religion against the backdrop of Enlightenment debates but also reconstruct the development of Schelling's understanding of religion throughout his works, up to his later writings, and explore the significance of his theory of religion for contemporary debates in philosophy and theology.

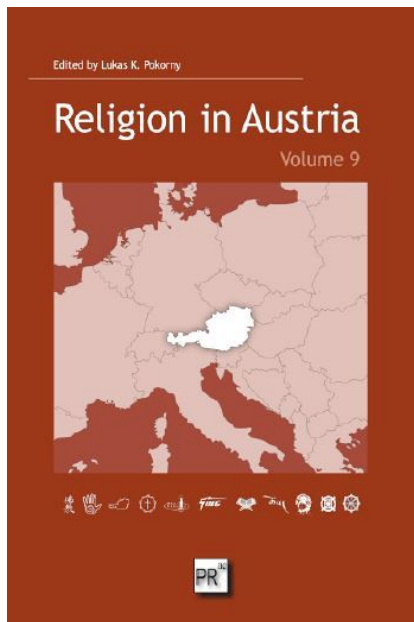
[Link to the publication.](#)



Marianne Grohmann: «Du hast mich im Bauch meiner Mutter gewoben». Unfruchtbarkeit, Geburt und Lebensanfang in der Hebräischen Bibel. Zürich: Theologischer Verlag Zürich 2025.

Texts of the Hebrew Bible, the Old Testament, show how people over 2000 years ago processed experiences related to the beginning of life, fertility, and birth, along with the hopes, expectations, and fears associated with them. They describe – not in a defining or normative way, but narratively and poetically – pregnancy and birth as an interplay between humans and God. They remind us that at the beginning of life, much is beyond human control and that blessings are not available on demand. Marianne Grohmann traces these biblical concepts and explores their potential for addressing current existential questions related to the beginning of life.

To be published in April 2025.



Lukas K. Pokorny (ed.): Religion in Austria 9. Wien: Praesens 2024.

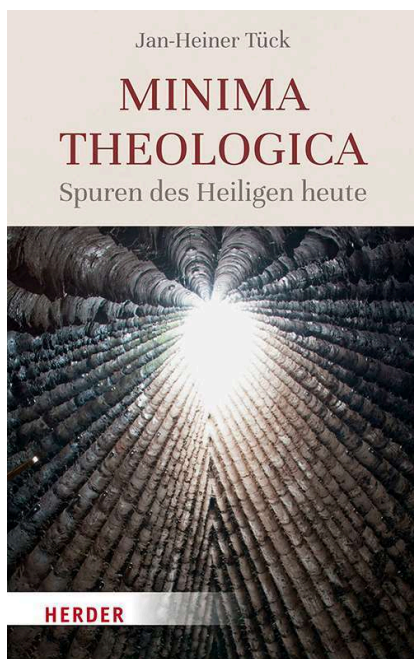
In the Religious Studies book series “Religion in Austria”, the religious panorama of Austria is being successively developed within the framework of special studies. In addition to a large number of articles and reviews, the newly published Volume 9 also contains bibliographies of all research papers on religion in Austria from 2023 as well as a list of all diploma and master’s theses and dissertations in Religious Studies completed during this period. The ninth volume of the book series places a special focus on Tibetan, Chinese and Taiwanese Buddhism. The other articles range from a study on the professionalization of “energy healing” and the history of the Association of Evangelical Churches in Austria to a historical review of the history and role of the Faculty of Protestant Theology with regard to anti-Semitism and National Socialism from 1938 onwards.

[Link to the publication.](#)

Lukas K. Pokorny and Franz Winter (eds.): Special Issue: Euro-American Esoteric Perspectives on East Asia. Vienna Journal of East Asian Studies, Volume 16 (2024).

The Vienna Journal of East Asian Studies (VEAS) is a double-blind, peer-reviewed open access journal. It publishes original research in the field of East Asian Studies, including Greater China, the Korean Peninsula, Japan and Vietnam. This special issue is the third collection resulting from a collaborative research project on the Euro-American esoteric appropriation of East Asia.

[Link to the publication \(full access\).](#)



Jan-Heiner Tück: Minima theologica. Spuren des Heiligen heute. Freiburg im Br.: Herder 2025.

Even in the accelerated lifeworlds (Lebenswelten) of today, there are traces of the sacred: Moments in which the secular horizon points beyond itself, experiences of human self-transcendence that make it clear that what is, is not everything. In art, literature, music and architecture, we can experience a glimpse of abundance.

In order to sharpen our sense of the cultural presence of the sacred, the miniatures in this book trace scattered traces of the sacred. These are sketches of an experimental theology that bring together everyday observations and fragments of reflection, as well as attempts to interpret what has been read, seen and heard. The aim is to allow the whole to appear in the fragment.

[Link to the publication.](#)

PUBLICATIONS: Selected Articles

Jakob Deibl: *Aufbrechen, um zu bleiben. Freiheit im Widerstreit mit sich bei Hölderlin, Hegel und Beethoven*, in: Violetta L. Waibel, Jörg Robert, Martin Vöhler (eds.): „... die Freiheit aufzubrechen“. *Hölderlin Hegel Beethoven* (Hölderlin-Forschungen 5), Paderborn: BRILL/Fink 2025, pp. 109–135.

The article is dedicated to the dialectical tension between departure and staying in the works of Beethoven, Hegel, and Hölderlin, and poses the question of whether this tension can offer a possible access to their work. The article first references Beethoven's *Fidelio* and sees the tension between departure and staying expressed through the pathos of freedom and through fidelity. It then turns to Hegel's interpretation of the Abraham narrative in his early writings, interpreting Abraham as a paradigmatic figure of departure. Finally, Hölderlin's poems *Brod und Wein* and *Am Quell der Donau ...* are examined. The tension between departure and staying not only provides access to these texts but also to Hölderlin's self-conception as a poet.

[Link to the publication.](#)

Regina Polak: *Interreligiöse Beziehungen und Interkultureller Dialog*, in: Gmainer-Pranzl, F., Gruber et al. (eds.): *Handbuch Interkulturelle Theologie*. Berlin/Heidelberg: J.B. Metzler 2024.

Since the turn of the millennium at the latest, interdisciplinary research on interreligious relations has focused on interreligious dialog as a programmatic concept and normative-ethical value. The fact that this is always an intercultural dialog as well remains comparatively overlooked. Conversely, religion is subsumed or largely ignored in research on intercultural dialog as part of culture. The article offers an overview of this historical novelty and outlines prospects for what intercultural theology as a translation and bridging discipline can contribute in the future to in-depth interdisciplinary research into interreligious relations and intercultural dialog.

[Link to the publication.](#)

Eduard Prenga: *Inversione fenomenologica: "Dalla cosa stessa!" La Rivelazione come evento di linguaggio, fenomeno della reciprocità trinitaria*, in: Tommaso Bertolasi, Antonio Bergamo, Giuseppe Pintus (eds.): *Fenomenologia e Rivelazione*, Bd. 8 des Dizionario dinamico di ontologia trinitaria. Rome: Città Nuova 2025, pp. 131-157.

The authors of this volume address two fundamental questions: What is the horizon within which a revelation is given—if such a horizon exists? And what do we primarily mean when we speak of revelation? Both questions arise from the awareness of the conceptual and epistemological complexity of "revelation." This concept has existed since the beginnings of theological reflection. Throughout the history of ideas, it has repeatedly been the subject of opposing interpretations. The authors, who come from both philosophical and theological backgrounds, attempt to approach the topic with their respective methodologies. E. Prenga offers a comprehensive interpretative key. He engages with Feuerbach's critique of religion and the accusation of projection in dialogue with its interpretation by Joachim Negel. For Prenga, Husserl's phenomenological key is fundamental: "To the things themselves!" However, he believes that theology cannot adopt this principle without a "process of inversion." Therefore, Prenga formulates the thesis of a "phenomenological inversion" in the theological realm, particularly concerning the question of revelation. A phenomenological approach to the question of revelation only makes sense if we start "From the thing itself!"—that is, from the one who un-veils himself of his own accord.

[Link to the publication.](#)

[Discover more publications by our members](#)

VDTR: Vienna Doctoral School of Theology and Research on Religion



April 28, 2025, 9am - 5pm: VDTR Open Research Day - register now!



If you are new to the VDTR, [please find here more information about the Open Research Day](#). Attendance is mandatory for VDTR members, online participation is possible. [Please register your participation here by March 23, 2025](#).

We are looking forward to seeing you again!

RESEARCH: Projects

THIRD PARTY FUNDED PROJECTS



Christian Danz: FWF Digital Publications Project: Open Access Edition of P. Tillich's Correspondence 1887-1933

Project duration: January 22, 2025 - January 21, 2028

Funding amount: 42.500€

DOI: [10.55776/PUD42](https://doi.org/10.55776/PUD42)



Anna Hager: FWF Elise Richter Project: Exploring the Core Through the Margins

Project duration: June 1, 2025 - November 30, 2027

Funding amount: 260.795€

DOI: [10.55776/RIC4174224](https://doi.org/10.55776/RIC4174224)

This research project funded by the FWF (Elise Richter fellowship) will investigate two separate topics that have so far been largely neglected by prevalent scholarship: firstly, a Christian community in the Middle East and secondly, Islamic attitudes toward local Middle Eastern Christians.

This project will focus initially on the rebuilding of the Syriac Orthodox community in Lebanon (1918–1982). This community, historically called “Jacobite” or “monophysite”, holds a special status in the context of Middle Eastern Christianity, on the one hand, as a group which is especially at risk and, on the other hand, as preservers of Aramaic, the language of Jesus Christ. To this day, the Syriac Orthodox Church continues to use the Syriac Aramaic language in its liturgy. Up until the First World War, they mostly lived in what is today Southeastern Turkey (then part of the Ottoman Empire), where they were targeted during the Armenian genocide. Yet it is not widely known that many of those who survived managed to successfully rebuild their communities in the new nation-states of the Middle East, among them Lebanon. However, at the same time, the Syriac Orthodox struggled in Lebanon to be fully recognized as part of the Lebanese nation.

This project will then go on to focus on another unknown and neglected topic as regards Islam: Islamist attitudes towards Middle Eastern Christians over the last decades. A key question, raised not only in a strictly scientific context, is whether Islamist parties and movements moderate their ideological stance, especially when they strive to establish an “Islamic” system, and under what circumstances they may do this. In this regard, their attitude towards the Christian communities of their countries, whether that country is Egypt, Lebanon, or Jordan, are salient because Christians are useful political tools, allowing Islamist figures to appear as moderate and serious political actors (or not). The focus on such not unreservedly Islamic topics gives us a better understanding of core elements of the Islamic heritage and the establishment of an ideal Islamic society.



Markus Tiwald: FWF Book Publications: Early Judaism and the Beginnings of Christianity

Project duration: November 6, 2024 - November 25, 2027

Funding amount: 17.000€

DOI: [10.55776/PUB1159](https://doi.org/10.55776/PUB1159)

With decision of 19 November 2024, the FWF grants Markus Tiwald the English translation and open access publication of his last monograph:

Tiwald, Markus: Frühjudentum und beginnendes Christentum. Gemeinsame Wurzeln und das *Parting of the Ways* (KStTh 5). Stuttgart: Kohlhammer 2022.

Jason Valdez, PraeDoc assistant of Prof. Markus Öhler, will do the translation, Markus Tiwald the proofreading.

UPCOMING EVENTS

universität wien
Institut für Philosophie

ReJ
Religion and Existential Philosophy

FORUM RELIGIONS-PHILOSOPHIE

Tom Sojer
(Un)Übersetzbar. Über den Versuch der Geschwister André und Simone Weil einander zu verstehen
Donnerstag, 10. April 2025, 18:30-20:00 Uhr, NIG, 3. Stock, HS. 3A

Martin Eieven
Über das Böse. Gnostische Elemente bei Simone Weil
Mittwoch, 28. Mai 2025, 15:00-16:30 Uhr, NIG, HS. 2H

Sandra Lehmann
Götzen: Simone Weil und die politische Theologie der Moderne
Mittwoch, 18. Juni 2025, 15:00-16:30 Uhr, NIG, HS. 2H

Forum Religionsphilosophie: Summer semester 2025

- **Tom Sojer: (Un)Übersetzbar. Über den Versuch der Geschwister André und Simone Weil einander zu verstehen**
Thursday, April 10, 2025, 6:30-8 pm, NIG, 3. floor, lecture hall 3A
- **Martin Eieven: Über das Böse. Gnostische Elemente bei Simone Weil**
Wednesday, May 28, 2025, 3-4:30 pm, NIG, lecture hall 2H
- **Sandra Lehmann: Götzen: Simone Weil und die politische Theologie der Moderne**
Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 3-4:30 pm, NIG, lecture hall 2H

Erasmuswoche

18. März 2025, 11:30-13:00 Uhr
 Evangelisch-Theologische Fakultät
 1010 Wien, Schenkenstraße 8-10, 5OG, Hörsaal 1



Podiumsdiskussion

„Nachhaltigkeit – ein Thema der Theologie?“

Erasmuswoche

17.-20. März 2025
 Evangelisch-Theologische Fakultät
 1010 Wien, Schenkenstraße 8-10, 5OG, Hörsaal 1

Gastvorträge

Mo, 17.3., 15:45-17:15 (PT/RP) – **Elisabeth Naurath** (Augsburg):
 Verbundenheit als spirituelle Basis einer religiösen Bildung für Nachhaltigkeit

Di, 18.3., 16:45-18:15 (KG) – **Katharina Greschat** (Bochum):
 Doctor noster sanctus Gregorius

Mi, 19.3., 09:45-11:15 (NT) – **Jan Rüggeheimer** (Bonn):
 Auf Trauermarsch mit den infelicissimis parentibus – Urbane Begegnungen mit den frühen Christusgläubigen in Rom

Mi, 19.3., 13:15-14:45 (ST) – **Folkart Wittekind** (Bonn):
 Dorothee Sölle und die Kritik der Theologie

Do, 20.3., 15:00-16:30 (AT) – **Sara Kipfer** (TU Dortmund):
 Extreme Klimaereignisse in der südlichen Levante im 1. Jhdt. v.Chr. – Klimatologische und Bibelwissenschaftliche Perspektiven

Meine, Deine, unsere Vernunft? My, your, our reason?

Co-operation conference of the Association Internationale des Professeurs de Philosophie (AIPPh), the Vienna Society for Intercultural Philosophy (WiGIP) and the Institut für Science and Art (iWK), supported by Vienna Doctoral School of Philosophy (VDS, University of Vienna)

21./22. März 2025, Universität Wien/University Vienna
 Ort/Venue: Dekanatsaal der Theolog. Fakultät, Hauptgebäude Universität Wien

Speaker: Prof. Andrzej Kanowski (Lodz), Prof. Agnieszka Kosziva (Warszawa), Prof. Ram Mall (Bonn), Dr. Gabriele Münnich (Düsseldorf), Prof. Heiner Roetz, (Bochum), Prof. Dorothy Oluwagbemil-Jacob (Calabar/Pretoria), Prof. Riccardo Pozzo (Rome), Prof. Hans Schelkhorn (Vienna), Dr. Hinal Triksa (Wien), Prof. Mohammed Turki (Tunis/Rockingham/Hausen).

Organisationsteam/Organisation Team: Prof. Hans Schelkhorn (WiGIP), Prof. Riccardo Pozzo (AIPPh), Dr. Gabriele Münnich (AIPPh), Dr. Bianca Boteva-Richter (WiGIP/AIPPh), Cristina Chitu, DOG-Edlow, Austrian Academy of Sciences (WiGIP).

In today's nation states we have inhabitants from many cultures with various traditions of thought and logic. But most people believe that their own standards of reason are universal and that their own arguments are understood in the same way everywhere. However, can one rely on rules of sensible communication between cultures?
 This conference is about a critical expansion of a narrow Eurocentric concept of reason (since, according to Adorno, Enlightenment reason must ultimately question itself – without, however, ending in trivial relativism). The intra-European critique of classical bivalent logic must be questioned, as well as the concepts of rationality in Asia (tetralemma) and South America (paraconsistent logic), as well as African traditions of thought that all differ from so-called 'Western' thought. What can debates in Islam about rationality contribute to a culture of critical reason in our time? Lyotard speaks of 'reasons' in the plural, because, in fact, there exist different cultures of thought, even within the European tradition. We want to ask what the basic structures and possibilities of such a multifaceted reason are, with which we can communicate internationally without making 'Western' concepts of reason binding. Is for instance the concept of a transversal reason viable? And, above all, how can a common understanding be reached at all?

REGISTRATION for physical and online participation please register with Dr. Bianca Boteva-Richter (bianca.boteva-richter@univie.ac.at)

Programmeinfo/ Programme information under: www.wigip.org






March 21-22, 2025: „My, your, our reason?“
Conference of the Association Internationale des Professeurs de Philosophie (AIPPh), the Wiener Gesellschaft für Interkulturelle Philosophie (WiGIP) and the Institut für Wissenschaft und Kunst (iWK).

This conference is about a critical expansion of a narrow Eurocentric concept of reason (since, according to Adorno, Enlightenment reason must ultimately question itself) – without, however, ending in trivial relativism. The intra-European critique of classical bivalent logic must be questioned, as well as the concepts of rationality in Asia (tetralemma) and South America (paraconsistent logic), as well as African traditions of thought that all differ from so-called 'Western' thought. What can debates in Islam about rationality contribute to a culture of critical reason in our time? Lyotard speaks of 'reasons' in the plural, because, in fact, there exist different cultures of thought, even within the European tradition.

In this conference, therefore, we want to ask what the basic structures and possibilities of such a multifaceted reason are, with which we can communicate internationally without making 'Western' concepts of reason binding. Is for instance the concept of a transversal reason viable? And, above all, how can a common understanding be reached at all?

[The full program can be found here.](#)



Dekanatssaal der Katholisch-Theologischen Fakultät (Universitätsring 1, 1010 Wien)
 Dienstag, 6. Mai 2025, 18.00 Uhr

Veranstaltet vom Institut für Systematische Theologie und Ethik,
 Fachbereich Dogmatik und Dogmengeschichte

May 6, 2025: Das Unsichtbare sichtbar machen. Michael Triegel im Gespräch mit Pater Georg Maria Roers SJ und Jan-Heiner Tück

6 pm, Deans office at the Faculty of Catholic Theology, Main Building, University of Vienna



June 5, 2025: Conference of the Austrian Society for the Study of Religions

The Austrian Society for the Study of Religions is organising an interdisciplinary conference on the topic of "Animal ethics and religions" on 5 June 2025. Perspectives from different scientific disciplines – e.g. from (Cognitive) Ethology, Ethics, and the Study of Religions – as well as specific religious positions from Buddhist, Islamic and Christian traditions will be presented and discussed. Further information on the conference will soon be available on the ÖGRW website: <https://oegrw.univie.ac.at/>.

PAST EVENTS



Report on the International Conference "One God? One Mission? The Significance of the Abrahamic Others Today" (Part 1: Between Christianity and Islam)

By *Eduard Prenga*

From February 2 to 4, 2025, the international conference *One God? One Mission? The Significance of the Abrahamic Others Today* took place at Melk Abbey and the University of Vienna. The conference was organized by the Research Center Religion and Transformation in Contemporary Society (RaT) at the University of Vienna in cooperation with the Université de Montréal (Canada) and the Sophia University Institute (Italy). The organizers, **Kurt Appel**, **Piero Coda**, **Aysun Yaşar**, **Patrice Brodeur**, and **Eduard Prenga**, worked for nearly two years on the organization of the conference. For the on-site implementation, they



were supported by the entire team of the RaT Center, particularly by Jakob Deibl, Noemi Call, and Marian Weingartshofer.

Thematically, the question of the revelation of the one God as a connecting fundamental question of the three Abrahamic religions was placed at the center. In the reflective engagement with this question, the speakers particularly focused on the current global context in which humanity finds itself. There was also the opportunity for immediate discussion following the respective lectures. Renowned scholars from around the world were invited as speakers, including **Susannah Heschel** (USA), **Mohammed Ali Shomali** (Iran), **Patriarch Pierbattista Pizzaballa** (Jerusalem), as well as experts from Canada, the Middle East, and Europe, among whom professors from the Faculty of Catholic Theology at the University of Vienna (**Regina Polak**, **Kurt Appel**, **Jakob Deibl**) made their outstanding contributions. The conference formed the first part of a larger event and focused particularly—but not exclusively—on the relationship between Christianity and Islam, highlighting the mutual significance of the respective Other. The concluding lectures built a bridge to **the second part of the event, which is expected to take place in 2027**. The main focus of the second part will be the respective engagement with the relationship between 1) Judaism and Christianity; 2) Christianity and Islam; 3) Judaism and Islam; and 4) Judaism-Christianity-Islam. Through this reflection, perspectives for a renewed and deepened humanity are also to be offered.



Astrid Mattes, Regina Polak, and Patrick Rohs: „What does Austria believe?“

Central results of the interdisciplinary mixed-method project “What does Austria believe?” – carried out by Regina Polak, Astrid Mattes-Zippenfening and Patrick Rohs as part of the research centre ‘Religion and Transformation in Contemporary Society’ in cooperation with the ORF/Department of Religion and Ethics multimedial, supported by Zukunftsfond Österreich, 2023-2025 – were presented and discussed in several media formats in January 2025.

*Here you will find the links to the corresponding programmes: [News](#)
The final report will be available online in spring 2025 here: [Projektinfo](#)*

During the last months we published articles by our members and guest authors that cover a broad range of topics:

- **Anna Hager:** [Unsichere Aussichten und Angst unter den Christen Syriens](#)
 - After the fall of the Assad regime in early December 2024, Syria's future remains uncertain. In her article, Anna Hager focuses on the difficult situation of the country's Christian minorities, who are now facing a particularly uncertain future after a turbulent history.
- **Elin Samson:** [Überlegungen zu Hegels „Der Geist des Judentums“](#)
 - There is much discussion about Judaism and its role in society. The great philosophers also dealt with Judaism in their time. In her article, Elin Samson examines Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel's fragment on the spirit of Judaism and takes a critical look at some of the statements about the supposed essence of Judaism.
- **Tristan Genoske:** [A wicked perspective on Butler's „Frames of War. When Is Life Grievable?“](#)
 - The new contribution of **Tristan Genoske** engages with the movie *Wicked*, in particular with the often overlooked song „No one mourns the wicked“. Yet its message is among the strongest. Was a life that no one mourned ever lived? Are there mechanisms of power that prevent us from mourning the dead? Who is wicked in our society and are we grieving them? Starting with Judith Butler's text „Frames of War. When Is Life Grievable?“, the contribution tries to answer to these questions examining what is happening in Oz.
- **Roger Haight:** [St. Ignatius, the Spiritual Exercises and the social sin of racism](#)
 - Roger Haight's theology has always been in a critical dialogue with how contemporary Westerners experience reality, while giving his theology a liberationist bent. This might be the reason for his more recent interest in facing racism, one of the painful scars of US-American history. A scar that seems to be torn open again by the announced policies of the current administration.
- **Vera M. Waschbüsch:** [Die Gemeinsame Feststellung von Porvoo: Eine Transformation der besonderen Art](#)
 - In this blog post, Vera M. Waschbüsch examines the Porvoo Joint Declaration (PGF) in an ecumenical context and its significance for European Protestantism. She sheds light on the historical and theological background of this union between Lutheran and Anglican churches in Northern Europe and discusses its ecumenical scope. Both existing challenges and the cultural-historical conditions that made this process of church rapprochement possible are analyzed.

THIRD MISSION ACTIVITIES

RaT members contribute to public discourse by writing in newspapers, giving statements in television and podcasts, and by publishing on our blog:

RaT-Blog @ derstandard

- **Christian Danz:** *Die Erfindung der Religionsgeschichte. Eine Erinnerung an Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph Schelling anlässlich seines 250. Geburtstags*
 - Christian Danz from the Faculty of Protestant Theology at the University of Vienna recalls the influence of F. W. J. Schelling on modern religious studies, particularly through his philosophy of mythology and revelation, which sees religion as an independent form of knowledge.
 - <https://www.derstandard.at/story/3000000254207/die-erfindung-der-religionsgeschichte>

- **Anna Hager:** *Unsichere Aussichten und Angst unter den Christen Syriens. Wie politische Umbrüche und radikale Bewegungen das Leben der syrischen Christen verändern und ihre Zukunft prägen*
 - How political upheaval and radical movements are changing the lives of Syrian Christians and shaping their future
 - <https://www.derstandard.at/story/3000000250008/unsichere-aussichten-und-angst-unter-den-christen-syriens>

Other Notable Media Appearances

- **Rudolf Langthaler:** *Kant und die Kirchen* - DIE FURCHE 51/52, 19. Dezember 2024
 - Instead of confronting the uncomfortable theses of the Enlightenment philosopher in the jubilee year 2024, Christian ministers have let this opportunity let this opportunity pass. An indictment.
 - <https://www.furche.at/religion/kant-und-die-kirchen-14893931>

Impressum

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