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Religion and Transformation
in Contemporary Society

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RaT-Newsletter

Edition XIV

October 2019



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Overview

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EDITORIAL

Dear Members and Friends of RaT,

We happily present you edition XIV of our Newsletter!

It is our great pleasure to inform you about the activities of our members, for lots of them have organised remarkable events, published interesting volumes and articles or work on inspiring research projects. The insights they share in this Newsletter are really worth reading and we hope you share our appreciation!

In this issue, we want to introduce Jakob Deibl, the Centre's new scientific manager, Natalie Eder, who joins our team as scientific assistant and two new members of our Council, Esther Ramharter and Stefan Hammer.

We would also like to announce that our Open Access Online Journal JRAT will be published by Brill with the new issue that is about to be released. Furthermore, we feature a selection of publications that have experienced remarkable feedback and give you an overview on recent publications by our members.

Subsequently, you will find an overview of the events organised by our members or in cooperation with RaT. We would be pleased to meet you there! The widest section of the Newsletter reflects recent events. Lots of workshops, conferences and lectures took place and we would like to share our reviews. Moreover, we want to offer insight into selected research projects of our members.

Last but not least, you will find an overview of recent press contributions. You might be surprised how engaged RaT's members are concerning third mission projects! If we can awake your interest, feel invited to read also our blog, where you can find comments on current societal issues: rat-blog.at.

If you want to stay up to date concerning our activities and publications, you might want to visit religionandtransformation.at.

We wish you an enjoyable read and a successful winter term!

Lisa Achathaler
 Kurt Appel
 Jakob Deibl
 Marlene Deibl
 Natalie Eder
 Martin Eleven
 Anna Maria Kontriner
 Daniel Kuran
 Katharina Limacher



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1. PERSONALIA

STAFF

Jakob Deibl

With September 2019, Ass.-Prof. Mag. Mag. Dr. Dr. **Helmut Jakob Deibl**, Pd. has been appointed as assistance professor for Religion and Aesthetics and scientific manager of the Research Centre RaT.

He studied Catholic Theology and Religious Education in Salzburg and Vienna. From 2008 to 2011, he worked as a research associate (prae-doc) at the Department of Fundamental Theology at the Faculty of Catholic Theology at the University of Vienna. During that time, he obtained a doctoral degree with a thesis on Gianni Vattimo. It was published with an introduction written by Vattimo himself as the fifth volume of the series "Religion and Transformation in Contemporary European Society". In 2012, he was hired as a guest lecturer at the Pontificio Istituto Sant'Anselmo in Rome for one semester. Between 2013 and 2018, he worked as university assistant (post doc) at the Department of Systematic Theology in the special field of Fundamental Theology (Faculty of Catholic Theology, University of Vienna). From 2018 to 2019, he worked at the Pontificio Ateneo Sant'Anselmo in Rome.



We are very happy to welcome Jakob Deibl in the team of the Research Centre!

Natalie Eder

Since October 1 2019, **Natalie Eder** supports our team as scientific assistant. She is about to finish her master's degree in philosophy with a thesis on Roberto Esposito and is also specialised in studies of mysticism and psychoanalysis.

It is our great pleasure that Natalie Eder joins our team!



COUNCIL

Esther Ramharter

Assoz.-Prof. Mag. Mag. Dr. Dr. **Esther Ramharter**, professor at the department of philosophy, University of Vienna, and RaT-member since 2018, has been appointed member of the Centre's Council.

She studied mathematics and philosophy and worked as assistant at the Institute for Analysis and Technical Mathematics at Vienna University of Technology. In 2001, she received her doctor's degree in mathematics as well as her magister's degree in philosophy. From 2002 to 2003, she was assistant at the Department of Mathematics at the University of Vienna and from 2003 to 2011, she worked at the Department of Philosophy. 2004, she achieved her doctorate in philosophy, 2010, she habilitated and since 2011, she is Ass.-Prof. at the Department of Philosophy, University of Vienna.



We are glad that Esther Ramharter has joined the Centre's Council!

Stefan Hammer

Another new member of our council is Ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. **Stefan Hammer**. He is professor for Philosophy of Rights at the University of Vienna and has been a very engaged member of the Research Centre for years.

Stefan Hammer studied Law and Oriental and Islamic Studies at the University of Vienna. In 1981, he achieved his doctor's degree in Laws. He worked as assistant for State Law and Administrative Law at the University of Vienna and held lectures on Public Law. Furthermore, he worked for the Austrian Ministry for foreign affairs. He has been employed at the University of Vienna, University of Kansas School of Law, Bratislava University of Law and University Paris V. In 2004, he was habilitated for Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, Legal Philosophy at the University of Vienna, where he is assistance professor for Legal Philosophy.



We thank Stefan Hammer for his previous contributions to the Centre and are pleased that has joined the Centre's Council!

2. PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL FOR RELIGION AND TRANSFORMATION IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

With issue 8, our Interdisciplinary Open Access Journal for Religion and Transformation in Contemporary Society (JRAT) will be published by Brill. We are very happy about this and are looking forward to the cooperation!

Jakob Deibl, Johann Schelkshorn, Herman Westerink (Ed.): *Religious Experience, Secular Reason and Politics around 1900*, Leiden 2019 (JRAT, Issue 8).

Abstract: The emergence of a scholarly and popular interest in religious experience, spirituality and mysticism around 1900 plays a crucial role in the further transformations in religion in the twentieth century and in contemporary Western and non-Western societies. This volume contains philosophical reflections on the emergence of these new constellations, discourses and practices. The 'rediscovery' of the various spiritual and mystical sources and traditions, and the turn towards the individual's religious experiences, can be situated against the background of a growing critique of global scientific positivism and the rise of secular (atheistic, Marxist) philosophies. The turn to spirituality and mysticism is associated with political projects of anti-imperialist emancipation in for example, India, the Islamic countries, Russia and Latin America. Through philosophical inquiries into key authors such as Bergson, Blondel, William James, Heidegger, Bremond, Weil, Solov'ëv, Rodó, Iqbal and Vivekenanda, this volume presents a comprehensive perspective on the fundamental issues and discussions that inspired the turn to spirituality in a modern era of secular reason.

Issue 8 will be available in November 2019.

Johann Schelkshorn, Herman Westerink

Introduction (transl. by Natalie Eder)

Arie L. Molendijk

Ernst Troeltsch and Mysticism (transl. by Brita Pohl)

Herman Westerink

Henri Bremond and the Religious Experience in Context

Markus Riedenauer

Am Ende der modernen Sicherheit. William James über religiöse Erfahrung

Inigo Bocken

Mystik als Tat? Philosophie und Spiritualität bei Maurice Blondel

Gerrit Steunebrink

Warum definiert Bergson Religion von der Mystik her?

Isabella Guanzini

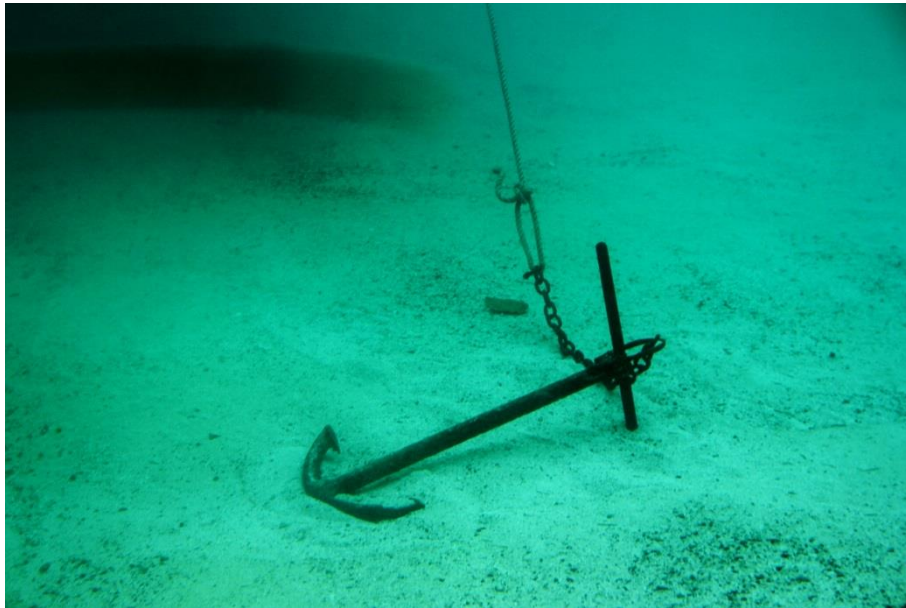
The Pauline Understanding of Life in the Young Heidegger (1920-21) (transl. by Natalie Eder)

Evert van der Zweerde

Between Mysticism and Politics: the Continuity in and Basic Pattern of Vladimir Solov'ev's Thought. (transl. by Paul Bowman)

Marc De Kesel

The Power to say I. Reflections on the modernity of Simone Weil's mystical thought



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Hans Schelkshorn

José Enrique Rodó: The Birth of Latin America out of Spiritual Revolt (transl. by Paul Bowman)

Stephan Popp

Muhammad Iqbal – Reconstructing Islam along Occidental Lines of Thought

Karl Baier

Swami Vivekananda. Reform Hinduism, Nationalism and Scientistic Yoga (transl. by Paul Bowman)

DISTINGUISHED PUBLICATIONS

***Prayer, Pop and Politics* has been appointed University of Vienna's book of the month**

Volume 15 of our print-series, "Prayer, Pop and Politics. Researching Religious Youth in Migration Societies", has met remarkable feedback since its release in spring. The volume was edited by Katharina Limacher, Astrid Mattes and Christoph Novak, the editorial office of the series is directed by Marlene Deibl. The book's presentation on June 4 was attended by lots of interested people and several media have mentioned or reviewed the book, among them Die Presse, Die Furche and oe 1. In November, the book will also be presented at Volkskundemuseum Wien. In September, University of Vienna has selected the volume as book of the month. We congratulate the editors and wish an enjoyable reading to everybody interested!



Abstract: What is it like to be young and religious in migration society? This volume presents research at the intersection of religion, age and race. The chapters' foci range from methodological challenges to conceptual work and empirical case studies. The authors present research on various religious traditions including contributions on young Alevis, Hindus, Buddhists and Muslims, and apply an array of theoretical angles among them feminist, post- and de-colonial perspectives. Furthermore, the volume engages in the debate over novel conceptual frameworks attuned to investigate contemporary manifestations of youth religiosity, for example in digital spaces. The methodological chapters advocate for reflexivity in the context of empirical research on religion in migration society and promote a self-evaluative assessment of researchers' positionalities.

Link to „Buchtipp des Monats“:

<https://medienportal.univie.ac.at/uniview/wissenschaft-gesellschaft/detailansicht/artikel/buchtipp-des-monats-von-katharina-limacher/>

Further information on the volume:

<https://www.religionandtransformation.at/publikationen/rat-reihe/>

Review of the first book presentation:

[First Presentation of the recently published volume *Prayer, Pop and Politics. Researching Religious Youth in Migration Society* and panel discussion](#)

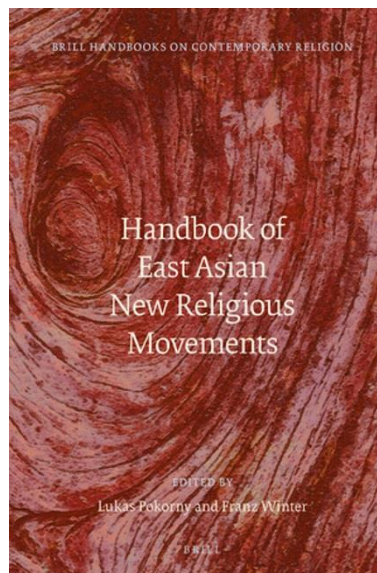
Further information on the second book presentation:

https://www.volkskundemuseum.at/buchpraesentation_prayerpopandpolitics

Congratulations to Lukas Pokorny and Franz Winter, editors of the *Handbook of East Asian New Religious Movements*, for winning the ICAS Edited Volume Accolade 2019!

Abstract:

A vibrant cauldron of new religious developments, East Asia (China/Taiwan, Korea, Japan, and Vietnam) presents a fascinating arena of related research for scholars across disciplines. Edited by Lukas Pokorny and Franz Winter, the “Handbook of East Asian New Religious Movements” provides the first comprehensive and reliable guide to explore the vast East Asian new religious panorama. Penned by leading scholars in the field, the assembled contributions render the Handbook an invaluable resource for those interested in the crucial new religious actors and trajectories of the region.



Contributors:

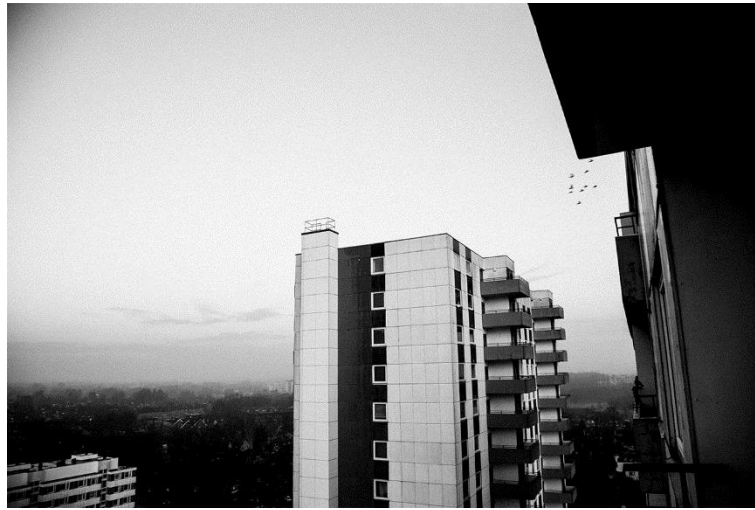
Erica Baffelli, Donald L. Baker, Paul Beirne, Sergei Blagov, Pascal Bourdeaux, Bongkil Chung, Philip Clart, Ugo Dessì, Emily Dunn, Anne Mette Fisker-Nielsen, Esther-Maria Guggenmos, Marcus Günzel, Edward Irons, Jérémy Jammes, John Jorgensen, Hui-yeon Kim, Hideaki Matsuoka, Benjamin Penny, Victoria Rose Montrose, Barbara Rossetti Ambros, Monika Schrimpf, Timothy Smith, Birgit Staemmler, Nancy K. Stalker, Gregory Wilkinson, Yu-shuang Yao, Carl F. Young

Link to the ICAS Accolade: <http://www.icas.asia/en/accolades-social-sciences-ibp-2019>

DOI: doi.org/10.1163/9789004362970

Further information: <https://brill.com/view/title/36047>

MONOGRAPHS AND EDITED VOLUMES – RECENTLY PUBLISHED AND FORTHCOMING (SELECTION)



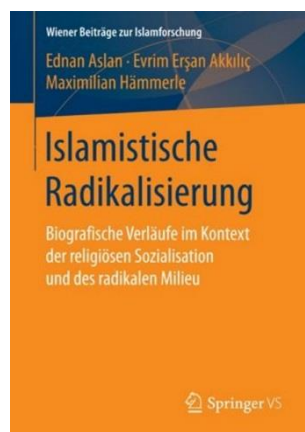
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Ednan Aslan, Evrim Erşan Akkılıç, Maximilian Hämmerle: *Islamistische Radikalisierung. Biografische Verläufe im Kontext der religiösen Sozialisation und des radikalen Milieu.* Wiesbaden 2018.

This volume's aim is to research the life and environment of radicalised persons and to analyse complex phenomena with the method of biographical research. The results show that islamistic radicalisation is an active process: individuals occupy themselves with a specific Islamic theology and its ideas of norms and values. The process of radicalisation does not take place in isolation, as the persons concerned are embedded in a social context. This context is defined as radical milieu in this volume.

Further information:

<https://link-springer-com.uaccess.univie.ac.at/book/10.1007%2F978-3-658-18984-6>



Christian Danz/Georg Essen (Ed.): *Dogmatische Christologie in der Moderne. Problemkonstellationen gegenwärtiger Forschung*. Regensburg 2019.

In der Christologie der letzten Jahre sind äußerst spannende Diskurskonstellationen wahrzunehmen. Von einem auch nur ansatzweisen Konsens sind die Theologinnen und Theologen jedoch weit entfernt. Im Hintergrund all der heterogenen Ansätze stehen essenzielle Anfragen der Moderne, die zu gravierenden Transformationen in der Christologie führten. In deren Folge geriet die altkirchliche Christologie in eine tiefe Krise. Die Schlüsselbegriffe: „Geschichte“ – „Metaphysik“ – „Anthropologie“. In diesem Kontext entwickeln die Autorinnen und Autoren des Bandes ihre christologische Konzeption im Rahmen eines kohärenten Verständnisses von Moderne. Daraus ergibt sich eine systematische Geschlossenheit im Grundansatz.

Further information: <https://www.verlag-pustet.de/shop/item/9783791731186/dogmatische-christologie-in-der-moderne>



Christian Danz/Michael Hackl (Ed.): *Transformationen der Christologie. Herausforderungen, Krisen und Umformungen*. Göttingen 2019 (Wiener Forum für Theologie und Religionswissenschaft, Bd. 17)

Since Immanuel Kant's religious writings of 1793 philosophical Christology has been consistently redeveloped. In the 19th century, Hegel and Schelling presented prominent conceptions. During the debates of the 20th century, this subject became less important in



Philosophy although it never really disappeared. What is the difference between a philosophical Christology and a theological Christology and what answers can be found in a philosophical Christology? There is no Christian Dogmatic and Christian Religion without Christology. Both only exist through their reference to Jesus Christ. All contributors to this volume prove that there is no unified conception of Christology. The contributions refer to Christology in a historical, systematic, but also practical, philosophical, and gender theoretical sense.

Further information:

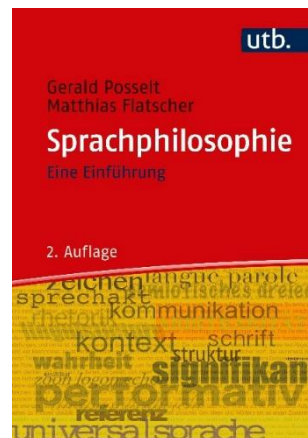
<https://www.vandenhoeck-ruprecht-verlage.com/themen-entdecken/theologie-und-religion/religionswissenschaft/51908/transformationen-der-christologie>

Matthias Flatscher, Gerald Posselt: *Sprachphilosophie. Eine Einführung*. 2. Auflage. Wien 2018.

What is language? Inhowfar are language, thought and reality related? Which role does language play in course of social interaction?

This volume offers a compact introduction into the basic questions and most relevant answers of philosophy of language before and after the so-called "linguistic turn". Classical approaches, to be found in the ancient world, in the works of Locke, Leibniz, Herder, Humboldt and Nietzsche, are discussed as well as central positions of the 20th century: analytical philosophy (Frege, Wittgenstein, Austin), hermeneutics and phenomenology (Heidegger), structuralism (Saussure) and deconstruction (Derrida, Butler). The volume is addressed to students of philosophy, literature and cultural, media or social studies.

Further information: <https://www.utb-shop.de/sprachphilosophie-7903.html>



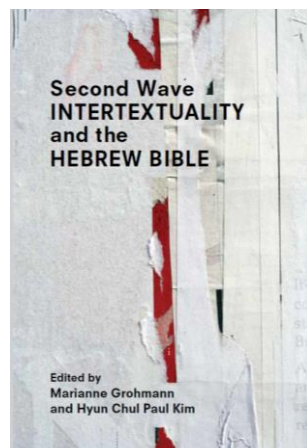
Marianne Grohmann/Hyun Chun Paul Kim (Ed.): *Second Wave Intertextuality and the Hebrew Bible*, Atlanta 2019 (SBL Resources for Biblical Study 93).

This innovative collection of inner-biblical, intertextual, and intercontextual dialogues offers new approaches to biblical intertextuality that examine the relationship between the Hebrew Bible, art, literature, sociology, and postcolonialism. In eight essays in part 1, scholars examine inner-biblical intertextuality in texts such as Genesis, Judges, and Qoheleth, among others. The eight postbiblical intertextuality essays in part 2 explore how the Hebrew Bible intersects with a range of topics, including Bakhtinian and dialogical approaches, the Dead Sea Scrolls, canonical criticism, reception history, Christopher Columbus, and #BlackLivesMatter. These essays on various genres and portions of the Hebrew Bible showcase how, why, and what intertextuality has been and presents possible potential directions for future research and application.

Further information: <https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/0603103P.pdf>

**Marianne Grohmann/Angelika Berlejung (Ed.): *Foreign Women – Women in Foreign Lands. Studies on Foreignness and Gender in the Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East in the First Millennium BCE*, Tübingen 2019 (Orientalische Religionen in der Antike 35).
Forthcoming.**

The volume presents a collection of papers read during three workshops held in Leipzig (2016), Jerusalem (2017), and Vienna (2018). International scholars from different disciplines and methodological approaches explored gender-specific constructions of foreignness/strangeness in the Old Testament, Egypt, and Mesopotamia from their particular perspectives. They showed that when combined, strangeness/foreignness and gender can take on very different forms. Various processes of the “othering” of women are of importance, which differ from the “othering” of men. The contributions investigate specific questions, individual female figures and individual phenomena as model cases. The basic question was when, where, how and for what purpose the categories of foreignness and gender were connected and activated in literary tradition. The collection is a preliminary and basic work for further study of gender-specific concepts of foreignness/strangeness in the ancient Mediterranean cultures of the first millennium BCE.



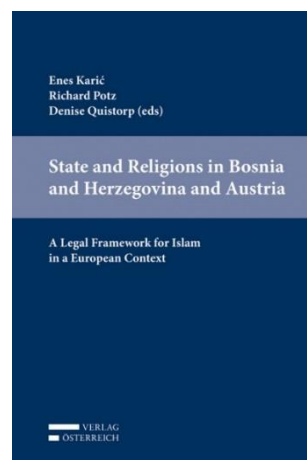
Contributors: Lars Allolio-Näcke, Sara Japhet, Nili Wazana, Marianne Grohmann, Angelika Berlejung, Daniel Bodi, Stefan Fischer, Jan Dietrich, Hans-Peter Mathys, Jutta Hausmann, Agnethe Siquans, Kristin Joachimsen, Franziska Naether



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Enes Karic, Richard Potz, Denise Quistorp (Eds.): *State and Religions in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Austria. A Legal Framework for Islam in a European Context*. Vienna 2019.

European societies are, and will become even more so increasingly diverse. Human mobility, to varying degrees and for different reasons, will be an inherent feature of the 21st century, on a European as well as a global scale. States are called upon organising diverse societies to guarantee peace and full enjoyment of individual rights for all citizens. Inclusive societies need to be built on the basis of fundamental values including democracy, the rule of law, and the respect for fundamental rights. Freedom of religion and belief, as well as the right to equality and non-discrimination are important elements to this end. Education is pivotal in this context.



Which legal frameworks and structures have proven useful for intercultural and interreligious harmony? Bosnia and Herzegovina and Austria share a history of secular neutrality of the State vis-à-vis religion, while maintaining equally good relations with all religions present in the State.

Within the European Union, important questions pertaining to values and cultural and religious diversity are currently being discussed; an exchange on best practises is explicitly encouraged. This publication aims at contributing to this European conversation, drawing on the shared history of our two countries. Can Bosnia and Herzegovina and Austria serve as models of a legal framework for Islam in a European context?

Further information and eLibrary:

<https://elibrary-verlagoesterreich-at.uaccess.univie.ac.at/book/10.33196/9783704682147>

Karsten Lehmann: *Religiöse Vielfalt in Österreich erforschen. Religionswissenschaftliche Anregungen zum Begriff der Interreligiosität. Wien 2018 (Inaugural Lecture).*

In the lecture, fundamental changes in the societal position of religion are discussed. The central concept in this context is Interreligiosity. In order to research this, different approaches of religious studies are discussed. In the concluding part, the planned Special Research Programme "Interreligiosity" (KPH Vienna) is presented. The main topics of this programme are religious plurality in Austria, constructs of religious plurality in education and development of interreligious competence.

Full text: <http://www.p1-ftp.kphvie.ac.at/Religioese%20Vielfalt%20in%20Oesterreich%20erforschen/4/index.html>



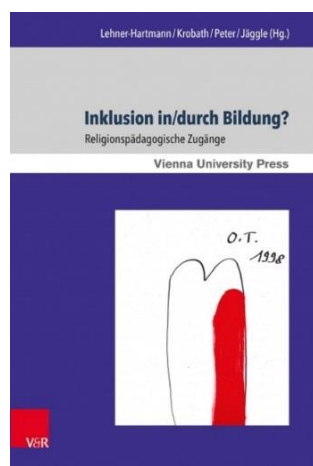
Andrea Lehner-Hartmann/Thomas Krobath/Karin Peter/Martin Jäggle (Ed.): *Inklusion in/durch Bildung? Religionspädagogische Zugänge*. Göttingen 2018.

The essays in this volume offer various international and regional explanations on the topic of inclusion. They encourage a problem and perspective-oriented understanding of inclusive practices.

The different subjects focus on the significance of inclusive education and its practical challenges on the basis of an educational-scientific, theological, anthropological and religious educational point of view. They examine its consequences on school, religious education and religious didactics. These effects underline how much teachers require self-reflection and a modified formation and further training. Additionally, this volume depicts experiences of various practical fields such as the contact of students with refugee children and teenagers.

Further information and eLibrary:

<https://www-vr-elibrary-de.uaccess.univie.ac.at/doi/book/10.14220/9783737008471>



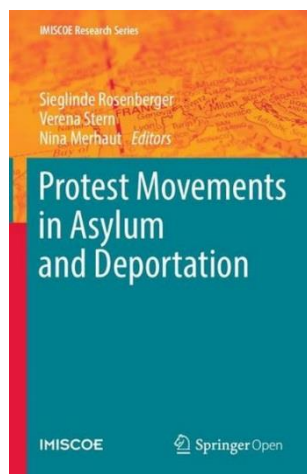
Sieglinde Rosenberger/Verena Stern/Nina Merhaut (Ed.): *Protest Movements in Asylum and Deportation*. Cham 2018.

This open access book deals with contestations “from below” of legal policies and implementation practices in asylum and deportation. Consequently, it covers three types of mobilization: solidarity protests against the deportation of refused asylum seekers, refugee activism campaigning for residence rights and inclusion, and restrictive protests against the reception of asylum seekers.

By applying both a longitudinal analysis of protest events and a series of in-depth case studies in three immigration countries, this edited volume provides comparative insights into these three types of movement in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland over a time span of twenty-five years. Embedded in concepts of political change, limited state sovereignty, and migration control, the findings shed light on actors, repertoires, and the effects of protest activities.

The contributions illustrate how local contexts, national political settings, issue specifics, and social ties lead to distinctly different forms of protest emergence, dynamics, and strategies.

Additionally, they give a profound understanding of the mechanisms and constellations that contribute to protest success, both in terms of preventing deportations of individuals as well as changing policies. In sum, this book constitutes a major contribution to empirically informed theoretical reflections on collective contestation in the fields of refugee studies and social protest movements.

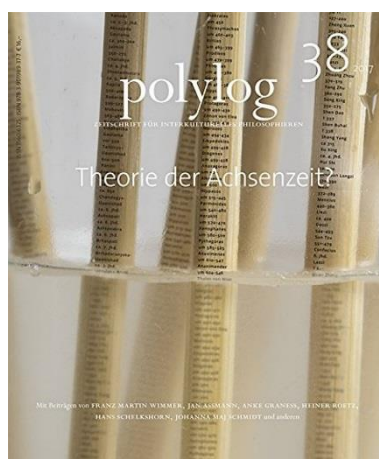


Further information and eLibrary: <http://www.open.org.uaccess.univie.ac.at/search?identifier=1002267>

Hans Schelkshorn (Ed.): *Theorie der Achsenzeit?*, Wien 2018 (Polylog 38).

The contributions in this issue of the journal "Polylog" are based on the output of "Wiener Forum interkulturellen Philosophierens". This conference took place in February 2017 and was organised by GIP (Society of Intercultural Philosophy) and IWK (Institute for Science and Art). Central topic of the event was Jaspers' theory of Axial Age, which was, in the initial phase, an important frame for some representatives of intercultural philosophy (like Adhar Mall, Heinz Hülsmann, Franz Martin Wimmer).

With the thesis of diverse starting points of philosophy (India, China, Europe), European philosophy's claim to exclusivity could be left behind. Meanwhile, the theory of Axial Age has been criticised and revisioned repeatedly from the perspective of intercultural philosophy and



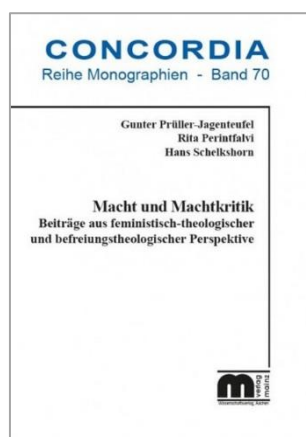
cultural studies. The different debates about this theory were, up to now, not linked to each other. Consequently, the conferences aim was to bring together the different interpretations of the theory of Axial Time and to discuss their relevance for intercultural philosophy.

Contributors: Franz Martin Wimmer, Jan Assmann, Anke Graneß, Heiner Roetz, Hans Schelkshorn, Johanna Maj Schmidt, Barbara Schellhammer, Cornelius Zehetner, Lisa Häberlein, Nausikaa Schirilla

Further information: <http://www.polylog.net/?id=249>

Hans Schelkshorn/Gunter Prüller-Jagenteufel/Rita Perintfalvi (Ed.):
Macht und Machtkritik. Beiträge aus feministisch-theologischer und befreiungstheologischer Perspektive, Aachen 2018.

In the recent years, the structures of might and repression, that are criticised fundamentally by liberation and feminist theology, have experienced profound transformations. They have not only been globalised, but have also become more anonymous and plural. This makes it necessary to reformulate the critique of might in order to reactivate the emancipatory potential of liberation and feminist theology.



This was the aim of the fourth workshop on contextual liberating theologies. The results have been published in this volume. The contributors ask fundamental questions on might and critique of might, make visible the plurality of contemporary liberation and gender related theology and comprise Christian, Jewish and Islamic perspectives. Biblical, practical-theological and ethical considerations round off the volume.

Further information: <https://www.verlag-mainz.de/macht-und-machtkritik.html>

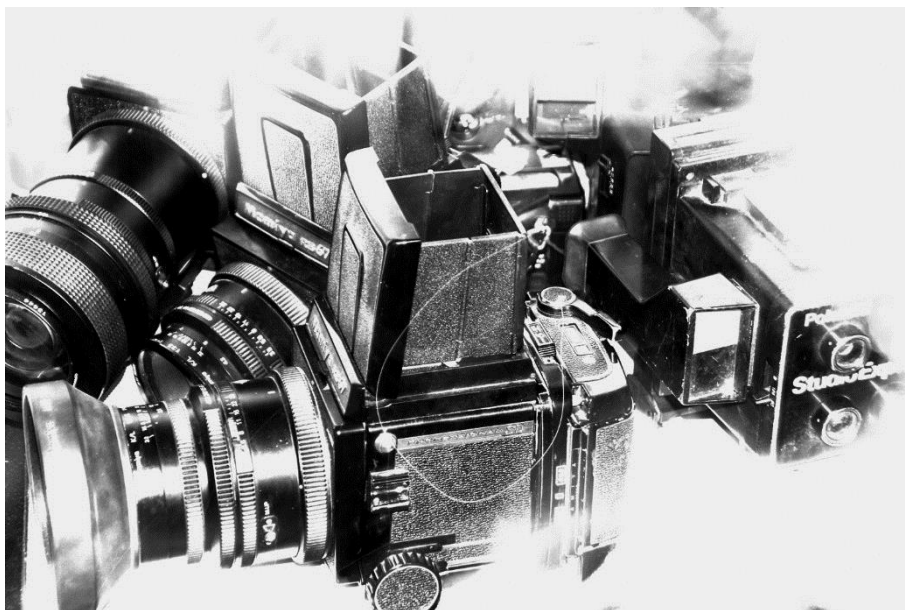
Georg Stenger/Sergej Seitz/Anke Graneß (Ed.): *Facetten gegenwärtiger Bildtheorie. Interkulturelle und interdisziplinäre Perspektiven*, Wiesbaden 2018.

Images are without doubt an intercultural phenomenon. In diverse contexts, different forms and practices of imaginary representation can be found. Images can also be understood as expressions of certain perceptions of the world and oneself. At the same time, questions on the universal structures of images and their perception arise. In that course, culture and imaginary representation refer to each other. This volume tries to link different concepts of the theory of image and of intercultural philosophy and tries to allow for new approaches to contemporary debates on ethics and politics of images.



Further information:

<https://link-springer-com.uaccess.univie.ac.at/book/10.1007%2F978-3-658-22827-9>



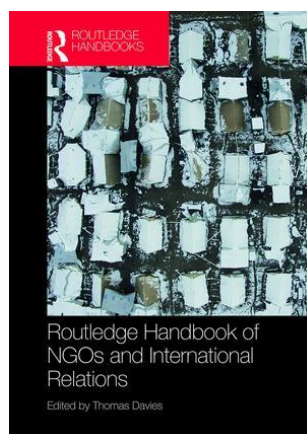
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RECENT ARTICLES PUBLISHED BY RaT-MEMBERS IN EDITED VOLUMES AND JOURNALS (SELECTION)

Karsten Lehmann: *Religious International NGOs*, in: Thomas Davies (Ed.): *Routledge Handbook of NGOs and International Relations*, London/New York 2019, 397-412.

The article provides a first introduction to those discussions as well as an exemplary sketch of the developments of RINGOs in the field of international relations. It focuses on a two-fold argument: First, it supports the point that NGOs that are (self-)described as 'religious', 'faith-based' or 'spiritual' are increasingly present in international relations. They are highly diverse and have changed significantly over the course of time. Second, it argues that a 'critical approach' to religion is necessary to understand the activities of these NGOs: Analyses have to go beyond the level of (self-)descriptions to work towards an analytic concept that grasps the political dimension of the RINGO category.

Further information: <https://www.routledge.com/Routledge-Handbook-of-NGOs-and-International-Relations-1st-Edition/Davies/p/book/9781138285507>



Karsten Lehmann: *From human rights to dialogue and harmony, - The construction of the concept of 'religion' in the United Nations' General Assembly*, in: Stan Brunn, Stan/Roland Kehrein (Ed.): *Handbook of the Changing World Language Map*, Heidelberg 2019.

The article intends to add to the understanding of these processes by analysing the development of the religion discourse in the context of the United Nations Organization (UN). First, the article makes the point that the UN – with its manifold sub-organizations, commissions and committees – has developed into one of the most significant stages for the display of worldwide discourses. Second, it argues that the reference to religion has changed considerably – from an object of human rights to a means for the creation of 'peace and harmony'. Along those lines, the article will use Reiner Keller's concept of discourse analysis to look at the usage of the concept of religion in the official documents of the UN's General Assembly, thus adding a frequently neglected 'shade' of the more recent shifts in the world language map.

Further information: <https://link.springer.com/referencework/10.1007/978-3-319-73400-2>

Karsten Lehmann/Thomas Schlager-Weidinger: *Zu den Ebenen der Beziehungen zwischen Religionspädagogik und Politik, - Überlegungen im Anschluss an die Einführung des Konzepts der ‚interreligiösen Kompetenz‘ in den Curricula der Pädagogischen Hochschulen in Österreich*, in: *Zeitschrift des Österreichischen Religionspädagogisches Forums / ÖRF 27 (2019), 128-144.*

On the different Levels of the Relationship between Religious Education and Politics. Observations following the Introduction of the Concept of ‚interreligious Competence‘ into the Curricula of the University Colleges of Education in Austria

The article presents a secondary analysis of data collected in 2016/17 for a project dealing with the introduction of the concept of ‚interreligious competence‘ into the curricula of University Colleges of Education in Austria. On the basis of Pierre Bourdieu’s field theory, the authors start with references to the specific place of Religious Education in connection to the social fields of religion, academia and politics. On this basis, they underline that the concrete debates on the concept of ‚interreligious competence‘ – within the context of its integration into the curricula – cannot be adequately understood without references to politics. Actually, these debates are characterized by a two-level conflict between (a) secular and religious positions and (b) confessional and inter religious positions.

Further information and full text: <http://oerf-journal.eu/index.php/oerf/article/view/22/94>

Regina Polak/Franz Höllinger: *Die Bedeutung der Religion für Migrantinnen und Migranten*, in: Wolfgang Aschauer et. al. (Ed.): *Die Lebenssituation von Migrantinnen und Migranten in Österreich. Ergebnisse einer Umfrage unter Zugewanderten*, Berlin 2019, 173-200.

The term “religion” has – taking into account different scientific disciplines – a wide spectrum of meanings. While sociology of religion questions the social relevance and function of religion, other disciplines, like philosophy of religion and theology approach the term hermeneutically. When asking for “the” religion of “migrants”, comparing them regarding different religious affiliations or even aiming at drawing political conclusions, one should take into account the



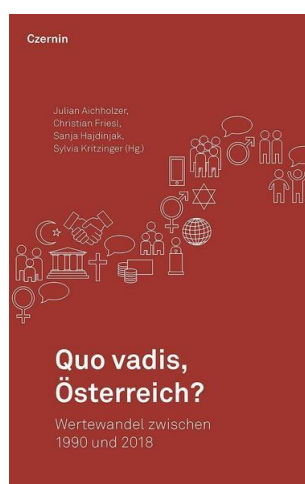
complexity of the phenomena and involve different disciplines. Based on this, the contribution by Regina Polak and Franz Höllinger interprets empirical data and offers differentiated insights.

Further information: <https://www.springer.com/de/book/9783658255916>

Regina Polak/Lena Seewann: *Religion als Distinktion: Säkularisierung und Pluralisierung als treibende Dynamiken in Österreich*, in: Julian Aichholzer/Christian Friesl/Sanja Hajdinjak/Sylvia Kritzingler (Ed.): *Quo Vadis, Österreich? Wertewandel zwischen 1990 und 2018*, Wien: Czernin 2019, 89–134.

In this contribution, the results of the recent European Value Studies on the socioreligious situation in Austria are presented. The article comprises the analysis of the development from 1990 to 2018 and shows that migration and dissociation between persons and their former denominations are the most important initiators of socioreligious transformation. Furthermore, the authors develop a socioreligious typology that shows that the tensions and conflicts concerning religion do not only concern differences between Christianity and Islam, but also sociodemographic attributes like gender, age and provenience. Moreover, the interference of religious self-conception and politically relevant attitudes like xenophobia or authoritarianism is considered.

Further information: <http://www.czernin-verlag.com/buch/quo-vadis-osterreich>



Overview

- Kurt Appel/Daniel Minch/Patrick Elridge: **Critiques of Master-Representations : The Political Dimension of the Canon between the Bible and the Qur'an**, in: Kurt Appel/Carl Raschke (Ed.): The Crisis of Representation. Göttingen 2018 (Interdisciplinary journal for religion and transformation in contemporary society; 7).
- Kurt Appel: **Das Dieses ist ein Baum ist ein Baum. Der absolute Geist als freies Dasein der Wirklichkeit**, in: Thomas Oehl/Arthur Kok (Ed.): Objektiver und absoluter Geist nach Hegel: Kunst, Religion und Philosophie innerhalb und außerhalb von Gesellschaft und Geschichte. Leiden/Boston 2018.
- Kurt Appel/Daniel Kuran: **"Denn Leben ist vom Leben nicht verschieden, weil das Leben in der einigen Gottheit ist" : Liebe und Freiheit in den Jugendschriften Hegels**, in: Rudolf Langthaler/Michael Hofer (Ed.): Liebe und Hass. Perspektiven der Philosophie, Religion und Literatur. Wien 2019.
- Kurt Appel: **Lo svolgimento apocalittico e l'ultima parola dell'uomo**. In: Maria Jose Lopes/Ana Paula Pinto/Antonio Melo/Joao Carlos Onofre Pinto/Alvaro Balsa (Ed.): Verba volant? : Oralidade, escrita e memória. Braga 2018.
- Jakob Deibl: **Ästhetik – Poesie – Religion : Eine Verhältnisbestimmung im Ausgang von Hölderlins theoretischen Schriften mit einem Ausblick auf die Elegie „Heimkunft“**, in: Wolfgang Braungart/Joachim Jacob/Jan-Heiner Tück (Ed.): Literatur/Religion: Bilanz und Perspektiven eines interdisziplinären Forschungsgebietes. Stuttgart 2019 (Studien zu Literatur und Religion/Studies on Literature and Religion).
- Jakob Deibl: **Ästhetik der Sphäre und der offenen Wendungen : Überlegungen zu Kunst und Medizin im Ausgang von Massimo Kaufmanns "Gingko"**, in: Andrea B. Del Guercio ; Isabella Guanzini ; Hans-Walter Ruckenbauer ; Ida Terracciano: Kunst heilt Medizin: Interdisziplinäre Untersuchungen zu vulnerabler Körperlichkeit. Innsbruck/Wien 2019.
- Jakob Deibl: **Der Brief als theologischer Topos**, in: Gianluca de Candia/Philippe Nouzille (Ed): Sancta Morum Elegantia: Stili e motivi di un pensare teologico. Miscellanea offerta a Elmar Salmann. St. Ottilien 2018.
- Jakob Deibl: **Vattimo e Hegel : Pensiero debole e esposizione dell'Assoluto**, in: Philippe Nouzille/Salvatore Rindone (Ed.): Ermeneutica, cristianesimo, politica : Intorno a Gianni Vattimo. Rom 2018.
- Stefan Hammer: **Die Aleviten im österreichischen Religionsrecht - ein Kampf um Anerkennung : Der schwere Abschied vom Ausschließlichkeitsgrundsatz**, in: Richard Potz/Herbert Kalb/Brigitte Schinkele/Wolfgang Wieshaider: Österreichisches Archiv für Recht und Religion – öarr. Freistadt 2019 (Österreichisches Archiv für Recht und Religion; 1).
- Stefan Hammer: **Internationaler Religionsdialog und Menschenrechte**, in: Sektion für kulturelle Auslandsbeziehungen, BM für Europa, Integration und Äußeres (Ed.): Die Kunst der Begegnung: Dialogfelder der österreichischen Außenpolitik. Wien 2019.

Stefan Hammer: **La distinction entre le droit public et le droit privé dans l'espace germanique de l'époque absolutive à l'Etat constitutionnel démocratique**, in: Paolo Alvazzi Del Frate/Sylvain Bloquet/Arnaud Vergne La Summa (Ed.): La summa divisio droit public / droit privé: dans l'histoire des systèmes juridiques en Europe (XIX -XXI siècles). Varenne 2018.

Stefan Hammer: **The values of the European political order and the role of religious communities**, in: Enes Karic/Richard Potz/Denise Quistorp (Ed.): State and Religions in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Austria: A Legal Framework for Islam in a European context. Wien 2019.

Elisabeth Holzleithner: **Bekleidungs Vorschriften und Genderperformance am Arbeitsplatz**, in: Susanne Feigl/Sandra Konstatzky (Ed.): Auf dem Weg zur Gleichbehandlung : Festschrift für Ingrid Nikolay-Leitner. Wien 2018.

Elisabeth Holzleithner: **Ein Mann vom Lande : Gesetz und Geschlecht**, in: Christoph Bezemek (Ed.): Franz Kafka, Vor dem Gesetz. Wien 2019.



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Elisabeth Holzleithner: **Lesbische Verhältnisse am Hühnerhof : Kapriolen des Sexuellen aus der Geschichte des österreichischen Rechts**, in: Andrea B. Del Guercio ; Isabella Guanzini ; Hans-Walter Ruckenbauer ; Ida Terracciano: Kunst heilt Medizin: Interdisziplinäre Untersuchungen zu vulnerabler Körperlichkeit. Innsbruck/Wien 2019.

Elisabeth Holzleithner: **Subversion from within. Opposition to Gender Equality in the Court of Justice of the European Union**, in: Mieke Verloo (Ed.): Varieties of Opposition to Gender Equality in Europe. New York 2018.

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- Rüdiger Lohlker: **Collective Organizers : Lone Wolves, Remote Control, and Virtual Guidance**, in: Rüdiger Lohlker (Ed.): World Wide Warriors: How Jihadis Operate Online. Göttingen 2019 (RaT-series 14).
- Rüdiger Lohlker: **Emerging Alternatives and Participatory Action Research : Report on the Video Project 'Jamal al-Khatib'**, in: Katharina Limacher/Astrid Mattes/Christoph Novak (Ed.): Prayer, Pop and Politics: Researching Religious Youth in Migration Society. Göttingen 2019 (RaT-series 15).
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- Rüdiger Lohlker: **Introduction : Confusion meets Confusion**, in: Rüdiger Lohlker (Ed.): World Wide Warriors: How Jihadis Operate Online. Göttingen 2019 (RaT-series 14).
- Rüdiger Lohlker: **Islam und Gewalt, Gewalt und Islam? Einige Überlegungen**, in: Zekirija Sjdini (Ed.): Islam in Europa: Begegnungen, Konflikte und Lösungen. Münster 2018.
- Rüdiger Lohlker: **Islamic State : IS Caliphate and Modernity**, in: Ednan Aslan, Margaret Rausch: Religious Education. Berlin/Heidelberg 2018.
- Richard Potz: **Der islamische Religionsunterricht in Österreich**, in: Stefan Hinghofer-Szalkay/Herbert Kalb (Ed.): Islam, Recht und Diversität. Wien 2018.
- Sieglinde Rosenberger: **Gesichtsverhüllung: In der Öffentlichkeit pauschal verboten**, in: Susanne Feigl/Sandra Konstatzky (Ed.): Auf dem Weg zur Gleichbehandlung : Festschrift für Ingrid Nikolay-Leitner. Wien 2018.
- Johann Schelkshorn: **Wider die Instrumentalisierung des Christentums : Zur Unvereinbarkeit von neorechter Ideologie und christlicher Moral**, in: Walter Lesch (Ed.): Christentum und Populismus. Klare Fronten?. Freiburg/Basel/Wien 2017.
- Eva Synek: **Das Engagement des Ökumenischen Patriarchats für eine autokephale Kirche**, in der Ukraine – eine Zerreißprobe für die Orthodoxie, in: religionen unterwegs 25 (2019).
- Eva Synek: **Interreligiöse Ehen**, in: öarr 65 (2019).
- Eva Synek/Alexej Klutschewsky: **Orthodox Women and the Bible in Nineteenth-Century Russia**, in: Ruth Albrecht/Michaela Kronthaler (Ed.): Faith and Feminism in Nineteenth-Century Religious Communities. The So-Called Long Nineteenth Century, Atlanta 2019.
- Jan-Heiner Tück: **Angstwelten der Gegenwart. Diagnose und Therapie aus theologischer Sicht**, in: Martin Dürnberger (Ed.): Angst?: Salzburger Hochschulwochen. Wien/Salzburg 2018.

Further information:

<https://www.religionandtransformation.at/en/publications/articles-in-edited-volumes/>

3. PREVIEW

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2019 – January 2020

Overview

Starting with October 10 2019:

Lecture series *Gender, Religion, Transformation*, organised by Sabine Grenz in cooperation with RaT

Further information:

<https://ufind.univie.ac.at/de/course.html?lv=240236&semester=2019W>

October 14-15 2019

Workshop on *Derrida, Religion and Violence* organised by Jason Alvis and Michael Staudigl in cooperation with RaT

October 15 2019

Guest lecture *Josua postcolonial. Der Exodus-Landnahme-Zusammenhang und die Figur der Rahab*, by Marie-Theres Wacker, organised by Marianne Grohmann und Gerhard Langer

Further information: https://etf.univie.ac.at/news-events/detailansicht/news/15-oktober-josua-postkolonial/?tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&cHash=1e9b81d6a254d6ab5c1a885a3824f90d



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October 17-19 2019

Conference *Interreligious Dialogue in Context. A European Comparison*, organised by Karsten Lehmann in cooperation with RaT

Further information: <https://rat-blog.at/2019/06/05/vielfalt-interreligioesen-dialogs-in-europa-tagung-interreligious-dialogue-in-context-ird-con/>

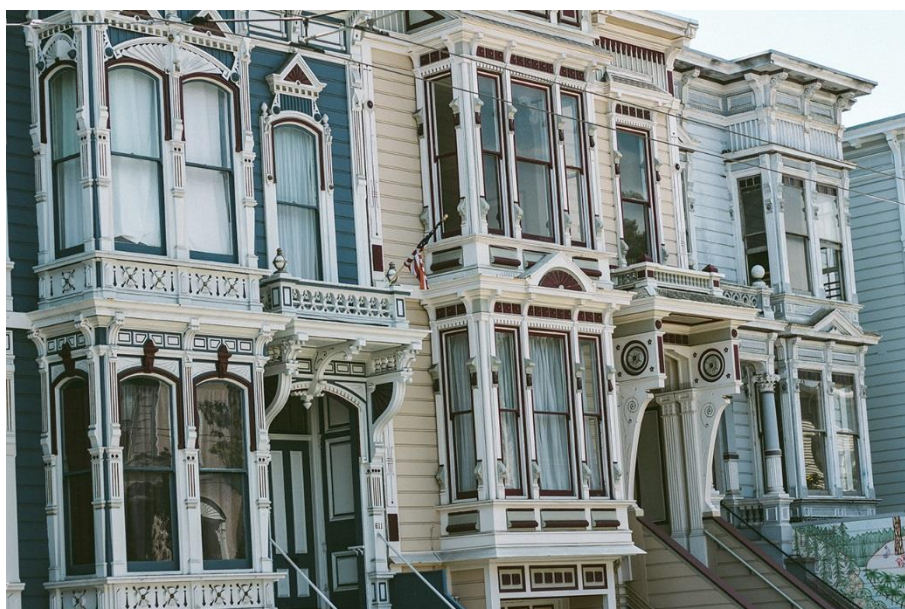
October 22 2019

Guest lecture by Lucia Vantini, organised by Kurt Appel

October 24 2019

Panel discussion *New Perspectives: Governance of Islam in Germany and Austria*, with RaT-member Astrid Mattes

Further information: <http://www.evang-akademie.at/akademie/neue-perspektiven-auf-religion-und-gesellschaft-islampolitik-deutschland-und-%C3%B6sterreich>



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October 25 2019

Workshop *Vienna Circle and Religion*, organised by Esther Ramharter and Elisabeth Nemeth in cooperation with RaT

Further information:

https://www.religionandtransformation.at/fileadmin/user_upload/p_religions_transformation/Druckerei_26._Juli_Platat_Wr_Kreis_und_Religion.pdf

November 17 and 18

Conference on *Religion(s) at school*, organised by Ednan Aslan

Further information: <https://ras.univie.ac.at/>

November 20-22 2019

Conference *Confronting Fanaticism*, organised by Jason Alvis and Michael Staudigl

November 26 2019

Guest lecture by Silvano Zucal, organised by Kurt Appel

November 28 2019

Second Book presentation *Prayer, Pop and Politics: Researching Religious Youth in Migration Society* (RaT-series 15), ed. by Katharina Limacher, Astrid Mattes and Christoph Novak

Further information: https://www.volkskundemuseum.at/buchpraesentation_prayerpop_andpolitics

December 2 2019

Book presentation and workshop *Der Jude Jesus und die Zukunft des Christentums. Zum Riss zwischen Dogma und Bibel*, with Norbert Reck, organised by Regina Polak

January 16 2020

IPW Lecture with Sebastian Pittl: *Zwischen postmodernem Heidentum und identitärem Christentum: Die politische Theologie der Neuen Rechten*, organised by the Institute for Political Science in cooperation with Katharina Limacher

Further information: <https://politikwissenschaft.univie.ac.at/news-events/ipw-lectures/>

January 29 2020

Lecture *Recht und Religion in mittelalterlichen Handschriften*, organised by ÖAW in cooperation with Eva Synek

Further information: https://www.oeaw.ac.at/imafo/veranstaltungen/kalender-details/?tx_news_pi1%5BoverwriteDemand%5D%5Bmonth%5D=9&tx_news_pi1%5BoverwriteDemand%5D%5Byear%5D=2019&cHash=0756e68e3a71d4be64a0add277cb5177



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Previews

Lecture series *Gender, Religion, Transformation*, organised by Sabine Grenz in cooperation with RaT

Starting with October 10 2019, weekly on Thursday, 18:30-20:00, main building of the University of Vienna, lecture room 31

The visibility in public space and, coming along with that, the relevance of religions, religious affiliations and practices have increased. This trend does not seem to come to an end, and as a consequence, the relation between religiosity and secularity has to be discussed anew. This also leads to a global transformation of values and societies as such. Constructs of gender play an important role for both sides, religiosity as well as secularity, and the liminal area in between. As a consequence, also interdisciplinary gender studies needs to intensify the research on this development and the problems that come along. The focus of this lectures series lies on constructs of gender. Taking into account aspects of intersectionality and internationality, six lectures and a panel discussion will take place. The topics are: Experiences of de- /conversion; Reigning of religious difference; Cultures of remembrance; Religiously motivated critique of gender theories; Posthumanity with religious aspects.

Further information: <https://ufind.univie.ac.at/de/course.html?lv=240236&semester=2019W>

Conference *Interreligious Dialogue in Context. A European Comparison*, organised by Karsten Lehmann in cooperation with RaT

Thursday, October 17, 13:30-18:00, Friday, October 18, 09:00-18:00, Saturday, October 19, 09:00-12:30, main building of the University of Vienna, dean's hall of the Faculty of Catholic Theology

The workshop project intends to bring together an international group of European experts on interreligious dialogue (IRD) to close one of the major gaps in present-day research on IRD. For the first time, the workshop wants to focus on a systematic comparison of different 'national cultures' of IRD in Europe. Participants will be invited to explore different practices of IRD in Europe and to discuss to what an extent their approaches are shaped by cultural contexts. The outcomes of these discussions will provide a basis for systematic considerations as well as a more concrete evaluation of the role IRD might play in education. The workshop is organised by the Research Centre RaT in cooperation with the KPH (Kirchliche Pädagogische Hochschule Wien / Krems).

Further information: <https://rat-blog.at/2019/06/05/vielfalt-interreligioesen-dialogs-in-europa-tagung-interreligious-dialogue-in-context-ird-con/>

Panel discussion *New Perspectives: Governance of Islam in Germany and Austria*, with RaT-member Astrid Mattes

The newly founded "Forum Civil Society" of the Albert Schweitzer Haus invites an interested audience to a lecture about the political regulation of and interaction with Islam and Muslims in Germany and Austria. Hanna Fülling, author of "Integration und Religion in der deutschen Islampolitik " (Springer VS, 2019), and RaT member Astrid Mattes discuss parallels and differences and identify local specifics as well as common European challenges.

October 24 2019, 19:00-21:00, Albert Schweitzer Haus (Kapelle, 4th Floor) Schwarzspanierstr. 13, 1090 Vienna

Further information: <http://www.evangelische-akademie.at/akademie/neue-perspektiven-auf-religion-und-gesellschaft-islampolitik-deutschland-und-%C3%B6sterreich>



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Second Book presentation *Prayer, Pop and Politics: Researching Religious Youth in Migration Society* (RaT-series 15), ed. by Katharina Limacher, Astrid Mattes and Christoph Novak

Thursday, November 28, 19:00, Volkskundemuseum, Laudongasse 15–19, 1080 Vienna

Volume 15 of the RaT book series will be presented at the Volkskundemuseum Wien/Austrian Museum of Folk Life and Folk Art. The editors Katharina Limacher, Astrid Mattes and Christoph Novak will give insights into the research results collected in the book and discuss the challenges of doing research on religious youth.

Further information: https://www.volkskundemuseum.at/buchpraesentation_prayerpop_andpolitics

4. REVIEW

RECENT EVENTS

February-June 2019

June 12 2019

Workshop with Georg Essen: *Fragile Sovereignty. A Political Theology*

On June 12, Georg Essen (University of Bochum) held a workshop on his current book project entitled "Fragile Souveränität. Eine politische Theologie" [trans. „Fragile Sovereignty. A Political Theology“]. His project departs from the question of how religions can affirm political concepts and achievements of the modern constitutional state, like freedom of religion, tolerance, and people’s sovereignty in diverse constitutional cultures. In this context, Essen raised the question if the traditional catholic narrative of the church catching up with modernity (in German "nachholende Selbstmodernisierung") since Vatican II is still plausible. Essen stressed that until today there is no affirmation of the principle of people’s sovereignty by the Catholic Church. The relation between the Catholic Church and liberal democracy remains unreconciled until today. This issue got even more serious since Orban presents the anti-liberal democracy under the cloak of a "Christian democracy".

Essen stressed that in fact, the approval of the principle of people’s sovereignty would be an important model for the Church in order to affirm the constitutional achievements of modernity. In contrast to Johann Baptist Metz, who is an important point of reference for him,



Left to right: Kurt Appel, Georg Essen, Thaddäus Gao Jianjun,
Michaela Richter, Daniel Kuran, Lisa Achathaler

Essen conceptualizes political theology not merely as a critique of societal practices, but as a way in which the principle of autonomy can be grounded also theologically.

Referring to former German constitutional judge Böckenförde, the pre-political foundations of the state were brought up for discussion as well as the genealogy of the modern state in the light of the conditions of its origin. In this context, it is crucial to consider the fragile dimension of law and sovereignty, while at the same time, the importance and effectiveness of juridification must not be underestimated. Moreover, it is important to realize that modern law rests upon the separation of legality and morality. In other words, its legitimation depends on a formal character of the legal statute, but not on truth or on moral grounds. Hence, the benefit of modern law is also its disadvantage. On the one hand, the separation of legality and morality is an important manifestation of freedom, on the other hand, democracy also demands pre-legal and pre-political conditions, like recognition and solidarity in order to be realized. Constitutional democracy therefore cannot be the only source of normativity, but requests that other resources of normativity, for instance ethics and history have be considered as well.

The principle of people's sovereignty understood as the one type of sovereignty that can only be legitimized by the ones who are subjected to it, was characterized in its fragile and, at the same time, effective dimension, which still have to be fully acknowledged by religions.

Interview with Georg Essen: <https://www.herder.de/hk/hefte/archiv/2014/1-2014/in-freiheit-gesetzte-ordnung-ein-gespraech-mit-dem-dogmatiker-georg-essen-ueber-religion-und-staat/>

June 4 2019

First Presentation of the recently published volume *Prayer, Pop and Politics. Researching Religious Youth in Migration Society* and panel discussion

On June 4 2019, the editors of "Prayer, Pop and Politics. Researching Religious Youth in Migration Society", volume 15 of the RaT-series, Katharina Limacher, Astrid Mattes and Christoph Novak, organised a presentation of their book. The outline of the approach and the



results of their project was followed by a panel discussion with Regina Polak, Areshpreet Wedech, Luna Al-Mousli and Georg Traska. Presenting and discussing recent issues on the complex societal situation of young religious people, this event answered to an outstandingly relevant political question and reached a broad public.

Diverse media, among them „Die Furche“, „oe 1“ and „orf.at“ were responsive to „Prayer, Pop and Politics“. See our [Press Review](#).



Katharina Limacher, Christoph Novak, Astrid Mattes



Regina Polak, Areshpreet Wedech, Martin Steinmüller-Schwarz,
Luna Al-Mousli, Georg Traska

June 4 2019

Guest lecture by Claudio Ciancio: *Luigi Pareyson und die Relevanz des Mythos heute*

On Tuesday, June 4 2019, a lecture by the Italian philosopher Claudio Ciancio, entitled „Ontologia dell’immagine: immagine della realtà e realtà dell’immagine“ („Ontology of the image: image of reality and reality of image“) took place in course of the Research Seminary for Graduates „Neue Narrative des Heiligen und des Humanum“ („New Narratives of the Holy and the Human“).

Ciancio is a student of one of the most famous and important Italian philosopher’s of the 20th century, Luigi Pareyson, and spent a great part of his work with further developing Pareyson’s philosophy. His scientific work roots in Italy and in Germany, where he is member of the Schelling-committee of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Munich. Currently, he is professor for theoretical philosophy at „Università del Piemonte Orientale“ and president of the „Centro studi filosofico-religiosi Luigi Pareyson“ in Turin.



In his lecture, Ciancio tried to develop a hermeneutical philosophy in the sense of his teachers in order to focus on the ontological status of the image. Hermeneutics, following Ciancio, show a particular paradox of the image, which is the paradoxical concordance of identity and difference, being and not-being. The image is interpretation of reality. As such, it is on one hand autonomous, differing from this reality, on the other hand, its reality is nothing but the reality of what it depicts. The image is not simply a copy of reality, but manifestation and expression of reality and therefore, an ontological augmentation. Nevertheless, reality remains inexhaustible and open for new images and interpretations. It would be a mistake to believe that an image could be a total objectification of reality.

The challenge for a philosophy of image is to accentuate this paradoxical dimension of images. In that course, art – every kind of art, from poetry to cinematography – is a privileged addressee for philosophy, for art functions as the authentic room for meaningful and disclosing images.

Review by Mattia Coser

May 23 2019

Workshop with Brian Klug: *The god and the gadfly*

On May 23, Prof. Brian Klug, University of Oxford, gave a workshop entitled "The god and the gadfly". This event followed up to a workshop on Wittgenstein taking place in September 2019 and was dedicated to Plato. In both workshops, Brian Klug tried to develop a philosophical approach to religion apart from the established interpretations.

May 28 2019

Guest lecture by Joshua Furnal: *Being before God: Cornelio Fabro's Thomistic approach to Kierkegaard's Theology*

Prof. Joshua Furnal, Radboud University Nijmegen, gave a talk on the Italian theologian Cornelio Fabro, who translated Kierkegaard's work into Italian. In the focus of his lecture was the dialectical relation of reason and faith. In that course, Furnal also referred to Thomas Aquinas.

May 14 2019

Conference with David W. Tracy, University of Chicago: *On the Range of Reason in Theology*, and guest lecture: *Theology and the Range of Reason: The Question of Mysticism*

On May 14 2019, David Tracy (Chicago), one of the most influential US-american theologians of our time visited Vienna, invited by the Research Centre Religion and Transformation and Andreas Telser (KU Linz). After a conference on the work of David Tracy, Tracy himself gave a public lecture entitled "Theology and the Range of Reason. The Question of Mysticism." In course of the conference, researchers working on David Tracy's theology offered insights from various perspectives.



Mercia McMahon, David Tracy

David Tracy held the prestigious Gifford Lectures at the University of Edinburgh (1999-2000), was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and has worked among other topics on public theology, methodology, inter-religious dialogue and the question of god in modernity.

Conference

Andreas Telser (Linz) and Barnabas Palfrey (Salisbury) gave a short welcoming speech and introduced into the topics.

Gaspar Martinez (Vitoria-Gasteiz) proposed a contextualisation of Tracy's theology. Referring to Karl Rahner, Johann Baptist Metz and Gustavo Gutiérrez, he emphasised Tracy's contributions to the reflection on questions of contemporary developments in society and the establishment of political-theological projects. Especially Vatican II was an important starting point for new perspectives on many topics, from biblical studies to political developments. David Tracy was one of the most important protagonists in the reception of these innovations. In his talk, Martinez outlined the interdependence of his work and that of other – exclusively male – theologians of our time and emphasised especially the importance of the contributions by Gutiérrez and Metz.



Kurt Appel, David Tracy, Sabine Grenz

Entitling his lecture "Interrupted Publics and Theological Endeavors", Steven Okey (St. Leo, FL) gave an insight into the hermeneutics of David Tracy, that reach beyond mere interpretation of text and concern also the perception of the world in its plurality and of other persons. With every conversation process comes an interruption of our self-centred attitude that makes it necessary to reorientate and open oneself. This moment is particularly evident in religions. Here, one's own contingency becomes especially evident, and that generates hope for a turn from self-centredness towards the other. Referring to Susan Ross and Sherry Turkle, Steven Okey problematized Tracy's focus on the individual subject and emphasised the importance of not only reflecting one's own ambiguities and contradictions, but also structural ones.

Mercia McMahon (London) gave a lecture entitled "The Christ of Faith and the Jesus of Story", in which she introduced theology as a process of telling, retelling and re-experiencing of biblical narratives. According to her, the central topic in Tracy's theology is Jesus Christ, who

configures the whole reality anew. She emphasised the importance of narrativity and of constantly searching for new narratives, for that can help to find a focus for one's own life and addresses human beings also on the level of affectivity. Stories ought to be fruitful also for the recipient's life, and one of the challenges for theology is to develop and reformulate these stories.

During the afternoon session, the meeting was enriched by two additional contributions: One by Kurt Appel (Vienna) and another one by Knut Wenzel (Frankfurt). In his response, Kurt Appel has attempted to attach to two central categories that are particularly important for David Tracy's thoughts – the Infinite and the Dialogue. Through an interpretation of the gospel of John, he tried to show the meaning of the infinite and its entanglement with the name of God (Tetragrammaton). At the center of his reflections was the scene of Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb.

Following Kurt Appel, Knut Wenzel talked about David Tracy's hermeneutics in connection with further conceptions, such as that of Paul Ricoeur and others and emphasized that Tracy's hermeneutic thinking was right from the start open to secularity and social affairs.

Following this, there was a lengthy exchange on the subordinate contributions of the speakers and some references from David Tracy.



Foreground (left to right): David Tracy, Sabine Grenz, Mercia McMahon

Lecture

In his lecture, Tracy claimed that a simplistic distinction between mysticism and theology falls short. Theology as the word of God has a deeply mystical element. Not only is it true that spirituality becomes tenuous without theology but also that theology needs spirituality. Mysticism has to be grasped as the constant awareness of the presence of God. In this broader sense mystical contemplation is more than an "inner experience". It is rather an event of God joining a human being.

In a historical outline Tracy explained that from 17th century onwards, modern rationality was distinguished from classical reason. There is no possibility to go back to a premodern form of

reason. Nevertheless, when rationality becomes a purely positivist rationality – scientific instead of scientific – the results for culture are tragic because religion then becomes privatized and rationality itself becomes instrumentalized. In this situation, Aristotle’s distinction between the infinity of time, space and number on the one hand and absolute infinity on the other hand remains to have a critical value today.

In classical and medieval forms of contemplation, not only a discursive meaning but also an intuitive dimension of intellectual contemplation can be found. Similar to the philosophies of Levinas and Marion, these forms of contemplation always reach for the infinite. A “taste of the infinite” remains the sign of religion in modern thought.

Tracy focused on Descartes – who is often regarded as the representative of the beginning of modern rationalism – to show that he disclosed an intuitive approach to the infinite. For Descartes, the idea of the infinite, God, is an idea that cannot be constituted through reflection. Those moments in which Descartes himself becomes contemplative and no longer argues in a purely rational manner, might be called transient mystical moments in his philosophy.

Often neglected by interpreters, Descartes’ 3rd meditation contains an idea that allows to think more than one thinks. Tracy argued that Descartes 3rd meditation can serve as benchmark for a contemporary systematic theology. According to Tracy, a contemporary understanding of the infinite is possible without sacrificing the transcendence of God nor his immanence.

May 7 2019

Guest lecture by Maureen Junker-Kenny: *Selbst, Sozialität und Sinn: Welcher Ort für Religion in Entwürfen der philosophischen Ethik?*

On Tuesday, May 7 2019, Maureen Junker-Kenny, who is professor at the Trinity College in Dublin and has made questions on Religion and Public space to one of the main topics of her work, gave a lecture entitled „Selbst, Sozialität und Sinn: Welcher Ort für Religion in Entwürfen der philosophischen Ethik?“ [engl. “Self, Sociality and Sense: What Role for Religion in Concepts



of Philosophical Ethics?"]. The lecture was organised by the Department of Fundamental Theology and RaT and took place in course of the seminary for diploma and doctoral students of the Department.

The starting point of the lecture was the question how public space can be organised so that respectful and appreciative cohabitation are at least not made impossible. Prof. Junker-Kenny

presented different concepts of social order and reflected on them also concerning the role religion can play within them. The first approach she talked about was the concept of an Aristotelian political order. This concept is based on ideas of natural justice and teleology – being *zoon politikon*, it lies in human's nature to develop a legal order. In that context, the inner dimension of conscience is of major relevance. Here, also religious contexts can be integrated, but religion is not necessarily constitutive for this model of society.

As a second option, Prof. Junker-Kenny named concepts of contract theory. According to these, individuals enter a legal order due to rational reasons, for this order protects them and also offers a space of freedom, insofar as it is only necessary to behave according to the legal conditions and the individual's inner attitude is not restricted by normative claims. In this concept, that comes up especially in modern age, religion has explicitly no relevance for the political sphere.

Subsequently, Prof. Junker-Kenny, taking into account considerations by Herta Nagl-Docekal, problematized this approach. If the inner conviction is of no relevance, one faces the danger of an erosion of the subject. Furtherly, the question of the influence of the individual's religiosity on morality and behaviour stays underexposed. The problem that occurs is whether a mere logic of contract can hold society together.



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The relevant question in this context is in how far public reason and religion can be related. Founding a society on contract theory, following the classical approach that is explicated in John Rawls "Theory of Justice", means to abstract from one's own cultural and religious background and to make impartial, rational and potentially universalised decisions starting from that. But in that course, not only the egoistic tendencies, that can come with the identification with a certain group, but also the resources that lay in the embedment in culture and religion, are suppressed.

To use these resources and, coming with that, not to reduce public reason to the search of a minimal consensus apart from all particularity could lead to a far higher commitment to common fundamentals and goals compared to a mere rationally based agreement. For example,

the justification of measures for climate protection does not have to lie in their utility for a society functional on the long run, but can take into account different motives – the responsibility for future generations as well as the preservation of god’s creation and the respect for the Indian goddess Pachamama. Condition for such an inclusion of particular motivations into universally valid legislation are, with Christina Traina and Jürgen Habermas, to preserve the freedom of interpretation and not to claim absolute primacy of the own religion and culture. Here, Prof. Junker-Kenny referred primarily to Paul Ricœur, who treats religions as cofounders of public space. In the end, the goal is to protect the individual’s inner freedom and subjectivity and to include them into the substantiation of a universal society.

April 4 2019

Workshop with Armin Schneider connected to the Central College: *To Begin with... Dialectics, Materialism and Mathematical Formalism in Hegel and Badiou. Or: Thinking between Philosophy and Science, in cooperation with Humboldt-Universität Berlin, Karls-Universität Prag and the Research Centre RaT.*

On the 4th of April, Armin Schneider (Humboldt University Berlin) held a workshop on Hegel, the beginning of his Science of Logic and its relation to Hegel’s early system drafts (in his Jena period). The workshop emerged from a CENTRAL College Project (a cooperation on PhD level between Universities of Berlin, Prague and Vienna) on Hegel and Badiou.



Armin Schneider, Marlene Deibl, Martin Eleven,
Giovanni Scattolin, Jakob Deibl, Andrea Spreafico,
Marian Schöffner

At first, Schneider gave an introduction into current discussions on Hegel and Post-Hegelian thought in Badiou, Ruda, Commay and Dolar. The irritating fact that Hegel’s Science of Logic – one of the main works of Hegelian dialectics – begins in a rather non-dialectical way was the background for Badiou’s critique of Hegel’s first chapter in the Logic of Being. The repetition of being in the very first syntagma of the Logic, “Being, pure being, –”, which even precedes

determined negation (bestimmte Negation), causes the question if a repetitive form of thought is at work in Hegel's speculative dialectics. However, Badiou's insight was reevaluated in favour of Hegel by Mladen Dolar (Being and McGuffin, 2017) and Frank Ruda / Rebecca Commay (The Dash, 2019). Hegel's beginning with the immediacy of pure being nonetheless has to be grasped as a remaining immediacy within all forms of logical mediation.

Following that, Armin Schneider presented an outline of his current work on Hegel. Dealing with the fact that the notion of repetition is often taken for one of the most important terms in Post-Hegelian philosophy (Kierkegaard, Freud, Deleuze etc.), Schneider investigated the role of repetition (Wiederholung) in the early writings of Hegel. Starting from Hegel's system drafts in Jena, Schneider presented a new, innovative perspective on the beginning of Hegel's Science of Logic.



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March 22 2019

Conference *Identity without Faith? Agamben, Sovereignty, and an Awareness of What is Missing*, organised by Martin Koci and Jason Alvis



Jason Alvis, Martin Koci

On Friday, March 22, a workshop on „Identity without Faith. Giorgio Agamben, Sovereignty and What is Missing“ took place at the RaT office. The workshop was organized by Martin Koci and Jason Alvis as part of their FWF grant “Revenge of the Sacred” and hosted by RaT.



Natalie Eder, Marlene Deibl

Colby Dickinson (Loyola University, Chicago), an eminent scholar on Agamben and the question of postmodern theology, and Marlene Deibl (University of Vienna) who is doing research on Agamben's theological method for her PhD thesis, gave keynote talks. These talks were then met by a lively discussion that revolved around questions of the methodological place of heresy in philosophy and the possible political implications of contemporary fundamental theology. Responses to the talks and input for the discussion were delivered by Bogdana Koljevic Griffith from Belgrade, Jason Alvis, Natalie Eder from Vienna and Kimberly Berkey (Chicago).

March 18-20 2019

Constituent Meeting of the Centre's Scientific Advisory Board and Open Day

In March 2019, the first Meeting of our Scientific Advisory Board, that comprises six international experts, took place. The Team and the Members of RaT presented the work of the Centre and the SAB provided consult concerning certain issues and opened up new perspectives for our future work. In this context, we also organised an Open Day that offered the opportunity to present RaT-related Research Projects to a broader public.



Mechthild Dreyer, Cornelia Richter

Constituent Meeting of the SAB, March 19 2019

On March 19, the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of the Research Centre RaT held its constituent meeting at Schenkenstraße 8-10 in Vienna. The SAB is a board that comprises of six internationally renowned scientists from the US, Great Britain, Germany and Italy who will meet at least once a year, namely Heiner Bielefeldt (Friedrich-Alexander Universität Nürnberg-Erlangen), Jocelyne Cesari (University of Birmingham / Georgetown University), Mechthild Dreyer (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz), Cornelia Richter (Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn / Universität Köln), Bettina Schmidt (University of Wales Trinity Saint David)



Kurt Appel, Markus Riedenauer, Roberto Tottoli,
Mechthild Dreyer

and Roberto Tottoli (Università degli Studi di Napoli L'Orientale). The installation of the SAB was an initiative instructed by the rectorate. The board supports the Research Centre by consulting RaT e.g. with regards to the Research Centre's organizational development.

The morning session started with a presentation of the Research Centre Religion and Transformation in Contemporary Society. Subsequently, an introduction of members of the Research Centre as well as an introduction of the SAB members followed.



Lisa Achathaler, Wolfram Reiss, Ednan Aslan, Ingeborg Gabriel

In the afternoon, three consultation sessions offered the possibility of discussing matters related e.g. to doctoral schools, dissemination strategies or state of the art research in which representatives of all faculties took part.



Stefan Hammer, Astrid Mattes, Jason Alvis, Kurt Appel

Open Day, March 20 2019

On March 20, the Research Centre Religion and Transformation held its first Open Day to present some of its current activities to a broader public and give interested visitors an insight into research projects of Pre- and Post-Doc assistants affiliated to the Centre. In the spacious new lecture room of the Department of Islamic-Theological Studies at Schenkenstrasse, around 35 guests enjoyed half a day gaining insights into diverse activities of RaT-Members. The morning began with a cup of coffee and a short presentation of the Centre. RaT's history and development were outlined in terms of research issues pursued within the 10 years of its existence and an overview over the already published issues of the Open Access Journal J-RaT was given.



Recognisable in the foreground: Pierre Nyongo, Constanza Cordoni, Christoph Novak, Katharina Limacher, Roberto Tottoli, Heiner Bielefeld

The first panel after the introduction was dedicated to current publications and conferences. Katharina Limacher, Astrid Mattes and Christoph Novak presented their book "Prayer, Pop and Politics – Researching Religious Youth in Migration Society" that will be published within RaT's book series in spring 2019. They disclosed some of their objectives as well as central concepts that guided the process of the book's development, such as intersectionality and methodological reflexivity. They also gave a brief overview over the different contributions. The foci of the articles range from digital and offline activism of religious youth to participatory action research projects on radicalisation prevention and include research on Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and Alevi youth.

Karsten Lehmann, research professor for Interreligiosity at the university college for teacher education (Vienna/Krems), presented the visitors with an outlook on an upcoming conference on the topic of interreligious dialogue. This event is organised in collaboration with the Research Centre and will take place in Vienna in October 2019. The conference shall close a gap in research on interreligious dialogue. It aims at bringing together and systematically comparing different national cultures and their influence on interreligious dialogue in Europe. By inviting scholars from countries with very different denominational majorities (Catholic, Protestant, Muslim and non-religious), the conference creates a unique frame for a scholarly discussion.

The second panel, chaired by Samuel Siaw, student of theology, encompassed three presentations of pre- and post-doctoral researchers affiliated with the Research Centre. The first presentation by Ranja Ebrahim, scholar of Islamic theology, bore the title “The qur’ānic textus receptus’ claim to universality within the contingency of textuality” (“Universalitätsanspruch des qur’ānischen textus receptus in der Kontingenz der Textualität”). Building upon her PhD research in Islamic pedagogy, Ranja Ebrahim presented the outline of a research project that wants to investigate how the Qur’ān and its claim to universality can be situated within the threefold context of the textus receptus, commenting literature and the perception by present-day Muslims.



Ranja Ebrahim

Following the presentation of Ranja Ebrahim, philosopher and political scientist Matthias Flatscher presented an excerpt of his habilitation thesis entitled “The politics of Alterity” (“Politik(en) der Alterität”). The project puts forth a political reading of the history of phenomenology in 20th century and thereby introduces a concept of alterity that is highly relevant for political, philosophical and theological thought. Based on the writings of Levinas and Derrida, Flatscher developed a concept of politics of alterity in which the notions of ethics and politics are closely interrelated. This approach enables to articulate the demand for a critical understanding of universality in the sense that universality is only possible in relation to singularity.



Samuel Siaw

Reflecting further on the relation between singularity, alterity and universality, Daniel Kuran gave a response in which he tried to demonstrate the benefits of the concept of a politics of alterity for theological thought. Taking the idea of ethical-political responsibility introduced by Levinas and Derrida seriously, theology cannot set it's own starting point, but has to conceive of itself as a possible response to the unrepresentable singularity of the name of god. Therefore, religion must not be reduced to a mere object of political thought but also has to function as a subject contributing to a new vision of politics committed to alterity.



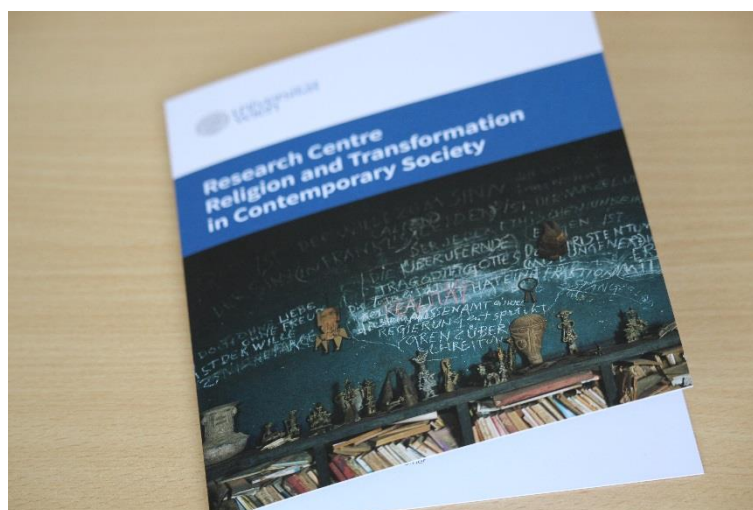
March 4-7 2019:

RaT at the European Academy of Religion, Bologna

In March 2019, RaT contributed to the annual meeting (04.-07.03.2019) of the European Academy of Religion (EuARE). Overall, five members and junior researchers of RaT presented papers at the conference – thereby also representing the highest number of contributors from the University of Vienna at the conference. RaT was present when the foundation of the EuARE was discussed in 2016, and also at the so called Zero Conference in 2017 when the concept of the conference was tested for the first time. In 2018, RaT launched a panel during the first conference of the EuARE entitled “The Future of the Grand European Narratives. Political, Theological and Philosophical Considerations”.

The Research Centre itself was presented by its speaker Kurt Appel at the Roundtable “Fostering the Public Understanding of Religion in Europe” (04.03.) chaired by the president of the European Academy of Religion Jocelyne Cesari who is part of RaT’s newly established Scientific Advisory Board. At the roundtable RaT engaged in discussion with representatives of other European research centres like Perry Schmidt-Leukel (Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”, Münster). The roundtable addressed several current topics like the role of religious education in different European countries, but also the relation between academic research on religion and journalism of religion.

Kurt Appel also joined the “Author meets Critique” Session and discussed Paolo Costa’s new book *The Post-Secular City: The New Secularization Debate*. In his book published by Queriniana 2019 Costa (research fellow at RaT in 2017) delivers a deep analysis of the concept of “secularization” and the history of de-constructions and constructions of the secularization theorem.



RaT-member Karl Baier gave a talk on “The Christian Reception of Mindfulness Practice” within the panel “Interreligious Spirituality: The Role of Mediation” (05.03.). In his contribution, Baier analyzed aspects of the mindfulness boom in the West and took a closer look at attempts to integrate mindfulness into Christian spirituality.

RaT also organized the panel “The Alternative as the Real: Canon, Translation, and ‘Alternative’ Histories of Salvation” which was chaired by Stephan van Erp (KU Leuven). The panel took up the topic RaT presented at the last conference of the EuARE sharing with it the focus on narrations and narrative structures we encounter in religion and contemporary society as well

as in philosophy. The panel put forth the thesis that Christian theology and the Biblical canon subvert a naïve distinction between fictitious and non-fictitious narratives. The canon is not a mere description of facts but rather a complex counter-narrative that discloses history as an alternative reality and an eschatological future. Especially the concept of a "history of salvation" is only accessible in a history of interpretation and translation, which always requires careful tools of disarmament of concepts, methods and narratives. The contributors of the panel were Kurt Appel (Vienna), Jakob Deibl (Rome), Daniel Kuran (Vienna), Marlene Deibl (Vienna), Jacob Benjamins (Leuven) and Stephan van Erp (Leuven).

March 4 2019

Workshop *The Varieties of Religions and Secularities: The Case of Equal Rights*, with contribution by Sabine Grenz

On March 4 2019, the network "Transforming Values: Gender, Religiosities and Secularities across the Globe" organized the Workshop "The Varieties of Religions and Secularities: The Case of Equal Rights" at the University College London. Sabine Grenz, professor for Gender Studies at the University of Vienna and RaT-member, contributed to this event essentially.

Topics of the workshop were processes of discussion concerning rights of women and LGBTIQ*-persons and dynamics caused by religious and secular players. Spirituality, on one hand, is often seen as opposing to democratic and emancipatory aims and religion can also be instrumentalised to disguise racism. On the other hand, religious people often form a network in order to stand in for their rights. The workshop aimed to develop a nuanced picture of these issues from a global perspective.

Further information:

<https://sites.google.com/view/spacesofresistance/network-transforming-values>



February 2 2019

Workshop on Theology and Africa

“Theology and Africa” was the title of a workshop with the focus on Africa that took place on Saturday, February 2 2019, in the Dominican convent in Vienna. It was organised by the Department of Fundamental Theology and lead by Kurt Appel. Master- and PhD-students who originate from different African countries presented and discussed their current projects.

The focus lay on topics that have to do with the chance for peace and reconciliation. This has to do with the fact that numerous African societies are confronted with the recurrence of fratricidal wars and tribal genocides. Another problem is that colonisation and evangelisation lead to a destruction of religious and cultural traditions. Important in this context is the question whether a recourse to traditional African Religion and Culture is possible at all. The theological reflection in this field focusses on the topic of reconciliation.

Furthermore, the fundamental theological concept of ecology is worth mentioning. Starting point for this is the encyclical “Laudato Si”. It was emphasised that education is essential to foster awareness and responsibility also in regard to social and gender justice.



Anthony Adekoye Adeola, Jean Bosco Cishahayo

Another question that came up was if one could actually speak about “African Theology”, given the manifold differences within this huge continent and its cultural and religious traditions.

At the end of these engaging discussions, we concluded that it is very desirable to establish room to continue this discourse and to promote theology in the context of Africa. It turned out that this could also be fruitful for the development of theology in Europe.

Review by Sylvère Buzingo

5. RESEARCH PROJECTS

Feature

Jason Alvis and Michael Staudigl: *Revenge of the Sacred: Phenomenology and Christianity in Europe (2019-2023)*

Content: From the supposed resurgence of religion and the rise of a “post-secular” society, to the occasional self-righteous and disavowed fanaticisms of a religionless occidental reason, western culture seems stuck somewhere in between its secular humanist impulses, and its trenchant theological heritage. Western societies perhaps are *no longer Christian, yet not yet non-Christian*. Leading phenomenological thinkers such as Patočka, Heidegger, and Derrida, understood that the scope of the western philosophical project holds religion to be of central importance, and works such as theirs lead us to ask the following questions: are we witnessing the resurgence of religion, and if not, then what, in fact, *is* surging that at least presents itself under the guise of religion? Have religion and faith become overly-subjectivized as hyper-personalized “options”, and does this spawn a crisis of collective identity in such a *no-longer-Christian-yet-not-yet-non-Christian* context? Is a post-Christian community possible while the Christian heritage still is innervating secular institutions? Or instead, has secularism “won” so to speak to the point that religion today is subjected to the oversight of a secular rationality?



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Hypotheses: Not only are we convinced that the present-day context is *no-longer-Christian-yet-not-yet-non-Christian*, but also that in this in-between phase, and in the incomplete transition from “Christian” to “Secular,” certain unique “revenges of the sacred” are taking place (in part due to its rejections). The traditional theological understandings of the sacred (e.g. as prohibition, purity, ideal standard, or non-contingent) are now appearing/taking revenge in newly “secularized,” evolved, and metamorphosized forms, whether as “untouchable” beliefs, “unconditional” claims, or “prohibited” topics of debate. The sacred historically is understood

as a harbinger of violent action to the benefit of humankind, and the "return of religion" often is discussed today as a benign occurrence. Thus, a development of the "revenge of the sacred" aims to address the active promises and dynamic perils of religion. Our investigations into such revenge(s) are limited to three essential research axes: Identity and Personhood, Sovereignty and Authority, and Embodiment and Incarnation - - *I.P.S.E.*

Methods: Means of addressing our hypothesis are five-fold: 1: to reassess contemporary phenomenologies of religion by applying them to confront and reflect upon the "return of religion" in a socio-political context; 2: to introduce a thicker philosophical dimension to contemporary, interdisciplinary approaches to the religion/secular debates beyond their blunt dichotomization; 3: to engage critically this still incomplete "secularization" process in regards to the inherent antinomies and "revenges" it has introduced; 4: to develop a broader understanding of the interrelations between philosophy and theology in order to confront some of today's social challenges; and 5: to synthesize our more theoretical findings into an accessible framework so implications and challenges can be pursued further.

Regina Polak: *Migration, Religion and Urbanization: A Practical Theology*

For thousands of years, migration, religion and urbanity have been linked inseparably – not only from the perspective of historical or social science, but also from the perspective of Christian theology. Legendary cities were built, inhabited and also criticized by nomads, migrants and refugees based on religious narratives and some function as projection screens in religious contexts up to know.



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Cities have always been transformed due to migration and the religions migrants brought with them have always been essential for this. Arising tensions and conflicts have been a source of violence of war, but also of new economic, social, cultural, political or religious ideas. For persons with migration experiences, who were decisive for the development of monotheistic traditions, cities have also functioned as laboratories, as experiments of living together in difference and equality and as projects of god. In our century, migration, urbanization and the connected socioreligious transformation processes belong to the major challenges.

Since 2018, Regina Polak, professor for Pastoral Theology, researches these issues, taking into account perspectives from social and migration studies, religious science and urban studies. She considers the consequences of these complex processes in Europe and aims at identifying theological and political contributions Christian churches can make.

The results shall be published by Routledge in 2021.

6. PRESS REVIEW

Contributions by RaT-members

September 11 2019: [Book of the month](#) presented by Katharina Limacher

September 7 2019: Contribution by Jan-Heiner Tück in Neue Zürcher Zeitung: "[Der Zölibat ist kein Dogma. Und Tradition kann man auch verraten, indem man sie einfriert](#)"



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August 8 2019: Contribution in Die Presse on RaT-volume "Prayer, Pop and Politics":
[Migrationsforschung: Religiöses Leben ohne Fahrplan](#)

July 31 2019: Contribution "[Werte, Vielfalt und Amazonien](#)" with Astrid Mattes on religion.orf.at

July 15 2019: Statement by interreligious working group for pedagogics of religion with contribution by Andrea Lehner-Hartmann and Ednan Aslan: Pädagogen: [Pädagogen: Religionsunterricht wichtige Stütze](#)

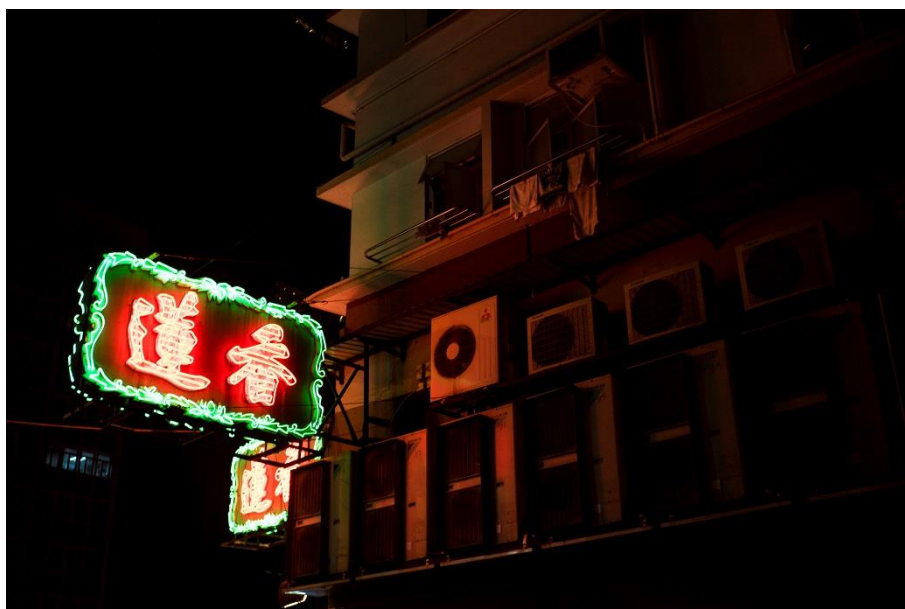
July 11 2019: contribution by Katharina Limacher and Astrid Mattes in [Die Furche](#): "Von Vielfalt und Individuum"

June 11 2019: contribution on oe 1 about the presentation of the RaT-volume "[Prayer, Pop and Politics](#)"

June 9 2019: Commentary in Wiener Zeitung by Regina Polak: "[Ein Weckruf aus dem Herzen der Kirche](#)"

June 6 2019: Commentary in [Die Furche](#) by Wolfram Reiss and Robert Wurzrainer: "Ethikunterricht soll kommen. Aber wie?"

June 5 2019: Contribution on the RaT-volume "Prayer, Pop and Politics" on katholisch.at: "[Theologen orten Leerstellen bei Forschung zu Jugend und Religion](#)"



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May 24 2019: Report on orf.at, with contribution by Jakob Deibl: "[Warum uns Kirchen wichtig sind](#)"

May 17 2019: Bericht auf orf.at: "[Wien: Gedenken an Vernichtung jüdischer Gemeinde](#)"

May 15 2019: Commentary by Ingeborg Gabriel on derStandard.at: "[Auf dem glatten Parkett des Religionsdiskurses](#)"

May 14 2019: Regina Polak on kathpress.at: "[Kirche hat junge Frauen 'verloren'](#)"

May 9 2019: Article on orf.at concerning a contribution on the RaT-Blog by Wolfram Reiss and Robert Wurzeiner: "[Ethikunterricht: Religionswissenschaftler zeigen auf](#)"

[Link to our Blog](#)

April 18 2019: Article by Jan-Heiner Tück "[Das Lied der Sirenen und die Macht des Glaubens: Was den gekreuzigten Christus mit Odysseus verbindet](#)", in: Neue Zürcher Zeitung

April 4 2019: report on orf.at: "[OSZE: Interreligiöser Dialog gegen Diskriminierung](#)", in cooperation with Ingeborg Gabriel

March 28 2019: Contribution on regionews.at: "[Wien: Islam-Kindergärten: Integrationsministerium und Stadt Wien starten flächendeckende Untersuchung](#)", in cooperation with Ednan Aslan

March 26 2019: Report by kathpress on a panel discussion with Marlene Deibl und Jan-Heiner Tück, entitled: "[Christ*in-Sein dazwischen. Christentum leben inmitten pluraler Weltanschauungen](#)"

March 18 2019: Interview with Ingeborg Gabriel, Regina Polak und Elisabeth Holztrattner: "[Sie sind doch intelligent, wieso arbeiten Sie in der Kirche?](#)"

March 15 2019: Jan-Heiner Tück in Neue Zürcher Zeitung: "[Missbrauchsfälle in der katholischen Kirche: Die 'heilige Hure' tut sich schwer mit ihrer Schuld](#)"

March 11 2019: Rüdiger Lohlker on Ö1-Morgenjournal: "[Experte gegen Rücknahme von IS-Kämpfern](#)"

March 9 2019: Report by Erzdiözese Wien: "[Theologiestudenten üben sich im Interreligiösen Dialog](#)", organised by Regina Polak

February 17 2019: Commentary by Sieglinde Rosenberger in Der Standard: "[Von der politischen Mitte zum rechten Rand](#)"

February 13 2019: Panel discussion with Irene Klissenbauer, Aiko Kazuko Kurosaki, Barbara Huemer: Screenings of the film: "[Female Pleasure](#)"

February 8 2019: Article by Sieglinde Rosenberger in Tiroler Tageszeitung: "[100 Jahre Frauenwahlrecht](#)"

February 7 2019: Report on kathpress.at: "[Literatur und Religion. Wiener Poetikdozentur wird fortgesetzt](#)"

January 31 2019: Guest Commentary by Irene Klissenbauer in APA-Science Dossier: "[Sag Ethik, wie hast du's mit der Digitalisierung?](#)"

January 28 2019: Article on orf.at at the occasion of an International Symposion: "[Christologie und Judesein Jesu](#)"



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We thank Silke Lapina for providing her excellent photographs for this Newsletter and for our homepage. Silke Lapina dedicates her work primarily to documentation and portrait photography. She studies Cultural and Social Anthropology in Vienna and works at the intersection of cultural theory and aesthetics. You can find more about her work here:

<http://www.silkelapina.com/>

