

Organisation

Prof. Dr. Martina Wagner-Egelhaaf
Prof. Dr. Doris Fuchs
Theory platform ‚Emotionality‘

Location

Raum J101
Johannisstraße 4
48143 Münster

Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”

The Cluster of Excellence “**Religion and Politics. Dynamics of Tradition and Innovation**” has been investigating since 2007 the complex relationship between religion and politics across eras and cultures. In the funding phase from 2019 to 2025, the 140 researchers from 20 disciplines in the humanities and social sciences analyze in transepochal studies ranging from antiquity to the present day the factors that make religion the motor of political and social change. The research network is the largest of its kind in Germany; and, of the Clusters of Excellence, one of the oldest and the only one to deal with the issue of religion. It will receive funding of 31 million euros from 2019 to 2025.

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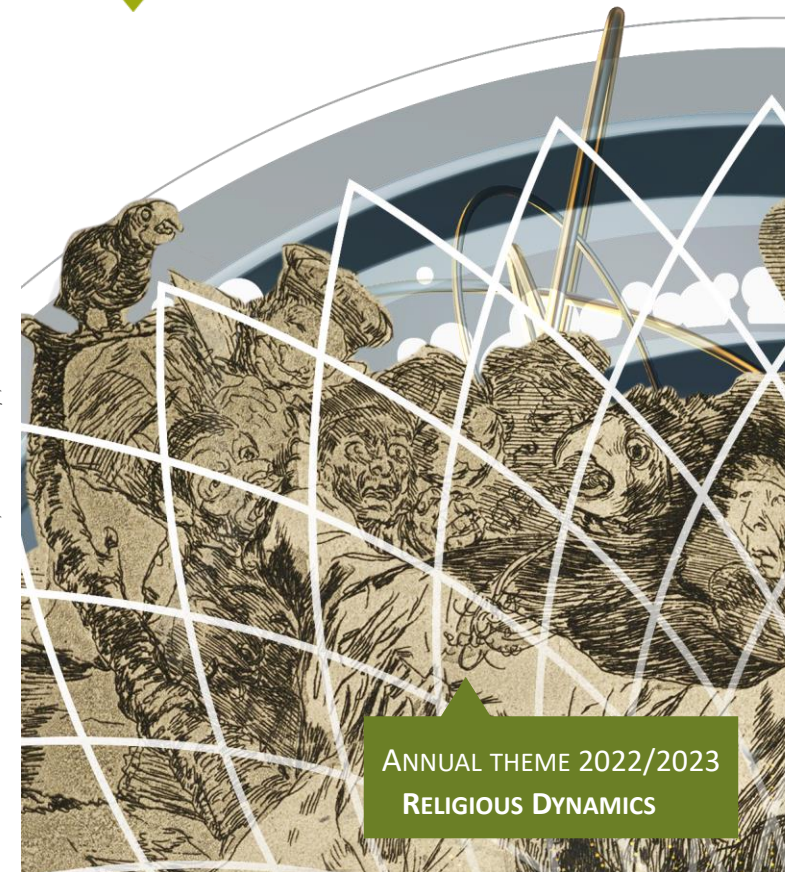


Lecture Series at the Cluster of Excellence

Emotion and Religion in Times of Crisis

Theory platform ‚Emotionality‘

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ANNUAL THEME 2022/2023
RELIGIOUS DYNAMICS

Emotion and Religion in Times of Crisis

Religion is commonly associated with emotions – whether this is just or unjust depends on the concept of emotion used. The three lectures are a follow-up of the conference “Emotion and Religion in Times of Crisis” which was held in December 1-3, 2022 as part of the annual theme “Religious Dynamics” at the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”. They discuss the complex relationship between emotion and religion on the premise that in times of crisis, in which political and ideological orientations lose their uniting force, religion and religiosity undergo an emotional dynamization. Conversely, they also consider that religion itself becomes a crisis factor and a discrete phenomenon itself.

One example is the Thirty Years’ War, which plunged Europe into violent political turmoil and thereby functionalized religion – itself both a motor and a trigger of the conflict – in such a way that people’s certainties of faith were challenged. Literature and the visual arts depict this in striking images.

Another example is classical modernity, during which scientific progress, industrialization, colonization, and the experiences of the First World War disrupted assumed European world-views providing opportunities for new religious aspirations beyond the established churches.

In contemporary society, perceptions of crisis – for example in the context of climate change, migration, or pandemic – lead to new emotional dynamics in relation to religion. Simultaneously, the abuse of power and child abuse scandals in the Christian churches contribute to the emotionalization of public consciousness. The crisis of the Christian churches, caused by a loss of members and prestige, is contrasted by assumptions of a worldwide political presence of religion and associated threats. The lectures aim to understand the role of emotions in the dynamics of these processes.

Programme

Tuesday, 9 May 2023 (J101)

12 – 14 | What to do when God is no longer visible?
Rembrandt and the religious crisis in the
Dutch Republic
Stijn Bussels, Leiden

Tuesday, 13 June 2023 (J101)

12 – 14 | Existenzielle Gefühle und Religiosität
Rainer Schützeichel, Bielefeld

Tuesday, 4 July 2023 (J101)

12 – 14 | Kritik und Krise ‚1923‘. Affekt, Emotion und
Religion bei Hugo Ball und Carl Schmitt
Jürgen Brockhoff, Berlin

Annual Theme 2022/23: “Religious Dynamics”

Religions are often driving forces behind processes of social change, and their patterns of interpretation are playing an important role in crises and conflicts today. In the third annual theme of the Cluster of Excellence „Religion and Politics“, public lectures, panels and discussion evenings, film screenings, and readings by contemporary authors will focus on religious dynamics from antiquity to the present day. Discussion will focus on how religious dynamics are set in motion, and how religions initiate, accelerate, and promote – but also inhibit – social change. The annual theme takes up ideas from current interdisciplinary work at the Cluster of Excellence and uses examples to discuss this work.

