

# NEWSLETTER OF THE CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE

May 2020



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## EDITORIAL

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Dear All,

The corona pandemic has also had an effect on work at the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”. With regret, we have had to postpone many events, including the lecture series “Dynamics of Religion” with the Egyptologist and Hans Blumenberg Visiting Professor Jan Assmann. Research trips will also have to wait, which for many of us is a real disappointment. But in the meantime we are using digital formats to continue our interdisciplinary projects and working groups. The current crisis is also raising new questions: a new Research Cloud, “Epidemics”, is adopting the perspective of many disciplines and epochs to investigate how interpretations of epidemics have changed over time, and the specific way in which religious, political and scientific communities and institutions deal with epidemics.

We have also contributed our diverse expertise from the humanities and social sciences to the public debate on the corona pandemic in recent weeks: with media contributions, for example, on the basic moral orientation of pandemic policy, on the suspension of fundamental rights, on how epidemics were dealt with in the past, on the crisis as something that unites or divides society, on rituals and fears, and on the relationships between science, politics, and the media.

The **research programme** of the Cluster of Excellence has also seen the emergence of other working groups, most recently **Research Clouds** on processes of “remembering and forgetting” in religious change, and on the competition between social forms of religion as a motor of religious history. The projects brought together in the Research Cloud “Digital Humanities” are developing digital editions of authoritative religious texts that will allow us to trace the history of their origin and transmission.

Further news can be found in the sections **Research news** and **Individual staff**. For example, the John Templeton Foundation has awarded funding to sociologists of religion from the Cluster of Excellence to conduct an international project on the transmission of religion between generations. The group of researchers from five countries will receive almost 1.8 million euros until 2022. Moreover, Jewish, Christian and Islamic theologians and religious educationists have prepared a discussion paper on interreligious religious education that takes into account the growing diversity of the religious landscape.

Other research results have also been reflected in **publications**, including new volumes in our “Blumenberg Lectures” series by sociologists Mark Juergensmeyer (*Krieg und Religion, War and Religion*) and Jóhann Páll Árnason (*Weltliche Autonomie und Religion in der Konstitution der Moderne, Secular Autonomy and Religion in the Constitution of Modernity*).

The Cluster of Excellence's **Graduate School** has seen work begin in the new doctoral projects, which range from religious diversity in the Roman Middle East, to the rededication of buildings in medieval Spain, the political work of Protestant parliamentarians, and discourses on homosexuality in present-day Tanzania. Numerous dissertations have also been published in recent months, and information on these can be found in the section **Early-career researchers**.

The Cluster of Excellence is also breaking new ground in **research communication**. The in-service training course "Specialist Journalist in Religion", the first of its kind in the country, is designed to qualify young media professionals to report about religions in pluralized societies in a nuanced and critical manner. We hope that this will also strengthen specialist and academic journalism. With the support of the German Rectors' Conference, the Archaeological Museum of the University of Münster and the Cluster of Excellence have brought to the fore the small disciplines of the humanities, such as Jewish Studies, Islamic Studies, and Egyptology, with the exhibition "Small Disciplines – Great Potential" – both in the museum itself, as well as on Twitter and Instagram. It has now become a permanent exhibition in German language on the **Cluster Web**: picture videos, stories and sharepics depict a wide range of research findings, from antiquity to the present day, and from China to the USA.

An insight into the Cluster's work can also be gained through its new image brochure, which is available free of charge in German and English (at **religionundpolitik@uni-muenster.de**). The title of the brochure and this newsletter is shaped by the Cluster of Excellence's new key visual, "Dynamics of Religion", in which the graphic designer and artist Stefan Matlik illustrates our research focus with motifs and writings from various religions and epochs.

The Cluster of Excellence "Religion and Politics" is mourning the loss of its colleague Dr. Thomas Lentjes, who died in Münster on 4 May 2020. The theologian and historian studied in the Cluster the forms of expression of piety and its mediation in bodily and pictorial structures in the Middle Ages and early modern period. With Thomas Lentjes, we are losing an extremely competent and inspiring colleague whose contributions and comments, whose commitment in personal interaction, will be sorely missed.

We thank you for your interest

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

**Dr. Iris Fleßenkämper**  
Managing Director of the  
Cluster of Excellence

**Viola van Melis**  
Head of Research  
Communication

P.S. If you have not already done so, follow the Cluster of Excellence's social media channels **@religionpolitik** (Twitter) and **@religionundpolitik** (Instagram).

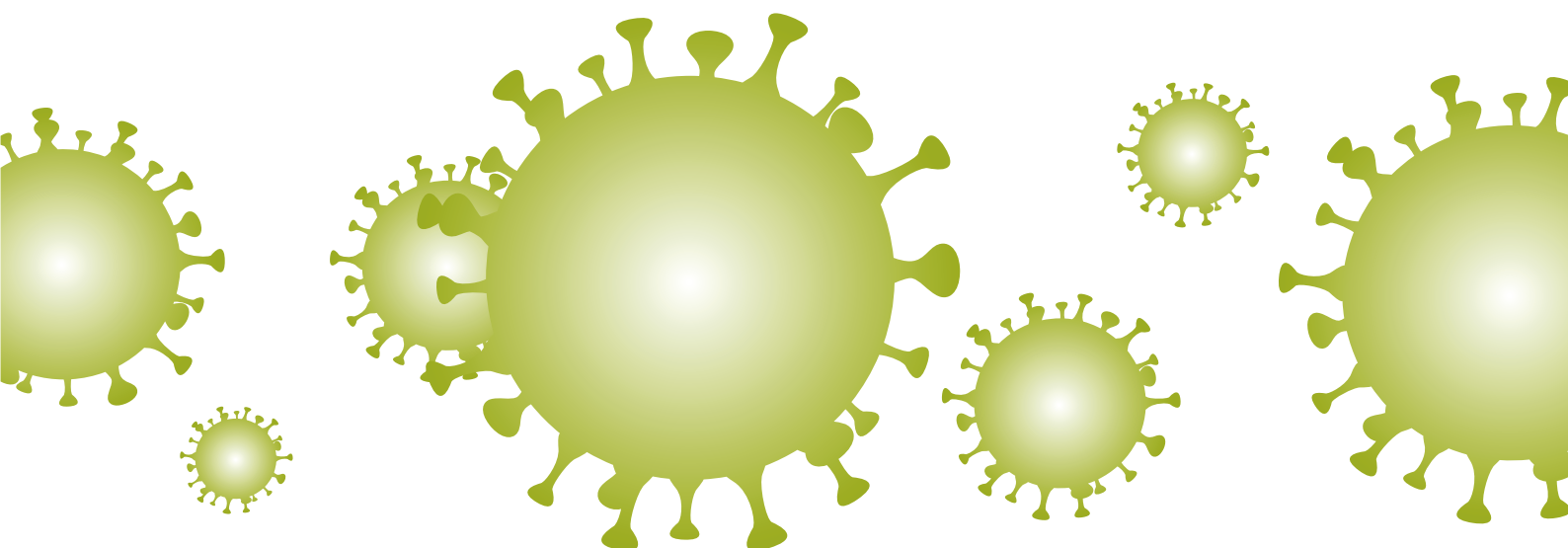
To recommend the newsletter (in German and English), use this subscription link:  
**[www.religion-und-politik.de/presse/newsletter.shtml](http://www.religion-und-politik.de/presse/newsletter.shtml)**.

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# NEWS FROM THE CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE

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## REFLECTIONS ON THE CORONA PANDEMIC



### Explanations of the pandemic from the perspective of the humanities

How is the corona pandemic changing our society? In recent weeks, the Cluster of Excellence has provided public debates with a great deal of expertise from the humanities and social sciences: with contributions on fundamental moral questions and the suspension of basic rights, on earlier epidemics, on the crisis as something that unites or divides society, on rituals and fears, and on the relationships between science, politics, and the media. We invite you to read a [collection of guest contributions, reports and interviews](#) from various disciplines and perspectives in print and online media as well as radio and television.

A new working group at the Cluster of Excellence is also dealing with the issue of [Epidemics](#). The Research Cloud adopts the perspective of many disciplines and epochs to investigate how interpretations of epidemics have changed over time, and is exploring above all the specific way in which religious, political and scientific communities and institutions deal with epidemics. The aim is to unite the interdisciplinary knowledge in the Cluster of Excellence on this issue and to seek impulses for further work, including on the social dynamics of religion in times of crisis. [Read more](#)

### “Politics and courts need moral compass from us”

According to the legal scholar Nils Jansen, the moral questions raised by the corona crisis should not be left to politics, the courts and science alone. Rather, argues Jansen, Speaker of the University of the Cluster of Excellence, society – “and this means us” – needs a common moral orientation, even if the struggle for such an orientation has become unpopular. Neither governments nor courts can manage in the long run “without the compass of public morality”. Whether it is the pressing medical-ethical questions in the clinics, the rents paid by retailers, the bankruptcy that businesses in shutdown face, the lack of workers for the harvest season, or the reimbursement for holidays and cultural events – the legal situation is not as clear-cut as many may believe. [Read more](#)

## Corona survey: psychologists examine the influence of the crisis on society

The psychologist Mitja Back from the Cluster of Excellence is working with a research group to investigate how the corona crisis is affecting the attitudes, feelings and behaviour of people in everyday life. The aim of the study is to analyze what influence the current crisis is having on people's attitudes, feelings and behaviour. In addition, the results can provide information on the individual and social factors.

## Conferences and evening talks held by the Cluster of Excellence cancelled until the end of May – Lecture series “Dynamics of Religiosity” also cancelled for the time being

In accordance with the University of Münster's corona regulations, the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics” has cancelled all conferences, public lectures and evening talks that had been planned for the period up to 31 May 2020. However, basic research in the projects of the Cluster of Excellence will continue as far as is feasible. The academic and public events that have to be cancelled in the summer semester include:

- 1 April 2020 International Conference “Islam and Enlightenment”, Organization: Mouhanad Khorchide, Islamic Theology
- 5 May 2020 Start of the lecture series “Dynamics of Religiosity”, Speaker: Prof. Dr. Andreas Thier, University of Zurich, Organization: Prof. Dr. Nils Jansen, Speaker of the Cluster of Excellence
- 11-12 May 2020 Evening talk and masterclass, Speakers: Prof. Dr. Jean and Prof. Dr. John Comaroff, Harvard University, Organization: Dorothea Schulz, Ethnology
- 19 May 2020 Lecture series “Dynamics of Religiosity”, Speaker: Prof. Dr. Hartmann Tyrell, Bielefeld University, Organization: Prof. Dr. Nils Jansen, Speaker of the Cluster of Excellence
- 26 May 2020 Lecture series “Dynamics of Religiosity”, Speaker: Prof. Dr. Barbara Stollberg-Rilinger, Cluster of Excellence and Institute for Advanced Study Berlin, Organization: Prof. Dr. Nils Jansen, Speaker of the Cluster of Excellence
- 16 June 2020 Lecture „Religion und Kultur: Ägypten - Israel - Abendland“, Prof. Dr. Jan Assmann

## THE CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MÜNSTER



© WWU - MünsterView

### French ambassador finds out about Campus of Religions

French ambassador Anne-Marie Descôtes came to the University of Münster to find out about the planned **Campus of Religions**. The Campus will bring the wide range of institutions for religious studies currently scattered throughout the city of Münster together in a large, centrally located complex of buildings. Starting in 2023, it will bring together Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox and Islamic theology, as well as institutions of non-denominational religious research such as the University's Centre for Religion and Modernity (CRM), and is intended to promote interdisciplinary and interreligious dialogue.

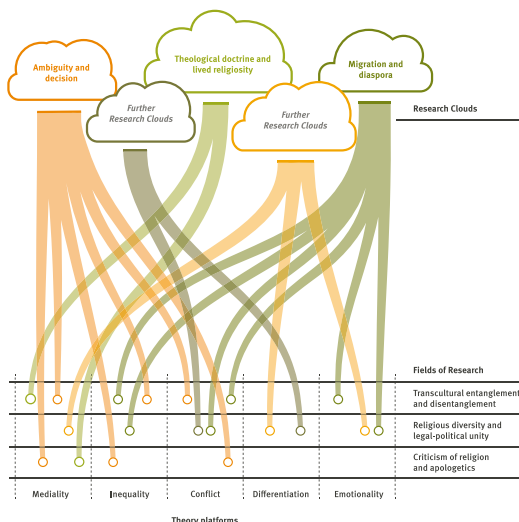
## RESEARCH NEWS

### New research clouds are extending the Cluster of Excellence's research programme



Besides the **Research Cloud "Epidemics"**, the Cluster of Excellence's **research programme**, which is dedicated to the **"Dynamics of Tradition and Innovation"**, now comprises three further working groups: namely, "Remembering and forgetting", "Does the competition between social forms of religion drive religious history?" and "Digital Humanities". The first investigates how social remembering and forgetting both enable and prevent religious change; the second, the historical development of churches and sects, and their respective strategies for managing the lives of their members; and the third, the historical character of religious texts, especially their genesis and history of transmission in the dynamic tension between tradition and innovation.

Other research clouds examine overarching themes such as ambiguity and decisionmaking, migration and diaspora, and theological doctrine and lived religiosity. The research clouds are part of the research programme, in which 140 researchers from more than 20 disciplines in the humanities and social sciences participate. They analyze in transepochal studies ranging from antiquity



to the present day the conditions and factors that make religion an engine of political and social change. In order to examine the complex object of research in a systematic way, the Cluster of Excellence divides it into several fields of research, theory platforms and research clouds.

### How religion is transmitted in families

Given the decline in religiosity in Western societies, sociologists from the University of Münster's Cluster of Excellence "Religion and Politics" are carrying out a study in Europe and Canada to determine how and why religion is transmitted to the next generation in some families and not in others. "We know that a person's religiosity depends very much on their upbringing. However, we know little about how exactly values, norms and patterns of interpretation are transmitted between the generations of a family, what leads to their being transmitted or not being transmitted, and how religiosity changes in the process", explain the sociologists of religion Christel Gärtner and Olaf Müller from the Cluster of Excellence. "What is undisputed is that church religiosity is declining in Western countries, and that there is a link here to changed ideas in religious upbringing. But there is a lack of exact data and explanations as to why some families want or are able to transmit their faith and others not". The group comprising researchers from five countries will receive almost 1.8 million euros in funding from the American John Templeton Foundation until 2022.

The research team will interview families in Canada, Finland, Germany, Hungary, and Italy in a representative survey and in qualitative interviews with family members from three generations (grandparents, parents and children). The five countries were selected on the basis of their historical differences in terms of religion, society and culture. "That church religiosity and practice have been continuously declining since the 1960s is empirically proven and undisputed", says Christel Gärtner. In most Western countries, religious upbringing and the authoritarian style of parenting have declined since the 1970s, and conveying the dogmatic beliefs of the church is no longer a primary goal in families.

**Read more**



© Forschungsstelle Asia Minor

## Excavation project in the ancient city of Dolice continues

For more than 20 years, the staff of the Asia Minor Research Centre at the Department of Ancient History of Münster University has been investigating the cultural legacy of the ancient city of Doliche in south-eastern Turkey. The German Research Foundation (DFG) is now funding the project for a further three years. Under the direction of Prof Engelbert Winter, researchers are investigating fundamental aspects pertaining to the construction and development of the ancient city. [Read more](#)



© Thomas Bauer

## “A leading Arabic poet, who was long virtually unknown”

A long-term digital project to produce an edition of the complete works of the leading Arabic poet of his time, Ibn Nubātah al-Miṣrī, who was virtually unknown to a broader public until recently, is being launched this week at the University of Münster. “Our most recent research has shown him to be the best-known poet in Syria and Egypt in the Mamluk period (1250-1518), a period long considered an epoch of decline, but which now turns out to have been a literary heyday”, explains Arabic scholar and Leibniz Prize winner Thomas Bauer from the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics” at the University of Münster. He is leading the long-term project, which is receiving 5.9 million euros over twelve years from the German Research Foundation (DFG). [Read more](#)



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## When law freed itself from religion and politics

Münster legal historian Nils Jansen has presented the first comprehensive overview of the historical process by which law became an autonomous system in society, independent of religion, politics and science. Drawing on a rich variety of sources, the study from the WWU’s Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics” traces how law freed itself from other areas of society from the Middle Ages to the present day, thereby developing its own genuinely legal logic. The complex process of differentiation led to the complex relationship between law, religion and politics that we can see today.

[Read more](#)





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## “Towards a pluralistic religious pedagogy”

Given religious diversity in schools, Jewish, Christian and Islamic theologians and experts in religious pedagogy are calling for a religious education that is based on a pluralistic religious pedagogy. “Every religious community wants and should be able to pass on its faith to the next generation. But we can and should no longer teach the view today that it is only one particular religion that possesses the truth and that is therefore superior to all others”, say religious scholar and Protestant theologian Perry Schmidt-Leukel, and the expert in Islamic religious pedagogy Mouhanad Khorchide, both from the University of Münster’s Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”. Together with 14 German theologians drawn mainly from the discipline of religious pedagogy, they have produced a discussion paper, “Dialogue and Transformation”. [Read more](#)



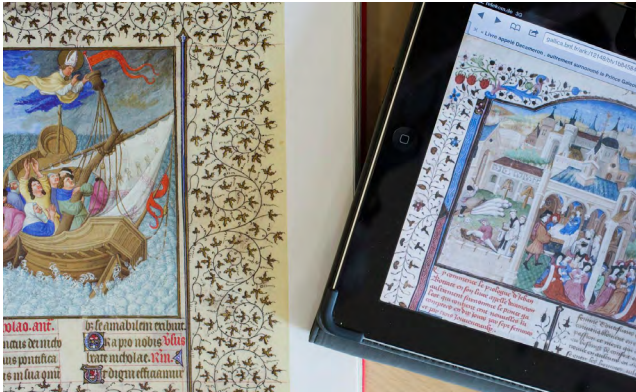
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## New Collaborative Research Centre “Law and Literature”

Members of the Cluster of Excellence participate in the new Collaborative Research Centre “Law and Literature” at the University of Münster. Legal scholar Prof. Dr. Fabian Wittreck is the centre’s deputy speaker. “Does the law need literature?” and “Does literature need the law?” – these are the two key questions which researchers examine in the Collaborative Research Centre. [Read more](#)

## EVENTS

### Conference of the Digital Humanities projects in the Cluster of Excellence



© Wilfried Gerharz

The Digital Humanities (DH) projects in the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics” came together for an internal conference of DH projects. The participants outlined their research projects and described what data they collect, what digital programmes they use for evaluation, and what challenges are to be expected. The aim of the DH projects is to use DH methods to collect from various points of view religiously binding texts from the three major monotheistic religions, with some being reconstructed for the first time.

Four research projects are dealing with the digital edition of authoritative religious texts. For Christianity, the church historian Hubert Wolf is examining the decisions made by the magisterium of the Catholic Church, and the church historian Holger Strutwolf is examining interpretative variants of the New Testament and their reception in Reformation and modern translations. For Islam, the Islamic theologian Mouhanad Khorchide is working with the Islamic scholar Angelika Neuwirth of the Corpus Coranicum in Berlin to research exemplary passages in the Quran on the subject of peace and violence. For Judaism, the liturgical scholar Clemens Leonhard is cooperating with Ben Gurion University in Be'er Scheva, Israel, to examine individual passages in the Passover-Haggadah. [Read more](#)

### International conference: The Qur’ān in its Milieu of Origin



© ZIT

An international conference organised by Islamic theologian Prof. Dr Mouhanad Khorchide has examined a ‘critical’ exegesis of the Qur’ān. Different ways of the interpretation of the Qur’ān, often utmost diverse, have existed side by side ever since the emergence of the Muslim community. With the beginning of the modern age, Islamic scholars advocated to rethink traditional ways of interpretation by means of the adaptation of a ‘critical’ exegesis in order to understand the Qur’ānic message within modern circumstances. As a reaction to a widespread literal interpretation of the Qur’ān, being more focused on the wording than locating the Qur’ān in its historical context, an increasing number of contemporary scholars of the Qur’ān argue for a contextualizing interpretation, placing the holy text in its milieu of origin, into the historical context of 7th century Arabia. [Read more](#)

### Conference on Spanish missionary Jerome Xavier



© exc/Trustees of the British Museum

At the conference „From Cultural Translation to Interreligious Controversy“, researchers have examined life and thinking of Spanish missionary Jerome Xavier (1549-1617). They focussed especially on Xavier’s legacy of cross-cultural and interreligious engagement with Mughal India and Safavid Persia. [Read more](#)

## INDIVIDUAL STAFF



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### Historian and theologian Thomas Lentes has died

The Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics” at the University of Münster is mourning the loss of its colleague Dr. Thomas Lentes, who died in Münster on 4 May 2020. The highly regarded historian and theologian had held various roles at the University of Münster since 1988. Besides research stays in Paris, Los Angeles, Wassenaar, Munich, Weimar and Berlin, he was involved between 2009 and 2017 in the Cluster of Excellence projects “Images of the Wound / The Wound as Image: Conceptions of the Passion in the Christian Pictorial Tradition and Pictorial Concepts in the Art of the Modern Period”, and “The Heavenly Jerusalem as a Space of Religious-Political Imagination”.

“With Thomas Lentes, we are losing an extremely talented and inspiring colleague, and we will greatly miss his ideas and comments, his commitment in personal interaction. We will remember him with great respect”, write the current and former Speakers of the Cluster of Excellence, Nils Jansen, Detlef Pollack, Gerd Althoff, and Barbara Stollberg-Rilinger, as well as the Dean of the Faculty of Catholic Theology at the University of Münster, Clemens Leonhard, and the Head of the Centre for Christian Image Theory, Reinhard Hoeps, in the following obituary.

[The obituary](#)



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### Ring of Tolerance for Islamic theologian Mouhanad Khorchide

In Cologne, the Islamic theologian Prof. Dr. Mouhanad Khorchide of the Cluster of Excellence has been awarded the “Ring of Tolerance” of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts. [Read more](#)



© wbg - Felix Müller

### “WISSEN! Non-fiction prize” for the Arabic scholar Thomas Bauer

The Arabic scholar Prof. Dr. Thomas Bauer from the Cluster of Excellence has received in Berlin the “WISSEN! Non-fiction prize” awarded by the Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft for the humanities for his book, *Why there was no Islamic Middle Ages*.



© AWK NRW - Andreas Endermann

### Social ethicist von Scheliha accepted into NRW Academy of Sciences and Arts

The Protestant theologian and social ethicist Arnulf von Scheliha from the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics” has been accepted into the North Rhine-Westphalian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Düsseldorf.



© Universität Vechta

### Höffmann Science Prize for theologian Schmidt-Leukel

The religious scholar Perry Schmidt-Leukel has been awarded the Höffmann Science Prize for Intercultural Competences by the University of Vechta. The Protestant theologian has been given the award, which is endowed with 10,000 euros, for his work in promoting better understanding between the religions.



© MFK

### Musicologist Dominik Höink awarded Hermann Abert Prize

Musicologist Dominik Höink has been awarded the 2019 Hermann Abert Prize from the German Society for Music Research for his outstanding research in the Cluster of Excellence. [Read more](#)

## EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS

### Graduate School launches new doctoral programme



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The Graduate School of the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics” has launched its new doctoral programme to promote early-career researchers. The wide spectrum of themes includes religious diversity in the Roman Middle East, violence in the Old Testament, and the rededication of buildings in medieval Spain (understood as characterizing cultural-religious conflicts). Research also investigates religious relations on the Ottoman-Habsburg border in the 18th century, the political influence of Protestant parliamentarians, and discourses on homosexuality in present-day Tanzania.

The current funding phase will see 18 doctoral students from Arabic Studies, Jewish Studies, Philosophy, Protestant and Catholic Theology, as well as Political Science, History and Literature, participating in the Cluster’s interdisciplinary research programme. The students will conduct research partly in single projects of the Cluster of Excellence, and partly in their own dissertation projects.

Graduate School mentors have welcomed the new members of the Cluster of Excellence at a Welcome Day and introduced them to the research programme and organization of the Cluster of Excellence. Founded in 2007, the Cluster is the largest of its kind, and among the oldest in Germany, as well as the only one that deals with the subject of religion. Around 140 researchers from 10 countries and from 20 disciplines in the hu-

manities and social sciences investigate the dynamics of religion across epochs, and in particular the factors that make religion the engine of political and social change.

### Conflict between religion and politics

The Graduate School offers doctoral students from the humanities and social sciences an interdisciplinary doctoral programme and promotes doctoral studies on themes from the area of conflict between religion and politics. At the same time, members of the Graduate School can participate independently in the interdisciplinary research of the Cluster of Excellence. In addition to seminars, workshops and conferences closely related to the research programme of the Cluster of Excellence, the doctoral programme also includes workshops to impart practical professional skills for careers within and outside academia.

### “Obeying and shaping ”

The political attitudes and actions of Jesuits in Chile between 1962 and 1983 are dealt with in the monograph that was published in Spanish under the title “Santa Desobediencia. Jesuitas entre Democracia y Dictadura en Chile, 1962–1983” by the historian Dr. Antje Schnoor. The book is a translation of her dissertation from the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”.

[Read more](#)

### Sufism in Turkey

The dissertation of the scholar of Islamic studies Cüneyd Yıldırım deals with the Ottoman Sufi community of the Malāmatiyya, which was formed in the 19th century. It was written at the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”. [Read more](#)

### Unity in conflict

In his dissertation “Einheit im Konflikt” (Unity in Conflict), historian Lennart Pieper analyses the formation of dynasties between the 15th and 17th centuries using the numerous conflicts in the comital families of Lippe and Waldeck as examples. [Read more](#)

### Violent language

In her dissertation Sarah Ströer analyses Elizabethan concepts of violent language and shows under which circumstances Elizabethans understood language use as violence. [Read more](#)

### Holy Trickery

In his dissertation, the historian Tobias Hoffmann of the Cluster of Excellence examines the significance of trickery in the Middle Ages using the example of bishops’ and abbots’ vitae. [Read more](#)

### Interstate agreements in Greek sanctuaries

In her dissertation, ancient historian Marie-Kathrin Drauschke aims at setting out and interpreting the practice of setting up inscribed interstate agreements in Greek sanctuaries from the beginnings until the late Hellenistic period. [Read more](#)

# RESEARCH COMMUNICATION

## TRANSFER NEWS



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### First training programme in “Religious Journalism”

The Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics” at the University of Münster and the ifp Catholic School of Journalism offer the first in-service training programme in Germany in “Religious Journalism”. The programme is designed to qualify media professionals to report on religions in pluralized societies in a nuanced and critical manner. The result of cooperation between the ifp Catholic School of Journalism, the Cluster of Excellence, and the Catholic Academy in Berlin, the programme is the first of its kind in the German-speaking world, and will comprise seven modules taught at locations in Germany and abroad that are of relevance to religion. [Read more](#)

### Exhibition “Small Disciplines – Great Potential”

Jewish Studies and Islamic Studies, Sinology and Egyptology – small disciplines like these in the humanities are unfamiliar to many. The exhibition “Small Disciplines – Great Potential” at the University of Münster displays the astonishing research findings that they have yielded from all over the world, including in the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”. The exhibition was on display at the Archaeological Museum of the University of Münster from January to March 2020, and has now become a permanent exhibition in German language on the Cluster of Excellence’s website [www.religion-und-politik.de/kleinefaecher](http://www.religion-und-politik.de/kleinefaecher). There, picture videos, stories and sharepics convey the diversity of research findings ranging from antiquity to the present day, and from China to the USA.

Trailers and testimonials with professors and students provide a vivid insight into how small disciplines live and work. The exhibition is divided into three thematic areas – migration, sustainability and communication – and illustrates the depth and range of historical and cultural knowledge that small disciplines in the humanities contribute to understanding societies and their global challenges today. The exhibition is supported by the German Rectors’ Conference (Hochschulrektorenkonferenz), the Rectorate of the University of Münster, and faculties 8 and 9 at the University. Its cooperation partner is the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”, where the small disciplines play a large role, and the [Centre for Research Communication](#).



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## New image brochure – “Religion and Politics. Dynamics of Tradition and Innovation”

A new image brochure presents the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics. Dynamics of Tradition and Innovation” to academics and the general public. The image brochure has as its title page the new key visual “Dynamics of Religion”, which the graphic designer and artist Stefan Matlik has designed. The image brochure uses short explanatory texts and photographs of members of the Cluster of Excellence to give academics and the general public an insight into the Cluster’s work. The brochure can be ordered in German and English (orders via [religionundpolitik@uni-muenster.de](mailto:religionundpolitik@uni-muenster.de)). [Read more](#)



© Julian Lagemann

## Student workshop on religious policy with politicians in Berlin

Under the title “Religionspolitik goes future”, theology students from the University of Münster met with politicians and representatives of the parties’ youth organisations in Berlin. The workshop on religious policy was chaired by the Protestant theologians Prof. Dr. Arnulf von Scheliha and Uta Elisabeth Hohmann of the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”.

[Read more](#)



© CiM

## „Münsters Wissen frisch gezapft!“

In the lecture series “Münsters Wissen frisch gezapft!” (Münster’s knowledge freshly tapped!), researchers from the natural sciences and the humanities have reported on their work – in bars and restaurants. Egyptologist Prof. Dr. Angelika Lohwasser and historian PD Dr. Felicity Jenz from the Cluster of Excellence participated. [Read more](#)



## PRESS REVIEW

### SELECTED MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

#### Radio and TV

**Hinnerk Wißmann über Grundrechte und Corona**

(Prof. Dr. Hinnerk Wißmann, in: 3Sat „Kulturzeit“, 14 April 2020)

**Gesellschaftliche Debatte über Rücksicht ist**

**notwendig** (Prof. Dr. Nils Jansen, in: Deutschlandfunk Kultur, 10 April 2020)

**Kirchen: Keine Antwort auf Corona** (Prof. Dr. Detlef

Pollack, in: WDR 5 Politikum, 22 April 2020)

**„Wir brauchen Rituale“** (Prof. Dr. Barbara Stollberg-Rilinger, in: Deutschlandfunk, 12 April 2020)

**Ostern in Zeiten von Corona** (Prof. Dr. Thomas Großbölting, in: 3Sat „Kulturzeit“, 9 April 2020)

**Samstagsgespräch mit der Seuchenforscherin**

**Katharina Wolff** (WDR 3 „Gespräch am Samstag“, 11 April 2020)

**Mit der Pest kamen die Pogrome** (Dr. Christian Scholl, in: Deutschlandfunk Kultur, 10 April 2020)

#### Guest contributions

**Eine Zeit der Unterschiede** (Prof. Dr. Hinnerk Wißmann, in: FAZ, 6 April 2020, als „Was kommt nach dem Shutdown?“, in: FAZ online, 8 April 2020)

**Geteiltes Leid** (Prof. Dr. Nils Jansen and Prof. Dr. Sebastian Lohsse, in: FAZ Einspruch, 2 April 2020)

**Alle Macht dem Virus?** (Prof. Dr. Hinnerk Wißmann, in: FAZ, 20 March 2020)

**Warum lauert die Polizei Spaziergängern auf?**

(Rechtswissenschaftler Prof. Dr. Oliver Lepsius, in: FAZ, 25 April 2020)

**Corona-Krise: Der Kommunikations-Komplex**

(Viola van Melis, in: Frankfurter Rundschau online, 16 April 2020)

**„Wer über eine Corona-Diktatur redet, zeigt wenig**

**Ahnung“** (Prof. Dr. Oliver Lepsius, in: Zeit online, 13 May 2020)

**Vom Niedergang grundrechtlicher Denkkate-**

**gorien in der Corona-Pandemie** (Prof. Dr. Oliver Lepsius, in: Verfassungsblog, 6 April 2020)

**Rückkehr zu alten Mustern** (Viola van Melis, in:

DUZ Magazin online, 20 April 2020)

#### Print

**Juden, Freimaurer, Corona-Krise: Wieso sind Menschen anfällig für Verschwörungstheorien?**

(Dr. Marcel Bubert, in: NZZ, 16 May 2020)

**Rechtshistoriker fordert in Corona-Krise mehr**

**Moral-Debatten** (Prof. Dr. Nils Jansen, in: KNA, 8 April 2020)

**Gottesdienstverbote verstören konservative**

**Christen** (Prof. Dr. Detlef Pollack, in: Frankenpost, 26 March 2020)

**Wie viel Globalisierung ist gesund?** (Ulrich Pfister,

in: Wirtschaftswoche online, 12 March 2020)

**Ein Paradoxon und jede Menge Zeit** (Prof. Dr.

Hinnerk Wißmann, in: FAZ, 20 March 2020)

**Corona-Pandemie – Wie im Film** (Katharina Wolff, in: Rheinische Post, 21 March 2020)

**„Es ist menschlich Angst zu haben“** (Prof. Dr. Gerald Echterhoff, in: Westfälische Nachrichten, 7 March 2020)

**Corona: Ein Virus bringt uns an Grenzen der Menschlichkeit** (Prof. Dr. Thomas Bauer, in: Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, 9 April 2020)

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**Entrevista: Professor Dr. Nils Jansen** (In: migalhas.com, 19 May 2020)

**Koronavirüs kiliseleri paradoksa soktu** (Prof. Dr. Detlef Pollack, in: Hürriyet online, 27 March 2020)

**Wäre Quarantäne für Ältere möglich?** (Prof. Dr. Hinnerk Wißmann, in: tagesschau.de, 14 April 2020)

**Wird die Kirche gerade wirklich gebraucht?** (Prof. Dr. Detlef Pollack, in: n-tv online, 19 April 2020)

**Viele Experten fordern Befristung für Corona-Gesetz** (Prof. Dr. Hinnerk Wißmann, in: WDR „Nachrichten“ online, 6 April 2020)

## SELECTED MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS ON OTHER THEMES

### Radio and TV

**Was glaubt Deutschland? Glaube contra Wissen** (Prof. Dr. Perry Schmidt-Leukel, in: SWR Fernsehen, 8 December 2019)

**Die Geheimnisse der Akten** (Prof. Dr. Hubert Wolf, in: Das Erste, 18 May 2020)

**70 Jahre Grundgesetz - Geschichte und Praxis des Religionsunterrichts** (Prof. Dr. Hinnerk Wißmann, in: ZDF „sonntags“, 19 May 2019, ab Min. 12:48)

**Nicht für Gott und nicht fürs Vaterland** (Prof. Dr. Nils Jansen, Prof. Dr. Detlef Pollack, in: Deutschlandfunk, 27 February 2020)

**Zwischen Himmel und Erde** (Religionswissenschaftler und Theologe Prof. Dr. Perry Schmidt-Leukel, in: ZDF „sonntags“, 19 April 2020)

**Streik der katholischen Frauen - Maria 2.0 zieht Bilanz** (Prof. Dr. Michael Seewald, in: ZDF „heute journal“, 19 Mai 2019, ab Min. 18:09)

**Vatikan öffnet Geheimakten über Papst Pius XII.** (Prof. Dr. Hubert Wolf, in: ARD Tagesthemen, 2 March 2020)

**„Burka-Verbot an Schulen und Unis wäre kontraproduktiv“** (Prof. Dr. Ulrich Willems, in: Deutschlandfunk Tag für Tag, 7 February 2020)

**Wie Religion in Familien weitergegeben wird** (Prof. Dr. Christel Gärtner, in: Domradio.de, 8 October 2019)

**Lokalzeit goes global: Archäologe Engelbert Winter in der Türkei** (Prof. Dr. Engelbert Winter, in: WDR „Lokalzeit Münsterland“, 16 September 2019)

**Wie einfach darf der Glaube sein?** (Prof. Dr. Thomas Bauer, in: DLF „Tag für Tag“, 15 August 2019)

**Aktuell? - Marx Kritik der Ökonomie** (Prof. Dr. Michael Quante, in: WDR 5 „Das philosophische Radio“, 03 January 2020)

**Missbrauch-Akten beim Bistum Münster mangelhaft geführt?** (Prof. Dr. Thomas Großbölting, in: WDR Lokalzeit, 26 February 2020)

**„Reform – Dieselbe Kirche anders denken“** (Prof. Dr. Michael Seewald, in: domradio.de, 29 June 2019)

**Wenn Päpste peinlich werden** (Prof. Dr. Michael Seewald, in: Deutschlandfunk „Tag für Tag“, 18 July 2019)

**Papst Franziskus ruft zur Ordnung** (Prof. Dr. Hubert Wolf, in: WDR 5 „Diesseits von Eden“, 30 June 2019)

**Yoga mit Jesus – Religiöse Zweisprachigkeit** (Prof. Dr. Perry Schmidt-Leukel, in: Deutschlandfunk „Tag für Tag“, 21 April 2020)

**Die Einsamkeit des Priesters – Wie zeitgemäß ist der Zölibat?** (Prof. Dr. Hubert Wolf, in: SWR 2 online „Leben & Gesellschaft“, 1 August 2019)

## Guest contributions and Interviews

**Ein Reich komme** (Prof. Dr. Gerd Althoff, in: ZEIT Geschichte, 12 November 2019)

**Der Papst, der wusste und schwieg** (Prof. Dr. Hubert Wolf, in: Die ZEIT, 23 April 2020)

**„Plötzlich wurde der Papst zum Sündenbock“** (Prof. Dr. Hubert Wolf, in: Die ZEIT, 23 April 2020)

**Alternativlosigkeit ist Zukunftslosigkeit** (Prof. Dr. Thomas Bauer, in: Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 6 June 2019)

**Das große Geheimnis Gott** (Prof. Dr. Perry Schmidt-Leukel, in: Publik-Forum 5/2020)

**Wird es bald überall verheiratete Priester geben?** (Prof. Dr. Michael Seewald, in: Spiegel+, 1 January 2020)

**Verdient euch das Vertrauen der Laien!** (Prof. Dr. Barbara Stollberg-Rilinger, in: Der Tagesspiegel, 4 November 2019)

**Migration und Identitätskrise** (Dr. Sarah Demmrich, in: Die Fontäne June 2019)

**Mit der Heiligen Jungfrau zum Wahlsieg** (Prof. Dr. Detlef Pollack, in: Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 13 June 2019)

**Ehe und Weihe stehen nicht gegeneinander** (Prof. Dr. Hubert Wolf, in: Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 15 July 2019).

**Es war ein Aufstand der Normalbürger** (Prof. Dr. Detlef Pollack, in: Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 12 July 2019)

**Für ein besseres Verstehen** (Prof. Dr. Perry Schmidt-Leukel, in: UniVersum Uni Vechta Ausgabe 06 Nov/Dec 2019)

**Die Gesellschaft braucht die Expertise der Religionsforschung** (Viola van Melis, in: Deutsche Universitätszeitung DUZ December 2019)

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**Aufklären gegen Antisemitismus** (Prof. Dr. Arnulf von Scheliha, Prof. Dr. Hubert Wolf and Prof. Dr. Mouhanad Khorchide, in: Münstersche Zeitung Münster, 20 December 2019)

**Fachjournalist für Religion** (Exzellenzcluster „Religion und Politik“, in: Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 1 February 2020)

**Blütezeit der arabischen Literatur entdeckt** (Prof. Dr. Thomas Bauer, in: Islamische Zeitung, 5 March 2020)

**Man redet lang und viel** (Prof. Dr. Michael Seewald, in: FAZ, 30 March 2020)

**Die Seele einer Fuchsnatur** (Prof. Dr. Barbara Stollberg-Rilinger, in: Süddeutsche Zeitung, 27 May 2019)

**„Wir kennen unsere Todesart“** (Prof. Dr. Hubert Wolf, in: Die ZEIT, 23 April 2020)

**Über Ländergrenzen hinweg** (Dr. Matthias Hoesch, in: Deutsche Universitätszeitung DUZ, 21 June 2019)

**Den Engeln ähnlich** (Prof. Dr. Hubert Wolf, in: Süddeutsche Zeitung, 13 July 2019)

**Mit altem Wissen die Gegenwart besser verstehen** (Prof. Dr. Achim Lichtenberger, Prof. Dr. Angelika Lohwasser, Viola van Melis, in: Wissen.leben Ausgabe December 2019/ January 2020)

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**Eine formgebende Kraft, die den Menschen lenkt** (Prof. Dr. Martina Wagner-Egelhaaf, in: Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 28 September 2019)

**Ist der Ramadan noch zeitgemäß?** (Prof. Dr. Mouhanad Khorchide, in: Rheinische Post Düsseldorf, 4 June 2019)

**Uni gibt 42-Kilo-Kopf zurück nach Italien** (Prof. Dr. Achim Lichtenberger, in: Bild Westfalen, 6 June 2019)

**Experten: Pläne zum Islam-Unterricht in NRW nicht ausgereift** (Prof. Dr. Hinnerk Wißmann, in: KNA Basisdienst, 29 May 2019)

**Theologe Seewald fordert neue Debattenkultur in der Kirche** (Prof. Dr. Michael Seewald, in: KNA Basisdienst, 28 June 2019)

**Die Angst vor den Robotern** (Prof. Dr. Ulrich Pfister, in: Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung, 16 June 2019)

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**So lest doch nur, wie böse sie waren!** (Prof. Dr. Johannes Hahn, in: Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 21 September 2019)

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**Pope Pius XII knew Jews were being killed, researcher says** (Prof. Dr. Hubert Wolf, in: The Washington Post online, 29 April 2020)

**Memo to Trump: Greenland isn't Denmark's to sell** (PD Dr. Felicity Jensz, in: The Sydney Morning Herald online, 22 August 2019)

**Persönlichkeit für Integration wichtiger als Religion** (Prof. Dr. Mitja Back, in: sr.de, 21 May 2019)

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**German-Danish team unearths building in Jerash destroyed by earthquake in 749AD** (Prof. Dr. Achim Lichtenberger, in: jordantimes.com, 2 June 2019)

**Ehrenrettung für die Mitte** (Prof. Dr. Bernd Schlipphak, in: Süddeutsche Zeitung online, 14 August 2019)

**Hilfe, es geht abwärts!** (Prof. Dr. Detlef Pollack, in: ZEIT online, 30 May 2019)

**Darf ein Christ AfD wählen? Facharbeit zum Thema ausgezeichnet** (Prof. Dr. Clemens Leonhard, in: Kirche+Leben Netz, 4 July 2019)

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**Welche Stimme hat die Kirche in einer pluralen Gesellschaft?** (Prof. Dr. Thomas Großbölting, in: katholisch.de, 2 October 2019)

## PUBLICATIONS

The research results of the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics” are published regularly. Publications from the past few months can be found here. Click on the bibliography for further information. Further publications in the [internet](#).



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# CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE “RELIGION AND POLITICS”

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The Cluster of Excellence “**Religion and Politics. Dynamics of Tradition and Innovation**” has been investigating since 2007 the complex relationship between religion and politics across eras and cultures. The 140 researchers from 20 disciplines in the humanities and social sciences will focus in the funding phase from 2019 to 2025 on the “dynamics of tradition and innovation”. Epoch-spanning studies will analyze from antiquity to the present day the factors that make religion the motor of political and social change. Particular attention will be paid to the paradox that religions often develop their innovative potential by drawing on their traditions. The researchers concentrate on the monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and on their polytheistic precursors. The focus of interest is on Europe and the Mediterranean region, as well as on their entanglements with the Near East, Africa, North and Latin America. The Cluster of Excellence is the largest of its kind in Germany; and, of the Clusters of Excellence, one of the oldest and the only one in the country that deals with the issue of religion. The Cluster will be funded to the amount of 31 million euros from 2019 to 2025.

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