Everyday experience demonstrates that offenses, swearing and abusive language tend to involve explicit or implicit comparisons. Within the history of religion, the phenomenon is similarly familiar: Bad Christians were accused of being like or worse than – Turks or Jews, Jews were admonished not to fall so low as to behave like Christians and so on. Studying such comparisons, we set out to explore the relationship between polemics, orders of knowledge, and concepts of religion. Bringing together scholars of different religious traditions and periods, the conference proposes to take an interdisciplinary and systematic view on religious diversity and polemical comparison. The papers trace polemical comparisons from Late Antiquity to modern times and across Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Buddhist discourses.

Organizers

Dr. Christina Brauner

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin / Universität Bielefeld, SFB 1288 "Practices of Comparing" christina.brauner@hu-berlin.de

Junior-Prof. Dr. Sita Steckel

Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Dilthey project "Diversitas Religionum. Thirteenth-century Foundations of European Discourses of Religious Diversity" sita.steckel@uni-muenster.de

Venue

Universität Bielefeld, Universitätsstr. 25, Gebäude X, A2-103





VolkswagenStiftung

Behaving Like Heathens?

Polemical Comparisons and Discourses of Religious Diversity across the Cultures



International Conference Bielefeld 29 November – 1 December 2018



THURSDAY 29 NOVEMBER

13.00 Arrival & Get together
13.30 Christina Brauner, HU Berlin / Univ. Bielefeld & Sita Steckel, WWU Münster

Welcome & Introduction

SESSION I

THE ARMOURY OF COMPARISON. MORPHOLOGIES OF RELIGIOUS POLEMICS Chair: Silke Schwandt, Universität Bielefeld

14.00 David Freidenreich, Colby College Instructing Christians by Constructing "Jew-ish" Muslims: Case Studies in Medieval Rhetoric about the Old Testament

14.45 Martin Przybilski, Universität Trier Hypersexuality in Jewish-Christian Polemics

15.30 Coffee

Alexander Kästner, TU Dresden 16.00 Mocking monks and saints. The invective mode of the early Reformation in Annaberg and Buchholz, 1522-24

16.45 Markus Viehbeck, Universität Wien Polemics as Literary and Conceptual Framework: A Case Study from Nineteenth-Century Tibet

17.30 Coffee

Bielefeld Lecture on History & 18.15 Theory (optional) 19.45 Frank Ankersmit, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen Reflections on Political Representation

20.15 Conference Dinner Bernstein, Niederwall 2, 33602 Bielefeld

FRIDAY 30 NOVEMBER

SESSION II

POLEMICAL COMPARISONS AND ORGANIZATION OF KNOWLEDGE Chair: Andra Alexiu, WWU Münster

9.15 Mònica Colominas Aparicio, MPI History of Science, Berlin Comparison and Religious Polemics in Late Medieval and Early Modern Christian Iberia: A Hitherto Unknown Mudejar-Morisco Source

10.00 Anna Akasoy,

The Graduate Center, CUNY, New York Religious Polemics and Beyond: Paganism in Medieval Islamic Literature

10.45 Coffee

Karoly Daniel Dobos, Pázmány 11.15 Péter Katolikus Egyetem, Budapest Portrayals of Jesus in Medieval Jewish Polemical Writings and the Birth of 'The Quest for the Historical Jesus' in the Ghetto of Venice

12.00 Lunch (Mensa)

SESSION III

INTRA- AND INTER-RELIGIOUS COMPARISONS Chair: Cornelia Aust, Universität Bielefeld

14.00 Sophia Dege-Müller, Ruhr-Universität Bochum Jews, Heretics, Pagans – Describing the Religious Other in Ethiopian Sources

14.45 Gerard Wiegers, Universiteit van Amsterdam Polemical Comparisons in the Apology against the Articles of the Christian Faith by Muhammad Alguazir (1610)

15.30 Coffee

Ionut Cucu, FU Berlin 16.00 "No Worse than the Papists": Zarathushtra and Zoroastrianism as an Argument for the Anglican Attacks on Catholicism



 16.45 Antonello Palumbo, SOAS, London
 17.30 Religion in the Second-Class Carriage: The Fortunes of 'Lesser Vehicle' as a Buddhist and Taoist Polemical Category in Medieval China

19.30 Dinner 1001 Nacht, Webereistraße 12

SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER

SESSION III (CONTINUED)

Chair: Willibald Steinmetz, Universität Bielefeld

9.00 Stephen C. Berkwitz, Missouri State University Buddhist 'Heretics' and the Logic of Lineage

 9.45 Malte van Spankeren, Halle/Saale Insult as a Cultural Practice. The Confessional Polemical Functionalisation of Islam by Lutheran Theologians around 1600

10.30 Break

Concluding discussion 11.00 Discussants: Marco Carvarzere 12.00 (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt/Main), Antje Flüchter (Universität Bielefeld), Almut Höfert (Universität Oldenburg)