A conference of the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics” of the University of Münster. Some 200 academics from more than 20 disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and from around 14 countries deal with the relationship of religion and politics across epochs and cultures: from the world of ancient gods and Judaism, Christianity and Islam in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period to the current situation in Europe, America, Asia, and Africa. It is nationally the largest research association of its kind and of the 43 Clusters of Excellence in Germany, it is the only one to deal with religion. The German Federal Government and the Federal States support the project with 33.7 million euros in the Excellence Initiative’s second funding phase from 2012 to 2017.
The Religious Field in the Long Fifteenth Century
Framing Processes of Religious Transformation in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe

The workshop is a cooperation between COST Action IS1301 “New Communities of Interpretation. Contexts, Strategies and Processes of Religious Transformation in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe” and the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”. The COST Action IS1301 “New Communities of Interpretation” is a network uniting over 100 researchers from 23 countries working on religion in the long fifteenth century. Especially in its working group 1 (“Theoretical approaches”), the network challenges existing national narratives of late medieval and Reformation history and literature, and aims to create new European narratives explaining the profound transformations of the period.

The workshop assembles members of the COST Action “New Communities of Interpretation”, the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics” and external guests. It invites reflection on the historiography and on extant and possible theoretical frameworks for mid- and long-term religious transformation. By frameworks, we mean ways (including historical narration) in which macro-historical, societal processes and problems can be linked to the micro-historical level that our research typically aims for.

We suggest that recent sociological approaches to religious change make for particularly interesting frameworks, as they may offer a platform for interdisciplinary debate. Using Pierre Bourdieu’s concept of the religious field as a starting point, the workshop will discuss historical actor constellations and “migrations of the holy” to test the potential of differentiation theory as an interdisciplinary framework.

Programme

Thursday, 26.05.2016

14:30–15:00 Introduction
Sita Steckel & Andreas Pietsch, Münster

Section I: Framing new narratives of interpretation: Problems and diagnoses

15:15–15:45 A difficult marriage: historiography, literary studies and their narratives of lay devotion in the Late Middle Ages
Pavlína Rychterová, Vienna

15:45–16:15 Popular religion and creativity: theoretical models that require detailed case studies
Elisabeth Salter & Sarah McKeon, Hull

16:15–17:15 Discussion and break

17:15–17:45 The Hussite period – a cultural era? Framing the religious history of Bohemia in the fifteenth century
Pavel Soukup & Pavlína Cermanová, Prague

Friday, 27.05.2016

Section II: Actor constellations and dynamics on the religious field

09:00–09:30 Social Differentiation and the Transformation of Saintly Patronage before the Reformation
Ottó Gecser, Budapest

09:30–10:00 From micro to macro processes of religious change: Christocentric devotion in the long fifteenth century
Rob Lutton, Nottingham

10:00–11:00 Discussion and break

11:00–11:30 Omnis utriusque sexus. Re-framing the religious “monopoly” of the Latin Church
Sita Steckel, Münster

11:30–12:00 Discussion

12:30–13:30 Lunch

Section III: Migrations of the Holy

13:30–14:00 Framing religious orthodoxy and disciplining the laity in late medieval Poland. A study on ecclesiastical court-books from the Gniezno province
Paweł Kras, Lublin

14:00–14:30 Mis-migrations of the Holy Pecock: The Dynamics and Boundaries of Failure
Ian Johnson, St. Andrews

14:30–15:15 Discussion and break

15:30–17:00 Iberian “Crypto-Judaism” and “Marranism” as religious transformation factors in the long term
José Rosa & Antonio Bento, Coimbra

18:00–19:00 Dinner

Saturday, 28.05.2016

Internal Workgroup Meeting (for COST Action participants)

09:30–13:00 Discussion and plans for further proceedings