

Claiming History

The Role of Historical Reasoning in Religious Conflicts

Istituto Svizzero

Wendy Mayer became Dean for Research in 2017 at the Australian Lutheran College. She is trained as a classicist (in Greek and Latin language and literature) and gained her doctorate in Studies in Religion at University of Queensland in 1996. Since gaining her doctorate she has mostly been working with a team of researchers as they built the international reputation of the Centre for Early Christian Studies at Australian Catholic University. Her career has been research-focused, and fostering and mentoring a research culture that opens up and explores questions of relevance to the contemporary world is her passion. Ask her about why history is relevant and she could talk for hours! Her latest ARC (Australian Research Council) grant (with Prof. Bronwen Neil, Macquarie University; Prof. Pauline Allen, ACU; and A/Prof. Chris de Wet, University of South Africa) is titled: *Memories of Utopia: Destroying the Past to Create the Future (300–650 CE)*.

Katharina Heyden is Professor of Ancient History of Christianity and Interreligious Encounters at the University of Bern. Her research involves interreligious encounters (conflict, conviviality, dialogue) in antiquity and the Middle Ages, the doctrine of God, especially the doctrine of the energies of God, discourses of holiness, early Christian historiography and iconography of places of historical and theological importance in Switzerland. From 2015 to 2019, she led the SNSF research project "Akindynos and Palamas in the dispute over divine energies. Edition, translation and analysis of central works of controversy". From 2019, she will also be involved in the SNF Sinergia research project "Lege Josephum: Ways of Reading Josephus in the Latin Middle Ages".

Agnes Schubert holds a BA from the University of Basel in History and the Study of Religions, and an MA from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London, in Religion in Global Politics, where she mainly engaged with identity politics, the history of secularisation, and the political impacts of early Islam. After an internship at the Swiss embassy in Tel Aviv and working for the Committee of Interreligious Work, Switzerland (IRAS-COTIS), she joined the IRC Religious Conflicts and Coping Strategies in Bern in 2018. As a PhD student she conducts research about religious rituals as coping strategies for conflicts.

David Plüss is Professor for Practical Theology at the University of Bern. He studied Theology in Basel, Berlin and Paris, did his PhD on Emmanuel Levinas between Jewish mysticism and philosophical phenomenology and a second research on worship as staging.

Angela Berlis is ordinary Professor for the History of Old Catholicism and General Church History, Institut für Christkatholische Theologie, University of Bern since 2012 (2009-2011 extraordinary professor), 2006-2009 extraordinary Professor for old Catholic Church Structures at the University of Utrecht. 2000-2009 lecturer for Practical Theology at Utrecht University, 2003-2007 Postdoc research fellow in Modern Church History, University of Tilburg. Her research emphasis is on the history of Christianity (mainly the nineteenth to twenty-first centuries), gender history, and ecumenical theology. Her current research includes antiultramontanism, reform movements in church history; an edition of correspondence between two pioneers of German and Swiss Old Catholicism; and the interpretation of the bible by women in the 19th century.

Martina Narman graduated from the University of Zurich in History and Church History in 2018. From 2018 Martina is doctoral student at the University of Bern and participant of the "Interfaculty Cooperation Religious Conflicts and Coping Strategies" with the project "Gender and the ability of women to take action in religious conflicts and social transformation processes".

Patrick Bahl 2006–2013 Studies of Protestant Theology (WWU Münster, Germany); 2013–2017 Doctoral studies (Dissertation–New Testament: Die Macht der Sünde im Römerbrief. Eine Untersuchung vor dem Hintergrund antiker Argumentationstheorie und -praxis/The Power of Sin in Paul's Letter to the Romans. An Investigation against the Backdrop of Ancient Argumentation Theory and Practice) (WWU Münster). He is, since 2013, Assistant at the chair of Church History (WWU Münster). Research Areas: Ancient Church (Augustin, Clement of Alexandria), Reformation, Theology–Church–Theatre, Protestant Historiography of the 18th century. Since 2017 Habilitation: "Gottfried Arnold's Pastoral Theology".

Francesca Maria Corrao is Full Professor of Arabic Language and Culture in the Department of Political Science at the LUISS University of Rome. She graduated with a PhD at the University of Rome "La Sapienza", and a Master in Arabic Studies at the American University in Cairo. She is President of the Orestyadi Foundation of Gibellina and member of the Union of European Arabist and Islamist, of the European professor of Modern Arabic Literature, and of the Institute of Oriental Philosophy of the Soka University of Tokyo. She has been a visiting professor in Cairo, Beirut, Tunis, Damascus, Paris and Cambridge, and has numerous international publications. Her research focuses on the themes of literature, history and culture of the Arab countries.

Christian Pfordt studied Protestant Theology at the University of Münster and obtained a Magister Theologiae in 2018. At the same time he studied Islamic Theology, Chinese Studies and Music, from which he is currently intermitting to pursue a Master's degree in philosophy of religion at the University of Cambridge.

Mattias Brand is a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Zürich, after having finished his PhD on 'The Manichaeans of Kellis: Religion, Community and Everyday Life in Late Antiquity' at Leiden University. His research interests include late antique religion, Manichaeism, Early Christian diversity, method and theory in the study of religion.

Jessica van 't Westeinde obtained her PhD in History of Religion from Durham, UK (2016). By training, she is a Hieronymist: in her PhD she looked at the ways in which Jerome preserves the concept of Roman *nobilitas*, by means of an analysis of his epistolary correspondence with aristocrats ("socialites" or "grandees"). After fellowships and post-docs at Aarhus (School of Religion), Tübingen (Institute for Ancient Judaism), and Kiel (Classical Archaeology), she now works as Junior Research Fellow at the Departments of Ancient History of the Universities of Bern and Tübingen. At Bern, she studies the role of physical movement, mobility, spatial embodiment, and connectivity in (religious) disputes and outbreaks of violence during the first four ecumenical councils. Her project is part of a larger inter-faculty research project "Religious Conflict and Coping" (Director: Prof. Katharina Heyden). At Tübingen, Jessica's research focuses on "Jews and the City". Case studies of cities across the Roman Empire (2nd-6th centuries CE) will demonstrate local particularities using the Erfurt model of Urban Religion. Moving away from institutional propaganda, it appears cults and their practitioners are much closer connected.

Christina Harker did her BA and MA at the University of Durham in the UK before completing a PhD at Yale University. After teaching at Princeton Theological Seminary, she joined the Theology Faculty at Bern in 2016. Her book, *The Colonizers' Idols: Paul, Galatia, and Empire in New Testament Studies*, came out in 2018.

Luca Di Blasi teaches Philosophy at the Theological Faculty of the *University of Bern* in Switzerland. He is Associate Member of the *ICI Berlin* and project leader of the IRC sub-project "Disagreement Between Religions. Epistemology of Religious Conflicts". Major publications include: *Dezentrierungen. Studien zur Religion der Philosophie im 20. Jahrhundert* (Vienna 2018); *Der weiße Mann: Ein Anti-Manifest*, (Bielefeld 2013); *The Scandal of Self-Contradiction: Pasolini's Multistable Geographies, Subjectivities, and Traditions* (ed. together with M. Gragnolati and C. F. E. Holzhey), (Wien 2012); *Der Geist in der Revolte. Der Gnostizismus und seine Wiederkehr in der Postmoderne*, (München 2002).

Michaela Schäuble is Associate Professor of Social Anthropology (with a focus on Media Anthropology) at the University of Bern. She is heading, together with David Plüss, the subproject „Religious Rituals as Coping Strategies for Conflicts“ of the IRC Religious Conflicts and Coping Strategies. Her current research focuses on ecstatic religious cults and saint veneration in the Mediterranean. She is the author of *Narrating Victimhood: Gender, Religion, and the Making of Place in Post-war Croatia* (Berghahn Books, 2014).

Özgen Kolasin è nata in Turchia ed attualmente vive tra Perugia, Roma e Istanbul. Ha conseguito la Laurea Magistrale in Scienze dei Beni Archeologici e Antropologici all'Università degli Studi di Perugia. Frequenta il Dottorato di Ricerca in Studi Politici alla Sapienza Università di Roma, dove è Cultore di Sociologia Generale presso il Dipartimento di Scienze Politiche. Nel 2018 ha ottenuto l'Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale a Professore di II Fascia nel settore scientifico disciplinare SPS/07 – Sociologia Generale. Tra le sue ultime pubblicazioni ricordiamo le monografie *Il Grifo. Potere simbolico, mito e storia* (Perugia 2016) e *L'identità moderna e le sue origini* (Perugia 2017).

Alessandro Saggioro has a PhD in Religious History and he is, since 2007, Professor of History of Religions at Sapienza University of Rome. He has been member of the Academic Senate of Sapienza from 2013 to 2016 and former member of the Infosapienza Committee. He is president of the educational area in Fashion and Costume Sciences Alessandro Saggioro has been the coordinator of the PhD in European History, Course Director of History of Religions, Director of the Master in Religions and Cultural Mediation and Coordinator of the PhD in Religious History. He conceived and coordinated the series of books published by Nuova Cultura "Symbolism of dress", Rome. He is Director of the book series "Chi siamo - History of Religions" (Bulzoni, Rome).

David Nirenberg is Dean of the Divinity School, and Deborah R. and Edgar D. Jannotta Distinguished Service Professor of Medieval History and the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago. He holds a PhD from Princeton and he has held visiting professorships at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris, the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas in Madrid, and the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, and is an Associate of Germany's Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science, as well as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2006 he joined the History Department at the University of Chicago and the Committee on Social Thought. Between 2014 and 2017 he served as dean of the Social Sciences Division of the University of Chicago. Much of his work has focused on the ways in which Jewish, Christian, and Islamic cultures constitute themselves by interrelating with or thinking about each other.