

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



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SFB 1288
PRACTICES
OF COMPARING

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)

