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



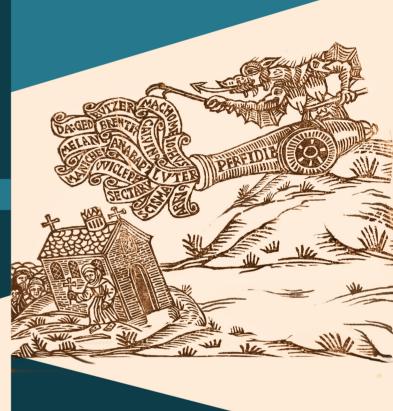


SFB 1288 PRACTICES OF COMPARING



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)

