



International  
Research Training Group

Religious Cultures  
in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Europe



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## WELCOME

This brochure is designed to introduce our Czech–German doctoral program to researchers of history, cultural and religious studies, and to provide graduate students considering an application for our International Research Training Group Religious Cultures in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Europe a glimpse into our daily work at both LMU Munich and Charles University in Prague. By presenting the cities, universities, researchers and their activities, we hope to convey a feeling for what it is like to participate in this truly special and exciting bi-national project.



Prof. Dr. Martin Schulze Wessel



Prof. Dr. Miloš Havelka

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## INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH TRAINING GROUP RELIGIOUS CULTURES IN 19TH AND 20TH- CENTURY EUROPE

Funded by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG) and the Czech Science Foundation (Grantová agentura České republiky, GAČR), our International Research Training Group (IRTG, or: Internationales Graduiertenkolleg, IGK) is a bi-national group of senior researchers and doctoral students based at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU Munich) and Univerzita Karlova v Praze (Charles University in Prague)

The research program deals with the analysis of the multi-faceted connections between religion and modernity. Our researchers come from disciplines ranging from history, philology, and Christian theology to Hussite theology and Buddhist studies. Together we are striving to foster new findings on religious cultures in the modern age, with special emphasis on their interdependence with competing secular social frameworks. On a practical level, the International Research Training Group provides a structured doctoral program for postgraduates in religious history from an interdisciplinary perspective.



Discussion during  
the summer school  
in L'viv (2010)



Academic exchange between experienced researchers and young scholars just starting out in the world of academia is strongly encouraged and supported in an interdisciplinary and international atmosphere. A variety of seminar series enables doctoral candidates to discuss their findings with their fellow students and the tutors of the IRTG Religious Cultures in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Europe on a regular basis: colloquia in Prague and in Munich, joint seminars on theory and methods, and summer schools as well as conferences and workshops. To experience the rewards of our bi-national cooperation to the utmost, we encourage our students to spend a period of time as visiting researchers in either Munich or Prague. In different settings, our meetings provide the necessary theoretical and methodological background for innovative research on religious cultures in modern Europe and give each participant in the IRTG the opportunity to discuss their individual research projects with established scholars in their field.

The scholars come from different academic disciplines including religious studies, history, sociology, literature, theology and Jewish studies, which allows for a broad perspective on religious cultures in Europe. Many projects of the International Research Training Group focus on the development of religion in modern times in Eastern Central Europe. The institutes and departments involved in the IRTG Religious Cultures in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Europe introduce themselves on the next pages.

[/ www.igk-religioese-kulturen.uni-muenchen.de](http://www.igk-religioese-kulturen.uni-muenchen.de)

## THE NETWORK





Thanks to the International Research Training Group, I met a number of interesting, capable and supportive scholars who are willing to help me with my work and who provide me with a lot of inspiration. — Kathrin Linnemann

I enjoy the multidisciplinary of the IRTG very much. We are all working on different topics with different methods, but are connected by the broad principal theme of religious cultures. — Katharina Ebner

## INSTITUTIONS

Six faculties – three at LMU Munich and three at Charles University – are primarily involved in the International Research Training Group Religious Cultures in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Europe. In Munich, the Faculty of History and the Arts, the Faculty of Catholic Theology as well as the Faculty of Protestant Theology contribute to the IRTG; in Prague, the Hussite Theological Faculty, the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Social Sciences take part. All six form a unique environment for the interdisciplinary study of religious cultures in the modern era, supplemented by the Collegium Carolinum in Munich, the affiliated research institution dedicated to the history of the Bohemian Lands.

In the past, writing the history of different religious groups was a task that was carried out mostly in specialized institutes which were focused on only one specific denomination. The IRTG brings together young academics with different backgrounds and interests who are working on multiple religious groups. This way everyone gets in touch with topics and religions outside of his or her actual research area. And this is a great experience which is necessary for living in a multi-religious society. — David Schick

For me, the IRTG is a particularly great opportunity to extend my subject matter, which before had been concentrated on the history of nobility, to a broader study of religious cultures in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. — Marcela Zemanová



Basilica Minor on the Holy Hill near Olomouc  
(summer school 2011)

As one of Europe's leading research universities, LMU Munich is committed to the highest international standards of excellence in research and teaching, as recognized by many national and international university rankings. Its success in the German Excellence Initiative has recently confirmed the University's outstanding research record.

As a genuine 'universitas' with a broad range of disciplines, LMU Munich provides excellent conditions for inter- and transdisciplinary collaborations across various fields of knowledge. One of LMU's interdisciplinary focus areas is concerned with Eastern Europe. LMU therefore provides an excellent academic environment for the study of diverse constellations of religion and modernity. In addition, LMU offers numerous training options to outstanding graduate students. Besides the traditional doctoral supervision model of individual professorial mentoring, a growing number of structured doctoral programs are available – one of them being the International Research Training Group Religious Cultures in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Europe.

[/ www.uni-muenchen.de](http://www.uni-muenchen.de)

## UNIVERZITA KARLOVA V PRAZE (CHARLES UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE)

Charles University in Prague, founded in 1348, is one of the world's oldest universities. Today, it not only looks back on a long history, but is also a vibrant center of study for an international community of students and brings forth groundbreaking research. The Czech Republic's largest university, it comprises 17 faculties situated in Prague, Hradec Králové and Plzeň. Thus, it provides an ideal environment for inter- and transdisciplinary research projects such as the International Research Training Group Religious Cultures in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Europe.

The university is dedicated to international cooperation with prestigious educational and research institutions. One of them is the IRTG, located in Prague and Munich.

Charles University is one of the world's top universities, a fact that has been confirmed repeatedly by the international university rankings.

[/ www.cuni.cz](http://www.cuni.cz)

## COLLEGIUM CAROLINUM E.V.

An international academic association founded in 1956, the Collegium Carolinum is Germany's only research institution dedicated solely to the history of the East Central European Regions, today's Czech Republic and Slovakia. Affiliated with LMU Munich, the Collegium Carolinum form a worldwide network. The Collegium Carolinum maintains the largest academic library in Western Europe specialized in the history of the Bohemian lands and former Czechoslovakia. As an institution, it fosters research and academic transfer on contemporary history, including the history of religion. Its profile makes it an ideal partner for cooperation with the International Research Training Group Religious Cultures in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Europe, providing a platform for young researchers to reach out to the academic public and to take part in conferences, workshops and lectures organized by the Collegium Carolinum.

[/ www.collegium-carolinum.de](http://www.collegium-carolinum.de)



Main building,  
LMU Munich



Carolinum,  
Charles University  
in Prague

Library  
at the Collegium  
Carolinum



**WHO WE ARE:  
SPOKESMEN AND FACULTY**

Working on my thesis within the International Research Training Group gives me the opportunity to connect with others writing about similar topics. It provides necessary and helpful connections between established academics and students and gives new insights. —  
Carola Franson



The International Research Training Group offers me the opportunity to develop my ideas in constant communication with the professors and other PhD students. Both the heterogeneity of the projects and our shared interest in religious cultures in the modern era provide an ideal basis for discussions and valuable suggestions. — Philipp Lenhard



**Prof. PhDr. Miloš Havelka** is professor of sociology at Charles University Prague. After studying Bohemian studies, philosophy and history at Brno University, he worked as a journalist before joining the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences. From 1993 to 2001, he was editor-in-chief of the *Czech Sociological Review*. He is co-editor of the journals *Bohemia* and *History-Theory-Critique*. He specializes in the history and theory of social sciences. His current research interests focus on a Czech history of ideas. In our International Research Training Group he contributes his expertise on the sociology of religion as a supervisor of several dissertations.



**Prof. Dr. Martin Schulze Wessel** is professor of East European history at LMU Munich. He studied East European history and Slavic literature in Munich, Moscow and Berlin. His comparative study of the parish clergy's influence on the revolutions of the Habsburg and Russian Empires has set new standards in the study of religious trans-cultural relations. His research on the interconnections between religion and nationalism in East Central Europe makes him an expert of this research field of the IRTG. He is co-editor of several journals, such as *Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas* and *Bohemia*, and director of the Collegium Carolinum as well as chairman of the Verband der Historikerinnen und Historiker Deutschlands.



**Prof. Dr. Martin Baumeister**

is professor of contemporary European history at LMU Munich, with a focus on Southern Europe. He studied history, German, and Romance studies in Munich and Madrid and is an expert in the social and cultural history of religion. Since 2012, he has been director of the German Historical Institute in Rome, adding to the international network of the IRTG. He is co-editor of various print and online publications, such as the institution series of the German Institute for Urban Studies, *Informationen zur modernen Stadtgeschichte* (IMS), and the internet gateway for historians, [clio-online.de](http://clio-online.de).



**Prof. Dr. Franz Xaver Bischof**

studied Catholic theology in Lucerne, Paris and Munich. Since 2007, he has been professor of medieval and modern church history at the LMU Munich. He has published numerous books and articles on the history of Christianity and the Catholic Church in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. In his current research, he is working on an edition of the correspondence of the Munich theologian Ignaz von Döllinger and studying religious transformational processes in Europe. He is editor of the journal *Beiträge zur altbayerischen Kirchengeschichte*, co-editor of the *Zeitschrift für Kirchengeschichte* and member of the editorial staff of the journal *Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Religions- und Kulturgeschichte*.



**Prof. Dr. Michael Brenner** has been professor of Jewish history and culture at LMU Munich's Department of History since 1997, when the first chair for Jewish history was established at a German university. He came to LMU Munich after having taught at Indiana and Brandeis Universities. He had studied in Heidelberg and Jerusalem and obtained his Ph.D. from Columbia University and is co-editor of the book series *Jüdische Geschichte, Religion und Kultur*, and *Studien zur Jüdischen Geschichte und Kultur in Bayern*. Michael Brenner is International Vice President of the Leo Baeck Institute and board member of numerous advisory committees, including the Stiftung bayerischer Gedenkstätten and the German Historical Institute Washington.



**Prof. Dr. Michael von Brück** is professor of comparative religion and head of the Interfaculty Program in Religious Studies at LMU Munich. He studied Protestant theology, Indology and comparative linguistics in Rostock, Bangalore and Madras. He has published numerous books on Buddhism, Indian philosophies and religions (for example, the *Bhagavad Gita*), interreligious dialogue and modern anthropology. His current research is mainly about rituals in India, aesthetics of religion and neurosciences in the context of Buddhist philosophy. He is a member of the Munich Doctoral Program in Buddhist Studies. In addition to his academic expertise, he is also a teacher of Zen and yoga, trained in Japan and India.



**Prof. Dr. Marie Janine Calic** is an expert in Southeastern Europe. She has published extensively on the region, including Yugoslavia's war of succession and its aftermath. In addition to her scholarly research and teaching a variety of courses at different universities, she has also worked as senior researcher for the German Institute for National and Security Affairs, taking on an advisory role in German and European politics. She is a regular commentator to the media.



**PhDr. Lukáš Fasora** studied history and philosophy in Brno. Since 2008, he has been associate professor of Middle European history at Masaryk University in Brno. He has published a number of articles and monographs about German-Czechoslovakian relations in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as well as about the historical development of local government and the institutional history of universities. His current research focuses on several fields: the workers' movement in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, generation gaps and revolts, and a social history of the perception of old age in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



**Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Friedrich Wilhelm Graf** is professor of systematic theology and ethics at LMU Munich and member of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and the Humanities. His research focuses on the intellectual history of Protestant theology from the 18<sup>th</sup> until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as well as ethics and the development of religion and religious cultures in the modern era. In 1999, Professor Graf was the first theologian to receive the *Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Preis*, the most important and prestigious research award in Germany, awarded by the DFG. His findings are discussed not only by academics, but also the interested public.



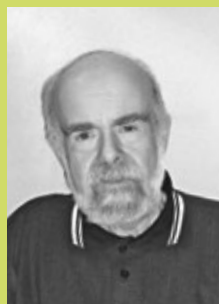
**Prof. PhDr. Jiří Hanuš** studied Czech language and literature and history at Masaryk University in Brno. Since 2010, he has been professor of general history at the Institute of History of the Faculty of Arts at Masaryk University. He specializes in modern church history, cultural history, and issues of political culture. His books deal, for instance, with the hidden church in communist Czechoslovakia, ecumenical church historiography, the reception of Vatican II in Czechoslovakia, and secularization and anti-clericalism in European perspective. He is editor-in-chief of the *Zeitschrift für Kirchengeschichte*, and member of the Democracy and Culture Studies Centre (CDK) in Brno.





**Doz. PhDr. Kristina Kaiserová**

has been Head of the Institute for Slavonic and German Studies at Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem since 1990. Before that, she studied history and Bohemian studies at the Philosophical Faculty of Charles University and worked as an archivist in the Regional Archive in Děčín. Since 2006, she has been director of the Institute for Slavonic and German Studies, and since 2008 dean of the Philosophical Faculty. She is a member of the university's advisory board as well as of the academic advisory board of the Collegium Bohemicum. Her current research investigates the history of Germans in Bohemia, especially their academic and educational institutions.



**Prof. PhDr. Luboš Kropáček**

teaches at the Faculty of Arts and the Hussite Theological Faculty of Charles University in Prague. He has studied Arab language and culture in Prague and Cairo. An expert on Islam and Muslim cultures, he has authored a number of monographs and articles on Muslim religious, cultural and social topics. Part of his current research deals with Muslim minorities in Central Europe. In this field he cooperates with the International Research Training Group Religious Cultures in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Europe.



**PhDr. Miroslav Kunštát** studied history, archival science and Nordic studies in Prague. Formerly an archivist at the University Archive in Prague, he has been teaching at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Charles University Prague since 1994. In addition, he is research associate at Masaryk Institute and in the archive of the Czech Academy of Sciences. His most important academic publications include studies on secularism in the Czech and Bohemian region, on the history of the theological faculties in Prague, on Catholicism among the Sudeten Germans, and on loyalty in Czech churches after 1948. He is co-editor of the *Biographisches Lexikon der böhmischen Länder*.



**PD Dr. Claudia Lepp** studied history and German language and literature at the University of Freiburg. Since 2000, she has been director of the Research Center for Contemporary Church History at the Faculty of Protestant Theology at LMU Munich, a successful cooperation between church and academia. She also teaches modern history at LMU Munich, and has published several studies on German Protestantism in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. She is co-editor of the journals *Mitteilungen zur Kirchlichen Zeitgeschichte* and *Kirchliches Jahrbuch für die Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland* and member of the research unit *Der Protestantismus in den ethischen Debatten der Bundesrepublik Deutschland 1949–1989*, funded by the DFG.



**Dr. Robert Luft** studied history, Eastern European history, mathematics and economics in Mainz and Vienna. Since 1990, he has been involved in research at the Collegium Carolinum – first as a research assistant, since 2006 as senior researcher and chairman of the Historical Commission for the Bohemian Lands. His main research interests are the political and cultural history of the Habsburg Monarchy and Czechoslovakia, Jewish history in Central and East Central Europe since the early modern period, and biographical research. He also lectures at Universität Passau, and is a member of the international editorial boards of the journals *Časopis Matice moravské* and *Pražský sborník historický*.



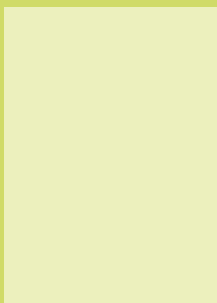
**Prof. Dr. Pavel Marek** studied history and Russian at Palacký University, Olomouc, where he has also been teaching Czech history since 1991. From 2002 until 2007, he was dean of the Department of Politics and European Studies at Palacký University. In 2007, he became as well professor of Czech history at the Catholic University in Ruzomberok (Slovakia). In addition, he is director of the Centre for History of Christian Politics. The author of no less than 20 monographs, he focuses his research on Czech political, cultural and clerical history in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.



**Doz. Dr. Zdenek Nešpor** is associate professor of sociology of religion at Charles University Prague, and member of the Sociological Institute at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. In 2003, he won the Josef Hlávka Prize, in 2006 the Otto Wichterle Prize and in 2010 the Academy-of-Sciences Prize for his scholarly work. He is an expert on contemporary religiosity and spirituality in the Czech Republic as well as on the history of religion and religious institutions in Central Eastern Europe since Early Modernity.



**Dr. Jana Osterkamp** studied law in Berlin and Prague, with majors in history and philosophy of law. As research fellow of the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History in Frankfurt, she further specialized in history of law. Since 2012, she has led the Emmy Noether Research Group entitled 'Ordering Diversity. Concepts of Federalism in the Habsburg Monarchy and its Successor States', funded by the DFG. Her current research project investigates the interconnectedness of religion and federal ideas under the Habsburg rule in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. She is a research associate at the Collegium Carolinum and teaches at the Department for Eastern European History of LMU Munich.

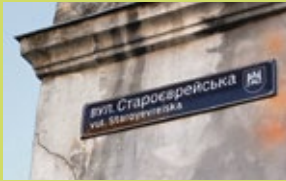


**Doz. PhDr. Martin C. Putna**, is a historian specialized in the relations between literature and religion, working as lecturer at Charles University. His published books include *Česka katolická literatura v evropském kontextu 1848–1918* (*The Czech Catholic Literature in European Context 1848–1918*; Prague 1998), *Česka katolická literatura v kontextech 1918–1945* (*The Czech Catholic Literature in Context 1918–1945*; Prague 2010), other monographs and several translations from Latin, German and Russian Literature to Czech.

**Dr. Martin Zückert** is managing director of the Collegium Carolinum. After studying history, sociology and European ethnology in Freiburg and Vienna, he specialized in the history of Czechoslovakia and its subsequent states. He spent several periods in the Czech Republic and Slovakia on research. In addition to his academic work, he has freelance experience in the conception and realization of exhibitions. Dr. Zückert has published various articles about religion, nationalism and everyday life in Bohemia during and after the Second World War. He is co-editor of the *Handbuch der Religions- und Kirchengeschichte der böhmischen Länder und Tschechiens im 20. Jahrhundert*.

**WHO WE ARE:  
POSTDOCS & DOCTORAL STUDENTS**





It is possible to exchange ideas and experiences and be in steady contact with colleagues. This opens new perspectives into my own project I would not have considered otherwise. — Adam Dobeš

For me, being in a doctoral program is a good thing because you can participate in various seminars and projects, and it is also invaluable to have people around you who have the same goal. — Katharina Ebner



**Dr. Heléna Tóth**

### **Life and Death in Communism**

The project aims to explore the development of secular rites of passage in Hungary and East Germany between 1949 and 1989 by focusing on socialist alternatives to baptism and the religious funeral. These rites both reflected and shaped the larger discourse on socialist biography. The research project contributes to understanding how communist parties and populations in Eastern Europe came to terms with the fact of communist rule after 1949.

The comparison sheds light on the dynamics of ‘socialist secularism’ against two different religious backgrounds, and shows how liturgical traditions and religious infrastructure influenced putting ‘socialist humanism’ into practice. Further, it contrasts broader developments with regionally specific characteristics of ritual practice.

The study is based on published and archival sources including ministerial files and propaganda material. Interviews with a select few who officiated at such rituals balance the theory with insights into practice. As a corrective to the interviews, ethnographic studies from the period describing ritual practice will be consulted.

**Dr. Heléna Tóth** completed her PhD in Modern European history at Harvard University. She wrote her dissertation on the history of political exile in the aftermath of the 1848 revolutions. Currently, she is working on a new book on the history of secular rites of passage in East Germany and Hungary between 1949 and 1989. She has published several articles on the history of migration and secular rites of passage. She is co-editor of the journal *Transnational History*.





**Adam Dobeš**

### **Religion in Jindřichův Hradec**

When dealing with religious change in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, historical scholarship tends to concentrate on great cities. This project aims at a social and cultural analysis of religion in a smaller parish that is considered to be one of the important Roman Catholic centers in Southern Bohemia. The research project explores religion, ideas and beliefs as historical factors that help to explain social conflicts and cultural developments between 1840 and 1920. On the one hand, up until World War I, chances had been small for dissenting opinions or non-conformism to become successful, because church authorities held a powerful position. On the other hand, different interpretations and traditions of Christianity and Judaism, represented by different communities of each faith, had been available to the local population of Jindřichův Hradec. Although the majority of the community was Roman Catholic, the development of religious groupings and institutions in Jindřichův Hradec's local history reveals insights into modern processes of religious pluralization and differentiation on a larger scale.

**Mgr. Adam Dobeš**, born in Prachatice, received his master's degree in German and Austrian studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University Prague in 2002. Since 2009, he has continued his studies as a postgraduate student at the Faculty of Humanities of the same university.



**Katharina Ebner**

### **Religion as an Argument? A Comparative Analysis of the Relationship between Religion and Politics within the Political Debate in Germany and the United Kingdom**

The main focus of the research project is to investigate the role of religious arguments within the public political debate in the second half of the twentieth century. The areas of research are Germany and the United Kingdom. The dissertation project is located within the scholarly debate about secularization and is analyzing changes and developments concerning the use and legitimacy of religious arguments on the basis of two case studies on the topics of abortion and homosexuality.

**Katharina Ebner** obtained an M.A. in philosophy from Heythrop College, University of London, and a teaching degree for German secondary schools (German and religious education) from the LMU in Munich. During her undergraduate and graduate studies she received a scholarship for academic excellence (Cusanuswerk). After completing her studies she worked as a research assistant at the University of Vienna, Austria.



**Vitalij Fastovskij**

### **Revolution, Religion and the Modern Self in Russian Revolutionaries' Ego-Documents (1860–1917)**

The aim of the study is to elaborate the history of speaking about the 'revolutionary self' in the light of secular systems and religion. The approach itself is not a new one. For example, the scholar Igal Halfin argued that autobiographies of 'common' Soviet citizens were clearly inspired by eschatological motives, which were transformed by the Bolshevik language. By this, Halfin tried to show that 'materialist' interests were determined by the political language of their time. But although impressive research has been conducted by historians in the field of Soviet subjectivity, the analysis and conceptualization of ego-documents of the Tsarist period is a desideratum. We still do not know much about the roots of the subjectivizing practices of the Bolshevik regime, by which it was able to exercise power over the inner feelings, thoughts and emotions of people. The aim of the study is to examine and to rethink concepts like 'revolutionary self' and 'substitute religion' on the basis of ego-documents of prominent and common Russian revolutionaries from the 1860s to 1917.

**Vitalij Fastovskij, M.A.**, finished his studies of history and Slavic philology, specializing in Russian history and literature, at LMU Munich in July 2012. Since October 2012, he has been working on his PhD project.



**Carola Franson**

## **The German Protestant Church in Estonia and Czechoslovakia between 1918 and 1939**

European churches in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century were forced to position themselves within the larger trends of nationalization and secularization. The dissertation analyzes the different dynamics of this change in Estonia and Czechoslovakia, focusing on the German Protestant Church in these countries between the years 1918 and 1939. This comparison highlights the different approaches the religious communities took in response to the evolution of the political and social structures of the societies in question.

The project focuses on the Church as a carrier of social identification within the larger context of nationalization and secularization. How did the Protestant communities perceive themselves at a time when new states were founded? Did their self-perception change during the following years of independence?

To answer those questions, public debates and private transcripts are analyzed on a textual basis. The specific terms, interpretations and semantics used at the time provide insight into the relations between the Church, the general public and specific individuals. The comparison also highlights the differences between the national majority and minority and the specific resulting conflicts.

**Carola Franson, M.A.**, was born in Munich and studied East and South East European history and modern history in Aachen (Germany), Tartu (Estonia) and Munich. She finished her master's degree with a thesis on *Banking Economy and Nationalism in Estonia during the First Period of Independence*.



**Johannes Gleixner**

### **Religious Intellectuals and the Shaping of New Societies in Central and Eastern Europe: The Case of the Early Soviet Union and the Czechoslovak Republic after 1917/1918**

How did religious intellectuals shape the way in which new states after the year 1917/1918 perceived themselves? How did late 19<sup>th</sup>-century religiosity affect the self-perception of those in charge?

The examples of the early Soviet Union and the Czechoslovak Republic promise an interesting comparison of European intellectual history of religion, as key groups of both states heavily relied on religious interpretations of history to explain their historical mission.

The dissertation aims to provide a more detailed look at certain core intellectual groups. At the time they were never unchallenged in their religious politics, but were able to establish long-lived discursive patterns even though they ultimately failed with regard to politics.

On the Czech side, there is detailed analysis of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk's school of thought. On the Soviet one, the analysis concentrates on the so-called 'god-builders' (especially A. V. Lunačarskij).

**Johannes Gleixner, M.A.**, studied political science at LMU Munich. After several stays in Russia, he finished his *Magister Artium* with a thesis on the *Philosophical Debates about Secularization in Post-War Germany*. In 2008, he received his master's degree in East European studies. Before joining the IRTG, he served as a research assistant at the Collegium Carolinum.



**Heiner Grunert**

### **Faith in Eastern Herzegovina. The Serbian Orthodox from 1878 to 1931**

The dissertation surveys the everyday religious life of Serbian-Orthodox believers in mostly rural and multi-confessional Eastern Herzegovina, focusing on the religious beliefs and practices of laity and clergy in their relations to other denominations and the state.

As often in poor and rural regions, religious life in Eastern Herzegovina at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was characterized by weak ecclesiastical structures and only few priests. At the beginning of the Austro-Hungarian period, higher clergy as well as state actors sought to standardize and professionalize the religious field in order to establish consistency in the performance and interpretation of religious rituals. These efforts encountered considerable opposition by the lay people, whose reaction is analyzed in its causes and effects on the practice of faith. The reinterpretation of collective affiliation – formerly based on denomination and family, but increasingly leading to the formation of an ethno-confessional, national group – took place with the participation of the clergy and in the context of the parishes. The process of ascribing ethnic qualities to the Serbian-Orthodox faith was a gradual secularization of the term Serb.

**Heiner Grunert, M.A.**, was born in Dresden. After alternative civilian service in Cracow and professional training as a carpenter in Dresden, he studied Eastern and Southeastern Europe and Southern Slavic studies in Leipzig and Sarajevo.



Jan M. Heller

### Transformations of the Other in the Czech Travelogue of the 'Long' 19<sup>th</sup> Century

The travelogue is a literary genre which most decidedly depicts issues of Otherness. The question guiding the project is the relation of Czech authors of travelogues to religion in the 19<sup>th</sup> century; this includes the awareness of one's own and the foreign religion described.

Before the development of mass tourism, traveling had a significant cognitive function and is best understood as a cultural code that puts the religious content of the textual elements into the framework of the displayed image of the 'stranger' – the Other. Different attitudes of the writers to religion are to be observed: How they see religion within the whole of their worldview, what aspects of the religious phenomena they prefer, how they view the relation between pious practice and dogma or doctrine. Other means of connecting the religious and cultural spheres can be discovered at the level of the symbolic language, e. g. in connection with the concept of the 'sacred': The travelers hold some places to be a symbolic 'sacred ground,' and the journey takes on the characteristics of a pilgrimage.

**Mgr. Jan M. Heller** was born in Hradec Králové. In 2009, he received his master's degree in Czech language and literature, comparative literature and Protestant theology at Charles University. Besides his academic pursuits, he has extensive experience in book translation, book reviewing and editorial work in various scholarly projects.



Cem Kara

## Dervishes and 'Modern Europe.' Cultural Contact and Exchange through the Bektashi Order in the Long 19<sup>th</sup> Century

The Bektashi Order was an influential mystical dervish order in Ottoman Anatolia and Southeastern Europe. Known as a religiously 'heterodox' and 'liberal' group, it was receptive to other religious cultures within the Ottoman Empire – also including non-Muslim religious groups. This was especially the case during the long 19<sup>th</sup> century with its increased cultural exchange between Western Europe and the Ottoman Empire.

The research project covers – on the one hand – the concrete contact situations between Bektashis and British, French or German travelers, diplomats or missionaries who resided in Southeastern Europe or Anatolia. A few Bektashis traveled to Western Europe as well, where they even formed networks. On the other hand, the study focuses on cultural transfer processes, such as the perceptions and cultural transmissions of Western European cultural assets, political theory and philosophy.

Given the reciprocity of cultural exchange, even though it may have been to be an asymmetrical reciprocity in this case, the influences of the Bektashi Order in Western Europe are also considered.

**Cem Kara** was born in Frechen. After his graduation from school in 2005, he studied history and philosophy at the University of Cologne in Germany and at the Yeditepe University in Istanbul. From April to September 2012, he was a doctoral fellow at the Orient Institute Istanbul.





**Philipp Lenhard**

### **Dialectic of Universalism. French and German Jews on Race and Nation, 1789–1848**

Unlike previous examinations of Jewish self-perception in the modern era, the dissertation traces terms like *Volk*, *nation*, *tribe*, or *race* back to the process of a readjustment of Jewish collective identity in the course of the French Revolution and its aftermath. In this context, a decidedly Jewish critique of enlightened universalism emerged, which aimed for a dialectical reconciliation of the general and the particular. The appropriation of ethnic concepts was an expression of a new, self-confident Jewishness. Especially for Jews who were not particularly religious or even adhered to secular ideas, the recourse to ethnicity was a way to continue to define themselves as Jews. However, this process of ethnicization can only be understood against the background of an antipodal process: the religionization of Judaism, which developed in the same period. Historiography has almost forgotten this allegedly ‘reactionary’ dimension of Jewish modernity.

**Philipp Lenhard, M.A.**, studied Judaic studies, philosophy and Anglo-American history at the University of Cologne. He gained academic experience as a student and postgraduate research assistant at the Martin Buber Institute for Judaic Studies in Cologne (2005–2010), research assistant in the project Visual History Archive at the FU Berlin (2009–2011), and holds a teaching position in the department for Jewish History and Culture at LMU Munich.



**Kathrin Linnemann**

### **Death in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Cracow**

Death remains a mystery. Since death – and along with it, the question of afterlife – is at the heart of most religions, it is the starting point for this comparative religious study. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, both the notion and the handling of death and dying went through significant changes in Europe. The project examines the developments that caused tensions in Polish society when new funeral customs encountered traditional ones, and religious interpretation faced new tasks. It analyzes how municipal authorities assumed more and more responsibility for life and death, as the city's population increased, and how funeral business developed as a new field in the commercial sector. The example of Cracow demonstrates how dealing with the dead was also turned into a medium for other discourses – such as patriotic funerals serving Polish nation-building. In addition, the study examines the role that religious communities – the Catholic Church and the Jewish community – played in those changes.

**Kathrin Linnemann, M.A.**, studied history and French philology in Bamberg, Cracow and East European Studies in Munich. During her studies, she held scholarships from the German National Academic Foundation. She finished her studies in 2008 with a master's thesis about Polish nationalism. She is also a trained journalist.



**Pascale Mannert**

### **Protestants in Poland 1918–1939: A Question of Loyalty?**

The project focuses on the biggest Protestant churches of the former Russian and Austrian partitions, more than half of Poland's Protestant population. Most of the research that has been conducted on this minority emphasizes that they were German – although not all of them were – and investigates their attitude in terms of nationality. In contrast to this approach, I will investigate to what extent their behavior towards the newly created Polish state was influenced by confessional issues. How did being both a Protestant and a Pole work for them? And if it did, how did it work for non-Protestant Poles? In which areas did confession affect their lives? How did they struggle with the complications of the various expectations brought to bear upon them? Which aspect was more important to them, and why? Which developments took place between and within the communities to shape common Protestant positions?

**Pascale Mannert, M.A.**, studied at the Universities of Bonn, Warsaw and Göttingen and currently is completing her PhD in Munich. She has been a scholarship holder of Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung, Herder-Institut Marburg and German Historical Institute Warsaw.



**Magdalena Myslivcová**

### **Religion and Public Space in a Contemporary Czech Town: The Example of the South Bohemian Town of Písek, before and after the Change of Regime in 1989**

Czech society is one of the least religious societies in contemporary Europe, and the changing religious landscape of Czech towns mirrors transformations of religious culture. During the communist era, the traditional church had gradually lost its former socio-integrating role and influence, and after 1989 it had to establish itself in the newly emerging religious market.

The research project is based on a case study, focused on the development of the religious sphere in a local urban area – the influence of churches and religious communities on the public space of a traditional Czech small town in the period of social change before and after 1989. Special attention is paid to both the presentation strategy and the social use of these subjects in the public space of a town, and new as well as alternative forms of religiosity and spirituality. The research project explores aspects of religion in the public space of Písek. The method used involves a historical-anthropological analysis of archive materials, church records, periodical materials, interviews and data drawn from participant observation.

**Mgr. Magdalena Myslivcová**, born in Písek, studied social, cultural and historical anthropology at the Faculty of Humanities, Charles University Prague. Since 2009, she has taken part in a postgraduate study program in anthropology.



**Tomáš W. Pavlíček**

### **Pastoral Care or Persuasion? The Influence of Church Leaders on the Clergy and Believers**

The project focuses on religious culture by examining religiosity and communicative strategies both among members of the clergy and between the clergy and believers in Bohemia between 1868 and 1917. It aims to describe the picture of the priests drawn in the sources. Which were the personal and historical circumstances that led young men to decide on a career in the clergy? The sources reveal that the religious attitudes of believers and members of the clergy were a major motivation and must be taken into account in analyzing the 'calling' to become a priest.

The project pays special attention to priests who migrated from rural territories to industrial cities, thereby uncovering regional differences, social distinctions, confessional variations and national contrasts in the religious culture in the Prague diocese.

**PhDr. Tomáš W. Pavlíček** was born in Rakovník. From 2002 to 2008, he studied history, Bohemian studies, education and psychology at Charles University Prague. In 2005/2006, he received an Erasmus scholarship for an archive stay in Vienna. Since 2008, he has been a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Humanities, Charles University. In 2009/2010 he studied at LMU Munich.



**Raphael Rauch**

### **Jewish Radio Broadcasts in the West German Radio after 1945**

The objective of the research project is to analyze the history of Jewish radio broadcasts in Western Germany from 1945–1983.

It is argued that Jewish radio broadcasts were one of the very few spaces where Germans came into touch with Jewish life after the Holocaust and World War II. Firstly, the factors which made Jewish radio broadcasts part of the German radio program are examined. Which key players, which interests and which circumstances gave Jewish voices their place on air? Secondly, content and structures of the radio broadcasts are analyzed. Which topics were relevant? How was Judaism presented to the audience? Which role did rabbis, which role did Jewish council representatives play? Hence, the history of Jewish radio broadcasts in Western Germany gives not only an answer to the question

of representation in and perception of Jewish life through radio, but also leads to the relationship between religion, culture, modernity, and media – and how these fields interact.

**Raphael Rauch, M.A.**, finished his studies of history, political science, and Catholic theology in Tübingen in 2012. During his studies he held scholarships for stays in Aix-en-Provence/ France – where he obtained a *Licence d'Histoire* – and at Yale University. Since October 2012 he has been a member of the IRTG.



**Carmen Reichert**

### **Jewish Self-Perception in Poetry Anthologies 1900–1937**

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Jewish publishers started collecting texts having Jewish authors or Jewish subjects and arranging them in anthologies. These publications emerged in the context of the ongoing discussion about folk and nation, which had started in the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and taken a different turn right before the First World War. My dissertation focuses on anthologies of poetry in German and Yiddish. These collections were an attempt to redefine a Jewish identity and to present this identity to the public. They sought to prove the closeness of Jewish poetry to German and other European literatures. At the same time, they claimed a specific ‘Jewish spirit’ (*Jüdischer Geist*) that would connect to Romantic traditions, not only in name. Very often, the old religion and its textual traditions became an important source for this new Jewish writing. Biblical and rabbinic motifs were the only way to create continuity from the time before the Haskala; the other important source was folk songs. More than an attempt at self-description, these anthologies were a statement to the public and showed a positive self-perception far from apologetics and political activism.

**Carmen Reichert** has studied German and French philology as well as history at LMU Munich. She graduated in 2012 and started her PhD on Jewish Self-Perception in Poetry Anthologies in the same year. Carmen Reichert is an associate member of the IRTG. Since 2013 she has received a scholarship from the Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Studienwerk.



**David Schick**

### **Between Gaon, Holy Land and the Fires of Hell: Economy and Religion in Three Jewish Business Companies in Łódź, Odessa and Vilnius during the Time of the Great Reforms (1855–1881)**

What is the relationship between religious ethics and economic strategies? While taking the large number of theoretical concepts concerning this connection into account, the project is aimed at carrying out empirical research. It focuses on Jewish enterprises in Odessa, Łódź and Vilnius between 1855 and 1881 (the reign of Alexander II). These cities represent different Jewish milieus: In Odessa the grain trade was prominent, Łódź was a center of the textile industry, and in Vilnius the traditional crafts were predominant. The chosen time frame was a period of rapid change in the Russian economy and society. In times of transformation the protagonists have to reconsider their strategies and loyalties, which is why this period is suited perfectly to an investigation into the interrelatedness between religion and economy. The comparative approach aims to enrich the perception of Jewish communities in Russia. Furthermore, the study embeds the local developments into the larger context of Russian-Jewish history.

**David Schick, M.A.**, studied Eastern European history and Russian language at the University of Leipzig from 2003 to 2009. After receiving his master's degree in 2009, he spent one year at UCLA studying Jewish history. In October 2012 he was admitted to the IRTG.





**Heiko Schmidt**

### **The Old Believers, the Orthodox Church and the Russian state in Livonia, 1850–1906.**

From roughly 1770 to 1840 the Russian state introduced the system of religious toleration in the empire, in which the religions in Russia were divided into recognised and non-recognised denominations. The former got the privilege to build churches and celebrate their services. In turn they cooperated with the Russian state and helped to expand state control over their members.

The state perceived the Old Believers as schismatics who could not be recognised by the state, since the Orthodox Church was privileged as predominant state-church. Thus the mechanisms of state control in the “confessional state” (Robert Crews) could not apply in case of Old Believers. In the late 1850s the deficiencies of Nicholas I’s repressive policy towards Old Belief led to a growing liberalisation in this policy.

The research project focuses on the changes in the legislation about Old Believers and its implementation. It underscores the antagonisms between the state’s ideological non-recognition of Old Believers and the necessity of pragmatic cooperation with them when it came i.a. to the documentation of the members of Old Believer communities and the recognition of their marriages.

**Heiko Schmidt, M.A.**, studied East European history and Slavic studies at LMU Munich and at the Orenburg State University, Russia. In summer 2010, he finished his master’s thesis about the Soviet, Western, and Russian research on the entrepreneurship of Russian Old Believers.



**Veronika Seidlová**

## **Music as a Vehicle of Performing Jewish Identities in Prague Synagogues and Prayer Rooms**

The aim of this study in the field of musical anthropology is to describe, analyze and interpret the search for Jewish identity through changes in Jewish liturgical music in Prague. During the last centuries (mainly the 19<sup>th</sup> century), Jewish liturgical music went through changes corresponding to different concepts of what it meant to be a Jew. Who did the musicians and performers want to be, and how did they express their self-perception by means of musical performance? Attention is paid especially to the social-historical context of different types of ritual music design, to the period's aesthetic ideals and to the conflicting concepts of appropriate performance. They unveil the social negotiation of the community members about the poignant question how to be a Jew and how to integrate other components of one's identity at the same time. The research project draws on historical musical and non-musical sources from Prague, and combines the qualitative approaches of social and historical anthropology.

**Mgr. Veronika Seidlová**, born in Hradec Králové, is a PhD student of anthropology at the Faculty of Humanities, Charles University, where she also received her master's degree in social and historical anthropology. She specializes in ethnomusicology and has authored, among others, the audio-text publication "The Forgotten Voice of the Jeruzalémská Synagogue in Prague." Since 2011, she has been a part-time assistant in the Institute of Ethnomusicology at the Faculty of Humanities.



**Prokop Siwek**

### **Evangelical Minority in the Context of the Catholic Hlučín Region**

The Hlučín region is situated in Silesia (Czech Republic), close to the Polish border. It is a part of Sudetenland, but during World War II was separated from it to be a part of the "Altreich". This region is almost completely different from all bordering areas – from a historical, ethnical, national, dialectological and religious viewpoint. Its inhabitants were forced to change their national and religious identity several times because of the special development of that region in the past 250 years. The study focuses on the two neighboring villages Sudice and Třebom, where a significant Protest population remained, although traditionally the region is inhabited mainly by Catholics. The expulsion of Sudeten Germans after World War II concerned only five per cent of the mainly German inhabitants of the entire Hlučín region, which is an unusually small number in comparison with other regions. Only the two villages Sudice and Třebom were impacted heavily. The project analyzes the history of these places from every possible perspective and wants to compare the findings with the history of the two neighboring villages Sciborzyce Wielkie and Gródczanki in Poland.

**Mgr. Prokop Siwek** finished his studies of Protestant theology at the Theological Faculty of Charles University in Prague in 2006. Since then, he has been working as a motorsport journalist. In 2011, he returned to the Department of Protestant Theology at Charles University, studying church history as a postgraduate student.



**Felix Westrup**

## **Religion and Psychology – A German Affair at the Beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

Around 1900, an extensive debate about the idea of a scientific psychology of religion took place in German religious discourse. The matter evolved from the widely shared expectation that a future study of religion could be based on theories and methods of the newly developing empirical psychology. Physicians, psychologists, social scientists, philosophers and theologians engaged in this vast and multiform discussion, creating an output of several hundred publications on the topic until the beginning of World War I. This early argument about the relation between religion and modern psychology has been strangely overlooked in both the historiographies of science and of religion. The project provides a reconstruction and analysis of the matter. It is argued that it should be taken into account as a paradigm case of the redefinition of religious semantics when confronted with the claims of modern science at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Felix Westrup, M.A.**, studied history of modernity, East European history and political science in Bochum (Germany), Cracow (Poland) and Munich. He received his master's degree from LMU Munich in October 2009.



**Marcela Zemanová**

### **The Building of St. Vitus Cathedral: Ideas, Actors and Arts in the European Context**

Subject of the study is the formation and activity of the Union for the Completion of St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Building programs of cathedrals, called 'completion programs,' were a phenomenon that took off and had its most prolific time in the 'long' 19<sup>th</sup> century – that is, in the period of an ongoing secularization process. There are several factors which contributed to this curious phenomenon: historicism, patriotism and developing nationalism, as well as a 'rediscovery' of Gothic architectural style and its artistic value, particularly in religious architecture. The research project inquires into the ideological background of the completion program with regard to religious, national, and artistic issues in comparison with the similar movement in Cologne, devoted to the completion of the Cologne Cathedral. The subject matter explored represents the participants of the St. Vitus Cathedral Completion Program who initiated fellowship formation. This study is focused on the changing perception of St. Vitus Cathedral as a symbolic religious, national and artistic monument.

**Mgr. Marcela Zemanová** was born in Děčín. She studied cultural history at the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice. At present, she continues her doctoral studies of Czech history in Ústí nad Labem, while at the same time working as an archivist in the State Regional Archives Litomerice. As a researcher, she devotes herself to exploring nobility in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Bohemia.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### **Prof. Dr. Klaus Buchenau**

- IRTG research project: Mass Conversions from the Greek Catholic to the Orthodox Church in Subcarpathian Rus' under Czecho-slovak Rule (1919–1938)
- IRTG postdoc until April 2013
- Today: professor of Southeastern and Eastern European history at Universität Regensburg

### **Dr. Lisa Dittrich**

- IRTG research project: Anticlericalism as a European Phenomenon. Scandalizations in France, Spain and Germany (1850–1914)
- Defense of doctoral thesis in February 2012
- Today: research associate to the Chair of European History of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München



**Prof. Dr. Klaus  
Buchenau**



**Dr. Martina  
Niedhammer**



**Dr. Lisa Dittrich**

### Dr. Martina Niedhammer

- IRTG research project: Emancipated by Money? Jewish Upper-Class Families in Prague 1800–1867, a Group Biography
- Defense of doctoral thesis in January 2012
- Today: library consultant at the Collegium Carolinum

### Dr. Damien Tricoire

- IRTG research project: Counting on God: Politics and Catholic Reformation in Bavaria, France, and Poland-Lithuania (1600–1660)
- Defense of doctoral thesis in February 2011
- Today: research associate to the Chair of Premodern History at Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg

### Dr. Marek Vlha

- IRTG research project: Between the Old Country and America: National and Religious Aspects of Czech Immigration to the USA (1840s–1870s)
- Defense of doctoral thesis in June 2013
- Today: editor-in-chief of the newspaper *Tajemství české minulosti*



Dr. Damien  
Tricoire



Dr. Marek  
Vlha

## WHAT WE DO







I benefited greatly from the summer schools and seminars on theory and methods in which students actively took part in discussions, could get new insights into their own research and at the same time consult the senior fellows who were present. — Marcela Zemanová

The colloquia and workshops of the IRTG not only provide insight into different fields of research, but also help to reflect upon your own project and methodological approach. — Cem Kara

## RESEARCH PROGRAM

The main interests in the research of the International Research Training Group Religious Cultures in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Europe are the multi-faceted connections and entanglements of religious and secular frameworks in modern Europe. We are engaged in investigating the place of religious cultures in the modern world, using approaches of history, religious studies, theology, Jewish studies, sociology and literary studies. In order to gain a broad outlook on the field, transcending both national and denominational borders, we strongly support research projects that approach their subject from the perspective of transnational, interdenominational and interdisciplinary comparisons. Religion in modern times was not simply transformed by economic, social and cultural developments, but influenced them in turn. In line with this thinking, our research program seeks answers to a fundamental question: How did religious symbolization, religious practices and the formation of religious communities react to, as well as shape, the political, sociological and cultural changes since the late 18<sup>th</sup> century?

## FIELDS OF RESEARCH

The research program focuses on six central fields of research:

1. Religious change in the modern world
2. Religion and science
3. Religion and nation/empire
4. Clericalism and anti-clericalism
5. Religion in urban contexts
6. Religion and gender

A fundamental question unites these topics: How does religion shape social identities?



## 1 Religious change in the modern world

Modern European history of religion is marked by the rapid acceleration of religious change since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Traditional religious interpretations and practices eroded while new forms of religious belief and practices appeared. An unprecedented pluralism of 'religious choices' caused competition not only between religious and secular frameworks but also between different denominations and religious communities. We are investigating these and other processes in order to analyze religious change in the modern world.



Second Vatican Council (1962–1965)

## 2 Religion and science

Recent scholarship has rendered the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-century view of religion and science as antagonistic spheres obsolete. As a consequence, the IRTG is interested in the multi-layered interactions between religions and the hegemonic pretensions of modern science in terms of interrelationships, transitions and syncretisms. This research field is not reduced to a history of conflict, but examines how new religious practices were influenced by the development of modern science in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



Caricature of Darwin's theory in the Punch Almanac for 1882

### 3 Religion and nation/empire

The concept of nationalism as ‘substitutive religion’ replacing traditional religions has been challenged in scholarly research in the last years. Hence, our purpose is to query the separation, hybridization and synthesis of religion and nationalism. We especially emphasize the relationship of empire and religion, which has not yet been systematically analyzed. With regard to the regional focus of the IRTG, this desideratum is particularly significant in light of the tremendous influence that the Habsburg and Romanov Empires had on the history of Eastern Europe in the long 19<sup>th</sup> century.



Alexander Nevsky Cathedral,  
Yalta (Ukraine)



Alexander Nevsky Cathedral,  
Tallinn (Estonia)



Alexander Nevsky Church,  
Okulovka (Russia)

## 4 Clericalism and anti-clericalism

Religious-secular conflicts are crucial to understanding modern societies. Of particular importance were the 19<sup>th</sup>-century movements of opposition to Christian communities and certain aspects of church policies, which were pan-European phenomena. Anticlerical campaigns were markers of transition in a broader process of political and social change, which were reflected in the way that local conflicts were often transferred to an international arena. This branch of our International Research Training Group is devoted to the study of the role and function of anti-clericalism in the building of modern societies in Europe, and to the analysis of the transnational networks underlying the culture wars between clericalism and anti-clericalism.



Gabriele Galantara:  
The Higher Art of Ballet  
in France ("Der Wahre  
Jakob", 4 October 1904)

## 5 Religion in urban contexts

Recent studies have demonstrated that we can no longer equate industrialization and urbanization with secularization, declining church membership and a loss of influence on the part of organized religion, as was once maintained. Attention has gradually turned to the adaptation and changing forms of ecclesiastical organizations as well as to the diversification and differentiation of religious life and religious groupings. The IRTG seeks the connections between the transformations of urban spaces, society, politics and culture, on the one hand, and the changes in religion, on the other hand. This approach opens up a wide range of different urban settings and developments, and therefore diverse possibilities of domestic and international comparisons.



Funeral march for Józef Piłsudski,  
Cracow, 18 May 1935



## 6 Religion and gender

Scholars consider two assumptions to be fundamental to studying the history of religion from a gender perspective: first, that religious traditions influence the construction of gender roles; second, that a group's or society's conceptions of masculinity and femininity affect its religious practices and symbolism. On the basis of these premises, we focus, for example, on the question of gender-specific consequences of the processes of modernization, secularization and religious transformation.



Wilhelm Maria Hubertus Leibl:  
Die drei Frauen in der Kirche  
(1881)

## CURRICULUM

The International Research Training Group Religious Cultures in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Europe offers a three-year PhD-program, during which doctoral students enroll at either LMU Munich or Charles University Prague and receive a scholarship granted by the DFG or the GAČR. They take part in the courses offered by the IRTG: research colloquia, courses on theory and methods, summer schools, workshops, conferences and research stays at the partner university. In addition, they are encouraged to participate in national and international conferences and supported to conduct research abroad, as required by the respective research project. Travel grants can be provided.

Different types of courses offered throughout the duration of the program enable intensive research training and academic discourse between professors and doctoral students.

The lectures of the IRTG unite different scholars and are enriching experiences. Even if my research is not directly connected to the topic, I can benefit a great deal from the inspiring talks. —  
David Schick

### **Research colloquium**

Every semester, each partner university runs a colloquium in which doctoral students present and discuss their individual projects. In addition, renowned experts are invited as guest speakers and give lectures on topics related to the IRTG.

### **Courses on theory and methods**

Courses on theory and methods are held once a semester as a two-day seminar and provide a sound theoretical foundation for academic discussion and exchange between Munich and Prague.

### **Summer school**

Every year, a one-week summer school takes place in a different location in Europe. This allows in-depth discussion of methodological questions and key subjects of the IRTG's research program. The summer school provides a platform for communication between the Munich and Prague groups and also with external researchers.

### **Stay abroad at the partner university**

Doctoral students receive supervision by the respective partner universities, usually for several months. Should a dissertation project require a longer stay abroad, an extension to a maximum of twelve months can be obtained.

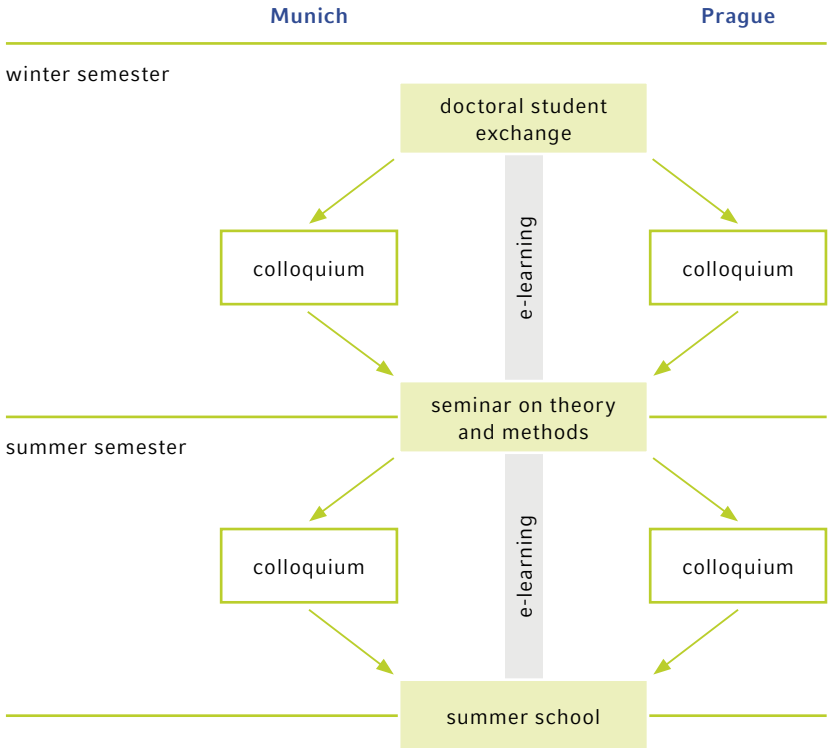
### **Doctoral workshops and junior conferences**

Once a year, the doctoral candidates have the opportunity to organize short workshops or conferences. They may choose the topic themselves and invite guest researchers.

It is an important advantage to be able to write a dissertation in a well-structured post-graduate program. It helps one to keep an overview during a three-year project. — Cem Kara

In October, the academic year starts off with a research colloquium held in Munich and Prague. Usually in February, the first weekend seminar of the year takes place to discuss a specific topic, theory or research method. During the semester break, doctoral students have time to go about their own research, e. g., visit archives (often abroad). The summer semester starts in April, again with a research colloquium. Usually in early summer, a workshop or conference is held (frequently in May/June). At the end of the summer semester, there is another weekend seminar. The academic year closes with a summer school – a one-week course and one of the highlights of the year. Throughout the academic year, doctoral students are encouraged to participate in seminars related to their own research, talk to other researchers in their field, and actively take part in conferences. They also meet with their supervisors on a regular basis to discuss their progress and the next steps in their work. Doctoral students have the opportunity to visit or organize workshops held by visiting academics and to participate in social skills training. During the first two years of the program, scholarship holders spend several months at the partner university either in Munich or Prague to promote their research internationally, learn about the academic cultures in the respective country, and take part in academic events at the partner university.

# The Academic Year from the Perspective of the Munich–Prague Cooperation



## RESEARCH COLLOQUIA

Research colloquia take place in Prague and in Munich during the semester. The colloquia give the doctoral candidates and the senior researchers the opportunity to present their own research projects. Scholars from other universities are also invited. In this way, participants stay on top of the newest research on religious history and get to discuss with experts and internationally renowned researchers within a small, highly qualified circle. Although the colloquia for Munich and Prague are planned separately, doctoral candidates from Prague take part in the colloquium in Munich and vice versa. Sometimes one of the scholarship holders is especially interested in a particular talk and will make the trip to either Prague or Munich, or they are already on their one-semester stay abroad.

Speakers at the colloquia have included: Hans Joas, Martin Riesebrodt, Barbara Stollberg-Rilinger, Hubert Wolf, and many more.

Other than a continual source of new research input, the colloquia also are an important fixture in the semester which generates ongoing debate throughout the entire academic year. Questions that might rise in the doctoral students' research process may also be addressed.

The colloquia offer us the chance to discuss a broad range of topics. Presentations by prestigious scholars challenge you to think differently. For the members of the IRTG, presenting at the colloquium is a constructive forum for challenging and testing old assumptions and new ideas. — Adam Dobeš

## SEMINARS ON THEORY AND METHODS

Each term a seminar on theory and methods is held. These block courses can vary in length but usually are two days long. Whereas summer schools also leave room for cultural activities, the block courses mainly focus on methodology and the discussion of certain theories of general interest. These courses promote our bi-national teamwork – as do the summer schools – since the doctoral candidates hold presentations on different topics in mixed groups of Czech and German students. The block courses also train presentation skills for academia and beyond, as all the students chair sessions or comment on the presentations of their fellow students. Reading and closely examining recent dissertations have proved particularly successful. Students pose their problems, and jointly scrutinize methods used, theoretical framework and writing style in order to draw insights into and inspiration for the works in progress.



Seminar on theory and methods in Frauenchiemsee (July 2010)

## SUMMER SCHOOLS

Each year in September, the IRTG organizes a summer school in a European country. Every summer school is dedicated to a specific topic that is approached from different angles. These one-week courses offer the opportunity for intensive learning and discussion, and are one of the highlights of the academic year. They combine theory on religious cultures and direct encounter with a city's religious history.

In 2012, for example, the participants experienced the impressive connection between discussing texts and perceiving the urban environment during a summer school in Istanbul on Religious Variety in Multiethnic Empires. Visits to the former Jewish-Greek quarter Fener as well as the 'must-sees' of Hagia Sophia or the Topkapı Palace enabled them to envisage, through the traces left, religious life in the former Ottoman Empire and in modern Turkey. Talks given by local researchers partly took place at the historical sites. For instance, the lecture by the German journalist Michael Thumann, who has lived in Istanbul for many years, left a lasting impression.

Former summer schools were organized in L'viv (2010) and in Olomouc (2011), two very different, but each very interesting places with regard to the research program of the IRTG.

Mornings spent discussing texts like Troeltsch and Guardini, Masaryk and Luhmann, Sholem and Habermas, in combination with afternoons spent visiting key sights, each summer school facilitated a multi-faceted and altogether richer understanding of the visited cities' history, thus providing participants with a colorful backdrop for their own research.



## WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

We encourage our doctoral students to take the opportunity to organize workshops or conferences between Munich and Prague, or in either city. They may be organized by doctoral students or planned by doctoral students and senior researchers together.

A conference may also be held jointly with a different institution, as in 2010 when the IRTG invited international researchers to a conference on 'Religion, Nation and Secularism in Modern Ruthenian/Ukrainian and Belorussian Culture.' The Free Ukrainian University, the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research of the University of Alberta and the IRTG co-organized this event with great success and were able to invite renowned researchers from America, Canada, Ukraine, Germany and the Netherlands. José Casanova of Georgetown University gave the keynote lecture. The results of the 2010 conference will be published in the *Journal for Ukrainian Studies*.

In 2012, a group of doctoral students developed a concept for a workshop on "Religious Variety in the countryside. Eastern Europe in the 19th Century", which was organized by them in Munich in June. For the two-day-conference they hosted national and international guests, which was not only a great scientific success for the doctoral students, but as well a valuable practical experience.

The next conference of the IRTG is on "Jews and Muslims in the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union" and will take place in June 2013.



Conference 'Religion, Nation and Secularism in Modern Ruthenian/Ukrainian and Belorussian Culture' (Munich, 25 and 26 June 2010)

## STAY ABROAD WITH THE IRTG

During their participation in the IRTG doctoral students spend at least a semester abroad at the partner university.

Not only does the IRTG seek to promote outstanding young academics within their fields, but also to provision them with the skills to navigate different academic settings, e.g., in a foreign country. For the doctoral students visiting their partner university, the tuition fee has been lifted and the coordinating offices both in Munich and in Prague are happy to assist the guests in any way possible. Doctoral students from Munich are lodged in a hall of residence and provided with a work place at Charles University. The Prague students visiting Munich receive help in the search for a flat for the duration of their stay and have access to the local IRTG student office. Of course, both in Prague and in Munich the exchange students take part in the academic events at the partner university, benefit from the libraries and their collections, and have the opportunity to talk to the resident scholars and profit from their expertise, as well as to seek contact to their fellow doctoral students.

It is possible to prolong the stay at the partner institution up to a year. In this case, a co-tutelle de thèse can be considered for the student in question. Already two of the scholarship holders – one from Prague, one from Munich – have engaged in this very promising venture that is supported by the universities.

Thanks to my close cooperation with the German graduate students in the preparation and in the course of seminars on theory and methods as well as summer schools, I have gained valuable experience and made a number of personal friendships. It was also a great advantage to have the opportunity to draw from the excellent Munich libraries. — Magdalena Myslivcová

## BI-NATIONAL LECTURE SERIES

In spring/summer 2012 the IRTG introduced a new feature to its repertoire: a lecture series between Munich and Prague. It was organized jointly between Munich and Prague, and renowned researchers from Munich and Prague have given lectures (the Czech colleagues in Munich, the German colleagues in Prague) open to a wider public. In Prague, the Goethe Institute was co-operating and offered its lecture hall for the event thus providing the IRTG with the opportunity to communicate with an interested audience outside academia.

Furthermore, the series was also matched with a seminar for IRTG doctoral students, conducted by the speakers of the lecture series. The seminar sessions were held the morning after each lecture, so that the topics can be discussed in greater depth, with a focus on the questions and needs of the doctoral students.

The lecture series is a complex and very promising format that is beneficial to the individual researchers, to the public and to the International Research Training Group as a whole. We hope to continue the series over the years and to establish a valuable addition to our academic program.

The first lecture series will be published as part of the IRTG's book series *Religious Cultures in Modern Europe*, with a Czech-German editorial board.

The cross-border cooperation with Prague University enriches our theoretical and practical approaches, broadens our horizons and prepares us perfectly for future academic jobs. — David Schick

## BOOK SERIES RELIGIOUS CULTURES IN MODERN EUROPE

In academia, publishing is a vital step towards becoming a recognized researcher; while important for renowned scholars, it is even more so for young academics. The IRTG aims to establish a sound basis for doctoral students starting out in the academic world. Therefore, a platform from which to publish their research is crucial, leading the IRTG to create a monographic series entitled Religious Cultures in Modern Europe, coming out in the renowned publishing house Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.

The book series reflects the interdisciplinary and international structure of the IRTG, both in its contents and through its editorial board. The editorial board comprises Friedrich Wilhelm Graf, Miloš Havelka and Martin Schulze Wessel, representing the disciplines history, Protestant theology and sociology respectively and the Universities of Prague and Munich. If the editorial board approves publication of a dissertation, the IRTG can also provide a subsidy for the printing costs. Quick publication is possible, which benefits both the IRTG and the authors. Outstanding Czech dissertations can be translated into German in order to be published in the series.

Research becomes available to a German readership. Since it is rare to translate the research of young researchers, this adds to the appeal of the series.

The first two books of the series were published in 2012, authored by Damien Tricoire and Martina Niedhammer.



Martina Niedhammer

## Nur eine »Geld-Emancipation«?

Loyalitäten und Lebenswelten des Prager  
jüdischen Großbürgertums 1800–1867

Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht



Damien Tricoire

## Mit Gott rechnen

Katholische Reform und Politisches Kalkül  
in Frankreich, Bayern und Polen-Litauen

Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht

When I finished my thesis I got the chance to publish my study in the IRTG's series *Religiöse Kulturen im Europa der Neuzeit*, which meant that I did not have to find a publisher on my own, but was assisted and supported in all aspects of publication. — Martina Niedhammer

## BI-NATIONAL TRANSFER BETWEEN MUNICH AND PRAGUE

Mobility and transfer between Munich and Prague lie at the very heart of our International Research Training Group. Since the academic partnership between Munich and Prague existed for quite some time and has already proven successful in different projects, our cooperation is built on solid grounds. Especially the two speakers Martin Schulze Wessel and Miloš Havelka have worked together on various occasions, for example in the Collegium Carolinum.

With enthusiastic senior researchers fuelled by the backing of the universities involved and keen interest in the research topic, there was genuine motivation from the very beginning to make the IRTG a successful project. This motivation – also passed on to junior researchers – is the key to the effective work and progress in the IRTG. If it weren't for the personal interest of all people involved, senior and junior researchers alike, the IRTG would not be what it is today.

What holds true for the senior researchers is also remarkable in the doctoral students. They are avid to extend their academic horizons and do not shy away from the efforts that the various events demand of them. Many times they work in bi-national teams using e-learning tools such as Moodle and new media to compile their results into one presentation. Usually the language used in the joint events is German, so the Czech doctoral students also need to do their work and presentations in German – which they do outstandingly well.

All these examples try to explain what is difficult to capture on paper: the IRTG is not just a concept – it is a living project, brought to life by the people and personalities who take part. The desire to know, to learn and to communicate is shared by all IRTG members – this is why its cooperation is so successful.

## CHILDREN AND FAMILY SUPPORT

The International Research Training Group offers special financial support to scholarship holders with children. In addition to the regular scholarship stipends, parents receive 400 euros monthly for the first child and 100 euros for each additional child. Parents also have the option of either extending the scholarship for up to 12 months after the regular period or receiving additional payments to cover the cost of childcare in order to complete their research projects within the regular scholarship period. Female doctoral students giving birth to a child within the scholarship period are entitled to six weeks of maternity leave before and eight weeks after birth.

Furthermore, the coordination office provides parents with advice and support concerning childcare-facilities at the university and combining family life and (post-)doctoral research in general.



Carola Franson with her son Conrad talking with Martin Baumeister (seminar on theory and methods in Kochel, February 2012)

## IRTG AT A GLANCE







The International Research Training Group is just – inspiring! It brings together people who really have something to tell each other and who otherwise wouldn't cooperate regularly. Best of all I like the summer schools, which create an intense working atmosphere while at the same time giving unique insights into the religious history and present of various European regions. — Klaus Buchenau



## WHY JOIN THE IRTG RELIGIOUS CULTURES IN 19TH AND 20TH-CENTURY EUROPE?

The International Research Training Group provides an exciting interdisciplinary and international environment for motivated doctoral students. It unites leading researchers in the field of religious studies in two countries and pursues innovative research by studying religious history not only from a national but from a European perspective, especially focusing on Eastern Europe. The curriculum equips young researchers with the theoretical and methodological tools to write their doctoral theses and with the soft skills and supervision needed to succeed in and outside academia. Through constant international academic exchange, the participants will become familiar with academia in Germany and the Czech Republic and experienced in intercultural exchange. At the end of the three-year PhD program, doctoral students will not only have completed a dissertation thesis but also have had valuable experience for both their professional and private lives.

If you are looking to write a doctoral thesis in the field of religious cultures and modernity the IRTG might just be the place you have been searching for.

Not only the academic but also the moral support by fellow students and supervisors is one of the main advantages of the IRTG. — Adam Dobeš

Are you highly motivated, curious, and want to start out in academia within a network of renowned researchers and enthusiastic doctoral students? All encompassed in a structured doctoral program with the possibility of travel grants, summer schools and research abroad as well as a scholarship in an attractive city like Prague or Munich? Then the IRTG Religious Cultures in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Europe is for you.



Doctoral students and faculty members from Prague and Munich during the summer school in Istanbul (September 2012)

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