



Österreichische
Forschungsgemeinschaft

SYMPOSIUM OF THE RESEARCH GROUP „RELIGION – POLITICS – VIOLENCE“ OF THE
AUSTRIAN RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

UNIVERSITY OF INNSBRUCK, JUNE 7 TO JUNE 9, 2012

The European Wars of Religion
An Interdisciplinary Reassessment of Sources, Myths, and Interpretations

Today, religion is often accused of being the main root of violence in our world. Closely connected to this widely held assumption is the thesis that it was the European wars of religion at the beginning of the modern age that forced the European societies to develop a secular state characterized by its separation of religion and politics. Following this widespread master narrative the privatization of religion is seen as the precondition of the emergence of peaceful secular democracies. In recent times serious doubts are raised against these well-known assumptions and narratives. In 1995 the Catholic theologian William T. Cavanaugh challenged the usual view of the wars of religion by claiming that these wars were rather the birth pangs of the emergence of the modern nation state with its own affinity to violence. Independently from Cavanaugh, also José Casanova, a sociologist of religion, criticized the widely held assumptions about the wars of religion in his keynote lecture at the 2008 meeting of the research group „Religion – Politics – Violence“ at the University of Innsbruck (http://www.uibk.ac.at/plattform-wrg/idwrg/idwrg_25.pdf).

While analyzing various kinds of early modern military conflicts in comparative perspective historians too have recently developed much more nuanced views of the religious wars and the emergence of the modern nation state. This final meeting of the research group „Religion – Politics – Violence“ is dedicated to a careful interdisciplinary reassessment of the meaning and character of the European wars of religion by focussing on the complex and changing relationship between religion, violence and state building. By using different methodological and theoretical approaches historians, sociologists, political scientists, philosophers and theologians will engage in an interdisciplinary debate that will also indirectly contribute to a better understanding of the religio-political situation of Europe today. A final part of the symposium will focus on the seven-year journey of the research group „Religion – Politics – Violence“. What were the aims, what are the achievements and what are the most important questions that still need to be answered?

Joint Organizer: Research Platform „Politics, Religion, and Arts“, University of Innsbruck

Organization: *Wolfgang Palaver, Harriet Rudolph, Dietmar Regensburger*

Conference Fees: participation is for free, but registration is strictly required (limited access)
(for registration and accommodation details see end of the flyer)

Registration Deadline: May 7, 2012

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2012

17:00 Registration

19:00 Welcome

Sabine Schindler (Vice Rector for Research of the University of Innsbruck; tbc)
Wolfgang Palaver (Chair of the Research Group „Religion – Politics – Violence“)
Józef Niewiadomski (Dean of the Theological Faculty)

19:30 RAYMUND SCHWAGER–LECTURE ON RELIGION AND POLITICS
OPENING KEY NOTE LECTURE

William Cavanaugh (DePaul University/USA): The Myth of Religious Wars (45 minutes)

Response: *Brigitte Mazohl* (Universität Innsbruck/Austria) (15 minutes)

Moderator: Józef Niewiadomski

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2012

9:00 HISTORICAL APPROACHES

Luise Schorn-Schütte (JW Goethe Universität Frankfurt a.M./Germany): What is a Confessional War? (30 minutes)

Response: *Ralf Miggelbrink* (Universität Duisburg-Essen/Germany) (15 minutes)

Moderator: Astrid von Schlachta

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

Helga Schnabel-Schüle (Universität Trier/Germany): State-Building, Religion, and Violence (30 minutes)

Response: *Kristina Stöckl* (Università di Roma 'Tor Vergata'/Italy) (15 minutes)

Moderator: Andreas Oberhofer

12:30-14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 SOCIOLOGICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACHES

José Casanova (Georgetown University/USA): Wars of Religion: A Problematic Modern Meta-Narrative (30 minutes)

Response: *Jürgen Nautz* (Universität Wien/Austria) (15 minutes)

Moderator: N.N.

16:00-16:30 Coffee Break

Paul Dumouchel (Ritsumeikan University/Japan): The Modern State (30 minutes)

Response: *Bruce Ward* (Laurentian University/Canada) (15 minutes)

Moderator: Andreas Exenberger

18:30 Dinner

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2012

9:00 EUROPEAN WARS OF RELIGION: A GENERAL DEBATE

Charles Taylor (McGill University/Canada; Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna/Austria) (15 minutes; tbc)

Harriet Rudolph (Universität Innsbruck/Austria) (15 minutes)

Wolfgang Palaver (Universität Innsbruck/Austria) (15 minutes)

Moderator: Wilhelm Guggenberger

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-13.00 RELIGION – POLITICS – VIOLENCE: REFLECTIONS ON A SEVEN-YEARS JOURNEY

Panel with *Elisabeth Dörler, Andreas Oberprantacher, Otto Kallscheuer, Roman Siebenrock, Gerhard Larcher* (10 minutes)

Moderator: Wolfgang Palaver

Registration and all sessions will be held at **Rokoko Hall, Theological Faculty, University of Innsbruck**, Karl Rahner Platz 1, first floor.

Registration & Contact:

Send the registration form (Deadline: May 7, 2012) by mail, fax or E-mail to:

Barbara Bertsch, Institut für Systematische Theologie, University of Innsbruck, Karl-Rahner-Platz 1, A-6020 Innsbruck/Austria

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E-mail: barbara.bertsch@uibk.ac.at

Travel & Accommodation:

Travel and accommodation are based on self organisation. A wide range of hotels and rooms you can find and book at: <http://www.innsbruck.info/aufenthalt/hotel-zimmer.html>

Ask for special conference rates, some hotels have agreements with University of Innsbruck.

Furthermore you are welcome to contact Barbara Bertsch (see above) for any recommendations.

She will give you also any advice for travel and transportation.

Meals:

Vouchers for the meals will be available on a cash basis (around 15-20 EUR per meal) at the conference desk. Moreover there are a University canteen and many restaurants very close to the campus.

Österreichische Forschungsgemeinschaft

http://www.oefg.at/frm_arbeit.htm

politik religion kunst

plattform für konflikt-
und kommunikationsforschung



<http://www.uibk.ac.at/politik-religion-kunst/>

Past conferences and publications of the Research Group „Religion – Politics – Violence“

2006 (Seefeld)

[PARADISE NOW!? Politik – Religion – Gewalt im Spiegel des Films](#)

Edited by Regensburger, Dietmar/Larcher, Gerhard.
Marburg: Schüren Verlag, 2008. 304 p., 24,90 €
[ISBN: 978-3-89472-531-0](#)



2007 (Innsbruck)

[Westliche Moderne, Christentum und Islam. Gewalt als Anfrage an monotheistische Religionen](#)

Edited by Palaver, Wolfgang/Siebenrock, Roman
/Regensburger, Dietmar. Innsbruck: Innsbruck University
Press 2008. 296 p., 21,90 €
[ISBN: 978-3-902571-59-5](#)



2008 (Innsbruck)

[Politik, Religion, Markt: Die Rückkehr der Religion als Anfrage an den politisch-philosophischen Diskurs der Moderne](#)

Edited by Guggenberger, Wilhelm/Regensburger,
Dietmar/Stöckl, Kristina. Innsbruck: Innsbruck University
Press 2009. 276 p., 21,90 €
[ISBN: 978-3-902719-14-0](#)



2009 (Innsbruck)

[Politische Philosophie versus Politische Theologie? Die Frage der Gewalt im Spannungsfeld von Politik und Religion](#)

Edited by Palaver, Wolfgang/Oberprantacher, Andreas/
Regensburger, Dietmar. Innsbruck: Innsbruck University
Press 2011. 384 p., 19,90 €
[ISBN: 978-3-902811-12-7](#)



2010 (Graz)

[Von Ödipus zu Eichmann: Kulturanthropologische Voraussetzungen von Gewalt](#)

Edited by Regensburger, Dietmar/Wessely, Christian. Marburg: Schüren Verlag,
May 2012.

2011 (Vienna)

[Öffentliche Religionen in Österreich: Politikverständnis und zivilgesellschaftliches Engagement](#)

Edited by Nautz, Jürgen/Siebenrock, Roman/Stöckl, Kristina. Innsbruck:
Innsbruck University Press, May 2012.