



RaT-Newsletter



JRAT

Interdisciplinary Journal for
Religion and Transformation
in Contemporary Society

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Religion and the Sense of Law

BRILL | Ferdinand Schöningh



New issue "Religion and the Sense of Law"

- edited by Stefan Hammer & Jakob Deibl

The issue reflects on concepts of law determined or impacted by various currents of Abrahamic religious traditions. Major alternative approaches regarding the status of revelation as a source of law are being addressed. Two basic types of religious approach can be distinguished: one embracing the idea of divine revelation containing prescriptions which are to be connected to and implemented in human legal and political reasoning, and another one absconding the divine from earthly political and legal paradigms in order to permeate them with relativizing spirituality. The various contributions explore the historical development of relevant strands of religious thought as well as the way in which they articulate themselves in the present-day diversity of a secularized and globalized environment.

[Link to the publication.](#)

Upcoming issue "From Syncretism to Hybridity"

- edited by Bettina Schmidt & Hans Gerald Hödl

As the first article of the upcoming issue "From Syncretism to Hybridity", the article "Ben Ammi's Adaptation of Veganism in the Theology of the African Hebrew Israelites of Jerusalem" by Michael T. Miller has been published in advance on the website of Brill.

We hope that this will arouse your interest in the issue to be published in 2022/23.

[Link to the publication.](#)

For further information on JRAT, you can find our new page on facts and figures [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS



Appel, Kurt: *Trinità e apertura di Dio*. Verruchio: Pazzini Editore 2021.

This volume attempts to think "God" from the phenomenon of the open. Biblical texts and philosophical reflections (Kant, Hegel, Merleau Ponty, Agamben, Bahr and others) are used to address the openness of time, space, the vulnerable, the guest, the name, the body and the text. As an epilogue, the Christian idea of the Trinity is interpreted as the openness of God.

[Link to the publication](#)



Danz, Christian: *Theology of Nature: Reflections on the Dogmatic Doctrine of Creation*, in: *HTS Theologiese Studies / Theological Studies* 77 (3/2021), pp. 1-7.

The doctrine of creation and the knowledge of nature have come into tension in modernity. Against this background, the article discusses the basic problems of a theology of nature starting from a systematic theology of religious communication. Dogmatic statements about the world as God's creation are not about a description of nature and reality but about a reflexive account of Christian-religious communication. Both the critique of the representational version of the doctrinal tradition's conception of creation and its reflexive turn in 20th-century Protestant theology are taken up and carried forward in such a way that the belief in creation is not understood as a general qualification of the world but is related to the concrete contents of religious communication.

[Link to the publication.](#)

Fieder, Martin und Susanne Huber: *The*

Interdisciplinary Journal for
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Evolutionary Biology of Religious Behavior.
In: JRAT 2021.

In this freestanding contribution to the Research Centre's Journal, the Authors give an overview on the ongoing research on the evolution of religious behavior, religion in general as well as on behavioral genetics from the field of evolutionary anthropology. The topic of "evolution of religion" has been of interest for evolutionary biology since Charles Darwin and has strongly gained in interest recently.

[Link to the publication](#)



Fieder, Martin und Susanne Huber:
Contemporary selection pressures in modern societies? Which factors best explain variance in human reproduction and mating? In: Evolution and Human Behaviour. Vol. 42 (5), 2021.

This contribution in "Evolution and Human Behavior" looks at the factors influencing human reproduction on the basis of US data. The authors found, as it has been documented frequently, that being religious (measured by the attendance of religious services) is positively associated with the number of someone's children but also with the genetic pre-disposition for educational advancement. Hence "being religious" and the potential for educational advancement may have to some extent a common genetic basis.

[Link to the publication](#)



Holzleithner, Elisabeth: Anmerkungen zum Kopftuchstreit, in: Schulheft, 46. Jahrgang, Band 181 (03/2021), pp. 97-108.

Scholarly, literary and journalistic contributions discuss and critique dominant historical policies in this scholastic issue. Stories are presented that stand for solidary changes of past and present disastrous conditions.

[Link to the publication.](#)

Katharina Limacher,
Rafael Walther (Hg.)

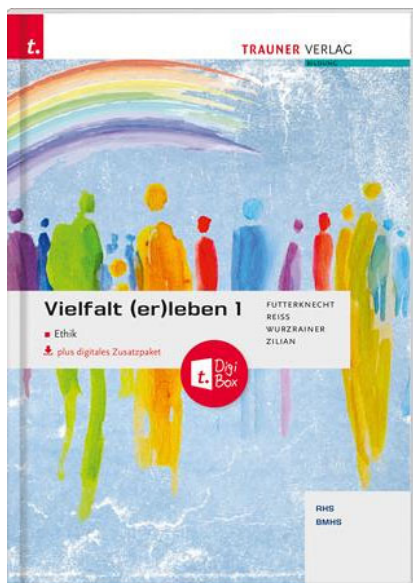
Limacher, Katharina und Rafael Walther:
Praxistheorien und Religionswissenschaft.



Neuere Theoriediskussionen in der empirischen Religionsforschung. Bielefeld: transcript Verlag 2021.

Following the practice turn, which at the beginning of the millennium was carried primarily by work in the field of science and technology studies, the theoretical vocabulary of practice theories has gained widespread prominence. In religious studies, it has been received only hesitantly. The contributors to this volume address this hesitation and, in addition to theoretical considerations that ask about the implications and potentials of practice-theoretical concepts for the study of religion, also provide contributions that point out ways of applying practice theories in empirical projects. The volume is available as open access publication.

[Link to the publication.](#)



Reiss, Wolfram und Ferdinand Auhser, Veronika Futterknecht, Robert WurZRainer: Vielfalt (er)leben 1. Linz: Trauner Verlag 2021.

The first volume of the new textbook series "Living Diversity" has been approved and is already being used in ethics classes at AHS, BHS and BMS. For the first time, the work attempts to present the (intra-)religious diversity of the religious communities found in Austria and their ethical positions from the perspective of religious studies in a textbook. This textbook was written by a team of authors around Prof. Wolfram Reiss and Mag. Robert WurZRainer from the Institute for Systematic Theology and Religious Studies.

[Link to the publication.](#)

[Here](#) you can find an explanation of the approach of the textbook on the RaT blog.



Synek, Eva: Wären wir wahre Christen, würden wir alle den Stern tragen, in: Daniel Munteanu (Hg.): *Ökumene ist keine Häresie. Theologische Beiträge zu einer ökumenischen Kultur.* FS Metropolit Augoustinos, Paderborn: Brill 2021, pp. 405-421.

[Link to the publication.](#)

für recht & religion	
Aufsätze	
B. Schinkele, Ist die „Kirche des Fliegenden Spaghettimonsters“ eine Religionsgemeinschaft bzw. ihre „Lehre“ eine Religion?.....	1
E. M. Synek, Wie wird eine orthodoxe Lokalkirche autokephal? Einige Anmerkungen anlässlich des Konstantinopler Autokephalietomos für die Orthodoxe Kirche in der Ukraine.....	46
V. Trofaienko-Leskovar, Die „Kirche des Fliegenden Spaghettimonsters“ Ein religionsrechtliches Verfahren wird zu einer „unendlichen Geschichte“.....	84
Neues Recht	
S. Schima, Neues Bundes- und Landesrecht 2015.....	100
A. Lotz, Die Errichtung des Ordinariats für die Gläubigen der katholischen Ostkirchen in Österreich.....	162
Judikatur	
VRGH 10. 10. 2019, G 152/2019 nichtkonfessionelle Privatschulen, staatliche Subventionierung (H. Kalb, B. Schinkele 185).....	171
BVG 22. 3. 2018, W170 2115136-1 „Kirche des Fliegenden Spaghettimonsters“, Antrag auf Eintragung als religiöse Bekenntnisgemeinschaft.....	197
VwGH 30. 4. 2019, Ro 2019/10/0013 Zurückweisung einer Revision, Alternativbegründung, Antrag auf Eintragung einer religiösen Bekenntnisgemeinschaft.....	213
OGH 19. 2. 2019, 10 ObS 6/19h Religionslehrer, private Messe, Unfallversicherung (H. Kalb 221).....	215
Halbjahresschrift · 67. Jahrgang 2020 · 1	
hgg. von H. Kalb, R. Potz, B. Schinkele & W. Wieshaider Verlag Pöchl · Freistadt	

Lokalkirche autokephal? Anmerkungen anlässlich des Konstantinopler Autokephalietomos für die Orthodoxe Kirche in der Ukraine, in: öarr 67 (2020, de facto: 2021), pp. 46-83.

[Link to the publication.](#)

[Discover more publications by our members](#)

NEW DOCTORAL SCHOOL



The Research Centre RaT, together with the Faculty of Catholic Theology and the Faculty of Protestant Theology, is pleased to announce the establishment of an interdisciplinary doctoral school, the **"Vienna Doctoral School of Theology and Research on Religion"**. The doctoral school has started its activities on July 1, 2021 and is currently preparing its **official kick-off event on November 11th, 2021** (please register at contact.vdtr@univie.ac.at if you wish to attend; Covid-regulations apply).

The VDTR promotes innovative, interdisciplinary research and offers its doctoral students a unique opportunity to pursue their research interests in a trans- and interdisciplinary framework from the very beginning of their doctoral studies. Our doctoral students are part of a vibrant international network of researchers in a broad range of humanities and theological disciplines. In this way, VDTR brings together researchers from diverse disciplines in theology and research on religion from the University of Vienna and creates an environment of interdisciplinary exchange. In addition to fostering regular networking and providing support in the dissertation process, VDTR offers its doctoral students the opportunity to hone skills that will prepare them for the job market both inside and outside of academia.

The newly appointed board of directors consists of Prof. Dr. Markus Tiwald (Faculty of Catholic Theology), Prof. Dr. Christian Danz (Faculty of Protestant Theology) and Prof. Dr. Gerhard Langer (Religion and Transformation/Faculty of History and Cultural Studies). Dr. Katharina Limacher has been appointed program manager. Further information can be found on the [schools' website](#).

RESEARCH

Christian Danz: Project start of the *Hybrid Edition 'Schelling's Berlin Philosophy of Revelation' (1841-45)*

The FWF-funded project (P 34383-G) began its work on 1 June 2021 under the direction of Univ.-Prof. Dr. Christian Danz at the Institute for Systematic Theology and Religious Studies of the Faculty of Protestant Theology of the University of Vienna. In the four-year project, Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph Schelling's (1775-1854) Berlin lectures on 'Philosophy of Revelation' will be made accessible in a text-critical hybrid edition, and thus providing researchers for the first time with a reliable textual basis.

Project members: Dr. Christopher Arnold, Dr. Christoph Binkermann, Dr. Michael Hackl, Mag. Bernhard Lasser

(ONLINE) EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

POETIKDOZENTUR

This winter semester, the "Poetics Lecture on Literature and Religion" will be continued. The Carinthian author and Büchner Prize winner Josef Winkler and the Swabian writer Karl-Heinz Ott will be our guests. A lecture by the Berlin writer Nora Bossong that was cancelled during the pandemic can now be listened to as a podcast on the [website of the Poetikdozentur](#) where more information on the events can be found as well.

Josef Winkler: "Wer war Chaim Soutine?"

9 November 2021, 7 pm

Registration: Please send an email to info@poetikdozentur.at

Karl-Heinz Ott: Hölderlin-Vorlesung

7 December 2021, 7 pm

Registration: Please send an email to info@poetikdozentur.at

THEOLOGIE DER ZUKUNFT? ANHALTSPUNKTE IN DER GEGENWART

Ringvorlesung

11 October 2021 - 24 January 2022

The professors of the Faculty of Protestant Theology take the 200-year anniversary as an opportunity to outline their understanding of the profile of contemporary theology. Under the theme "Theology of the Future? Points of reference in the present", they exemplify, from the perspective of their respective fields, what the contribution of theological research is, not only for science, but also for church and society today.

Period: Winter semester 2021/22, Mondays 7.30 p.m.

Venue: Evangelisch-Theologische Fakultät, Schenkenstraße 8–10, 1010

Wien, 5. OG, Hörsaal 1 (the lectures will be streamed online as well)
The programme can be found [here](#).

CHRISTLICHER GLAUBE, DIAKONIE UND POLITIK

Symposium – Was kommt. Jetzt.

13 October 2021, 6.30 - 8.30 pm

There is a ferment in our society. In view of the ecological-climatic catastrophe, the Corona pandemic and the creeping erosion of democracy, the future of all of us is at stake. Opposites are intensifying, people are withdrawing into their opinion bubbles, social cohesion is threatened to break down. With this being said, are there any social and church projects of "good coexistence"?

About the speakers:

Klaus BAUMANN outlines a theology of Caritas. Eva HARASTA asks about the political mission of faith. Sieglinde ROSENBERGER explores the relationship between religion and politics. Regina POLAK demands that theology must be political.

Venue: THEOLOGISCHE KURSE, 1010 Wien, Stephansplatz 3

Registration: Please send an email to
akademieamdom@theologischekurse.at

More information can be found [here](#).

WORKSHOP: MEDIEN – ERINNERUNG - AFFEKTE

Dimensionen einer Theologie der Kultur

10 – 11 December 2021

Venue: Faculty of Protestant Theology

The programme can be found [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: PARTING OF THE WAYS

The Variegated Ways of Separation between Jews and Christians and its Consequences for Modern Jewish-Christian Dialogue.

6 – 9 February 2022

The conference is convened by Markus Tiwald (KTF) and Markus Öhler (ETF) and financed by RaT. It forms part of the RaT cluster "Transformations of Jewish and Christian Identities in the Past and Present". The proceedings of the conference will be published in the Open Access Journal JRAT.

Venue: Dekanatssitzungssaal KTF and Schenkenstraße

Registration: Please send an email to bibelwissenschaft@univie.ac.at.

(There is no participation fee, registrations are possible until 21 January 2022)

The programme can be found [here](#).

PAUL TILLICH IN DRESDEN. INTELLEKTUELLEN-DISKURSE IN DER WEIMARER REPUBLIK.

Congress of the German Paul Tillich Society

6 – 9 July 2022

Venue: Tillich Building of the Dresden University of Technology

From the winter term of 1925/26 to the end of the winter term of 1928/29, Paul Tillich taught at the Cultural Studies Department of the Technical University of Dresden as Professor of Religious Studies. In Dresden, not only fundamental works such as "Die religiöse Lage der Gegenwart" (1926), "Das Dämonische. Ein Beitrag zur Sinndeutung der Geschichte" (1926) and the two Kairos volumes (1926 and 1929) were written, also his Dogmatics, which he had already begun in Marburg, was further elaborated here.

The Paul Tillich Congress in Dresden is dedicated to the theologian's dense intellectual networks against the background of the struggles for interpretive

sovereignty over the Weimar Republic.
The programme can be found [here](#).

PAST EVENTS

GENDER. AMBIVALENT IN_VISIBILITIES (GAIN)

20 September 2021

8th Annual Conference of the ÖGG

Panel Chair: Elisabeth Holzleithner

More information can be found [here](#).

HABERMAS CONGRESS: "A HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY"

22 – 24 September 2021, online

The conference focused on Habermas' most recent opus magnum "This Too a History of Philosophy" (2019). The contributions of the invited speakers dealt on the one hand with the main chapters of the book, and on the other hand with the overall conception. There will be a publication following.

THIRD MISSION ACTIVITIES

RaT members contribute to public discourse by writing in newspapers, giving statements in television and podcasts, and by publishing on our blog. These are two of our most recent blog entries:

RAT BLOG

"In recent years, Muslims* have become climate protectors in many places, often with the aim of raising awareness in their own community."

In this [contribution](#), Ursula Fatima Kowanda-Yassin presents us with an insight into research on a red-hot topic.

"How do you recognise a James Bond film? The obligatory vodka martini, which is drunk shaken, not stirred?"

Just in time for the Austrian release of the latest film in the series, "No Time to Die", in which Daniel Craig slips into the role of the seemingly immortal secret agent for the last time, Stefan Gugerel presents us with [theological reflections on James Bond](#).

"When he sits alone in the train compartment, he thinks of Erich Kästner, who was a "devout humanist", and as such he could bring him a coffee: 'oba bitte ohne müch und zucka'."

How can we speak meaningfully about the human in today's world? In [this contribution](#), Jakob Deibl presents the latest volume of poetry by the Austrian poet Stephan Eibel.

PRESS FEATURES

OE1

Regina Polak

On the 30th August, Regina Polak was invited as an expert in the Ö1 broadcast "Punkt 1" on the topic: ["What we believe in. Religion in Crisis"](#). She presented the latest results of the European Values Study and discussed contemporary developments in the socioreligious field of Europe.

Die Furche

Regina Polak

In DIE FURCHE 37 (2021), Regina Polak contributed to the journal's dossier on identity politics with the article ["Justice – instead of Revenge"](#), identifying questions both left and right identity politics should reflect on.

Podcast Audimax

Regina Polak

["Working on the ambivalence of religion"](#): Theologian Regina Polak in an interview with Maiada Hadaia on ethics and morality, 22 September 2021.

ORF: Kreuz und quer gedacht

Elisabeth Holzleithner

["Gerechtigkeit": Sommergespräche auf Stift Admont](#)

Living in uncertain times raises the question of reliability anew: What has stood the test of time? What has helped in crises and in the face of great challenges? The great occidental tradition sees in the "virtues" that ability of man which enables comprehensive happiness in personal and social life. Theologian and cabaret artist Stefan Haider discusses this with legal philosopher Elisabeth Holzleithner, psychiatrist and forensic scientist Adelheid Kastner and social ethicist and theologian Clemens Sedmak.

NEW RAT TEAM MEMBER



WELCOME TO THE TEAM, MARIAN WEINGARTSHOFER!

Marian Weingartshofer started working as a student assistant for Kurt Appel in October 2020 and has started to work as an organizational assistant at RaT this summer. He is studying philosophy in the master's programme and is writing his thesis on the philosophical-historical context of Gilles Deleuze's critique of Hegel.

NEW VISITING RESEARCH FELLOW



WELCOME TO RAT, SUMIT SONKAR!

Mr. Sumit Sonkar is a Ph.D. Candidate at Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. His thesis topic, "Progressive Constitutionalism in India: Examining Women's Right to Access Hindu Temples and its Societal Harmonization," examines how the Supreme Court of India has recognized women's right to worship and how it can be made more socially acceptable from a gender equality perspective.

Currently, he is visiting the Centre (Research Centre on Religion and Transformation in Contemporary Society, the University of Vienna), in the capacity of Visiting Research Fellow on Ernst Mach-Stipendien, Eurasia-Pacific Uninet Grant, 2021, funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF), under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Holzleithner.

Impressum

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