



## RaT-Newsletter



### **Dear members and friends of RaT,**

at the start of the new academic year, our newsletter brings you the latest updates on our member's activities. In this edition, we especially want to highlight the **event program for the upcoming semester**: below you can find lecture series, workshops, conferences etc. organized by our members. We also want to use this opportunity to welcome **new team members**, announce a new **research project by Markus Tiwald** as well as a brand new **volume in our RaT Series, written by Wolfgang Treitler**. We are also proud to announce that two new articles have been published on [derstandard.at](#): An [obituary on the Italian philosopher Gianni Vattimo by Jakob Deibl](#) and [an analysis of the current crisis in the Caucasus region by Thomas Schmidinger](#). Scroll down to discover more!

We wish all of our members and those who are interested in our work a pleasant start to the new semester.

All the best,

*Kurt Appel, Noemi Call, Jakob Deibl, Daniel Kuran, Magdalena Lorenz, Astrid Mattes, and Marian Weingartshofer*

PS: Please consider forwarding our newsletter to those interested in the topics we work on! Want to subscribe? Just click [here](#).

## **NEW TEAM MEMBERS: Welcome (back) to RaT!**

We are happy to announce that four new (and returning) members have started working

for RaT this fall. Welcome (back) to the team, Noemi Call, Marco Fiorletta, Daniel Kuran, and Andreas Telser!

## RaT Core Team

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### **Dr. Daniel Kuran**

*RaT post doc*

Contact: [daniel.kuran@univie.ac.at](mailto:daniel.kuran@univie.ac.at)

Since October 2023 Daniel Kuran takes a post-doc position at the research centre. He will support the publication series of RaT and assist editors and authors of the Open Access Journal JRAT, JRAT Supplementa and the RaT Series. As a member of the RaT-Team he is looking forward to meet you at one of the upcoming events hosted by RaT.

We warmly welcome you to the team, Daniel!



### **Noemi Call, BA MA**

*RaT prae doc*

Contact: [noemi.call@univie.ac.at](mailto:noemi.call@univie.ac.at)

Since October 2023 Noemi Call takes a prae-doc position at the research centre. She will be responsible for the communication with the members of the Centre and the Scientific Advisory Board, as well as for the visibility of the Centre at international conferences. Noemi Call looks forward to meeting you at upcoming events and collaborations with RaT.

We warmly welcome you to the team, Noemi!

## RaT Third Party Funded Employees

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### **Dr. Andreas Telser**

*RaT third party funded employee: post doc*

Contact: [andreas.telser@univie.ac.at](mailto:andreas.telser@univie.ac.at)

Dr. Andreas Telser will work together with Jakob Deibl in the newly started FWF project „[Gott in Anmuth](#)“. [A Reading of Hölderlin's Homburger Folioheft from an Aesthetic Point of View](#)".

We welcome you to the team, Andreas, and are already very much looking forward to working together with you!



## Marco Fiorletta, BA MA

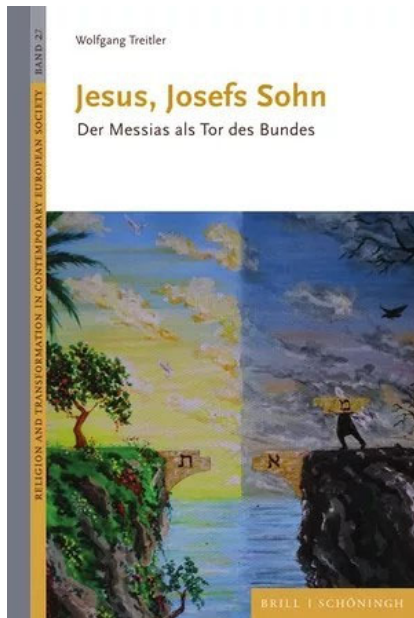
RaT third party funded employee: prae doc

Contact: [marco.fiorletta@univie.ac.at](mailto:marco.fiorletta@univie.ac.at)

Marco will support Jakob Deibl in the newly started FWF project „[Gott in Anmuth](#)“. [A Reading of Hölderlin's Homburger Folioheft from an Aesthetic Point of View](#)".

We welcome you to the team, Marco, and are already very much looking forward to working together with you!

## PUBLICATIONS: JRAT and RaT Series



### RaT Series (Volume 27): *Jesus, Josefs Sohn. Der Messias als Tor des Bundes*, by Wolfgang Treitler

Jesus is interpreted as the messianic son of Joseph who lost to Roman power and thus assumes a unique significance in an uncompletable messianic process. The motif of the messianic son of Joseph, known to Jewish tradition, interprets the Messiah as one sent to be defeated and killed by imperial power. It avoids the high claim of the glorious messianic son of David, who would have brought perfection - this remained absent after Jesus - as well as the God-man idea that emerged in Gentile Christianity, which forms a contradiction to all conceptions of the Messiah and dissolves the monotheism of Judaism. However, it fundamentally binds Christian communities to the basic tenets of Judaism. With this work about Jesus, Joseph's son, a new, today unknown way is initiated, which can refer to Jewish Christian motives and tries to convey them in a timely manner.

[Link to the publication.](#)

Interdisciplinary Journal for  
Religion and Transformation  
in Contemporary Society

### Latest articles published online in advance (all our articles are published open access):

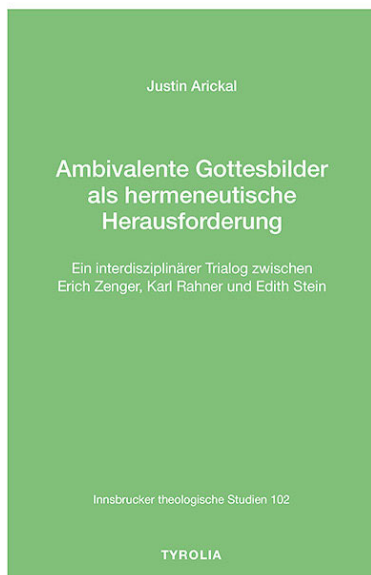
- [With the Eyes of an Artificial Angel: Benjamin and Adorno Reading Kafka](#), by Stephanie Graf
- [The Fruits of Spiritual Experiences during the Pandemic: COVID-19 and the Effects of Non-Ordinary Experiences](#), by Bettina E. Schmidt and Kate Stockly
- [When Christianity Became a Shūshi 宗旨. Cultural Encounters and Comparisons between Europe and Japan and the Origins of a Global History of Religion](#), by Christoph Kleine
- [Religious Comparativism, Esotericism, and the](#)



[Global Occult: A Methodological Outline](#), by Julian Strube

- [Materialization through Global Comparisons: the Findings at Ile-Ife from the Late 19th century to the 1960s](#), by Judith Bachmann
- [Listening out for God's Breath – a Negative Hermeneutical Approach to Mysticism](#), by Edda Wolff
- [Phallogocentrism, Global Entanglements and Comparison in the Study of Religion. Mysticism and Gender as Category of Knowledge among Muslim Intellectuals \(1938–41\)](#), by Giovanni Maltese

## PUBLICATIONS: Monographs & Anthologies



**Justin Arickal: Ambivalente Gottesbilder als hermeneutische Herausforderung. Ein interdisziplinärer Dialog zwischen Erich Zenger, Karl Rahner und Edith Stein. Innsbruck: Tyrolia 2023.**

The biblical texts present a wide range of images of God, which seem to be ambivalent or even seem to contradict themselves at times. Especially the polyvalent images of God in the Old Testament, which on the one hand describe God as a “God of love and mercy”, but on the other hand also as a “God of vengeance and violence”, pose a great hermeneutical challenge. Especially irritating and provocative texts, which contain violence against children, are challenging to understand. This doctoral study deals with the question, how such ambivalent and violent images of God can be understood in the light of the self-revelation of God in Jesus Christ. In order to achieve this, the author chooses a multi-faceted approach and conducts an interdisciplinary analysis, in which he develops a synthesis of the biblical-theological hermeneutic of Erich Zenger, the systematic-theological hermeneutic of Karl Rahner and the existential-spiritual hermeneutic of Edith Stein. By doing so, the author uncovers new ways of understanding difficult images of God and how to deal with them in a responsible theological manner.

[Link to the publication.](#)



**Deniz Coşan Eke, Eric M. Trink (eds.): Religion, Religious Groups and Migration, London: Transnational Press 2023.**

The relationship between religion, religious groups, and migration is an important topic of recent social science debate. Migration affects all aspects of the lives of those who have left their homes, including facets characterized as religious. Religion and

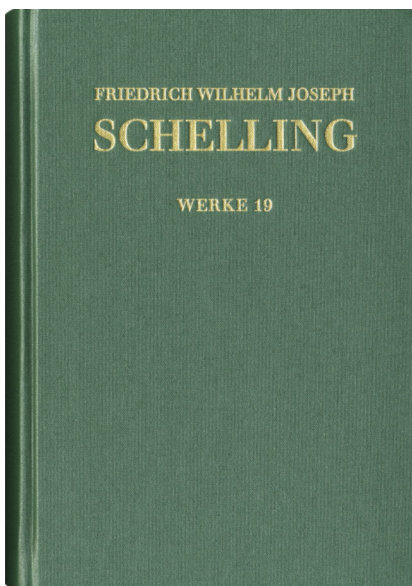




religious identity are linked to social, cultural, and political issues, including integration, identity negotiation, diasporic community formation, interreligious dialogue, and religious pluralism.

This edited book consists of essays that bring together various perspectives on religious groups and their migration processes in different geographical regions. The aim is to empirically analyze the discourse and practices of national and transnational religious groups while investigating the relationship of religion and migration to political, historical, cultural, and social transitions. The book brings together academics and practitioners from different countries through interdisciplinary approaches that will be of interest to a wide readership of scholars and practitioners.

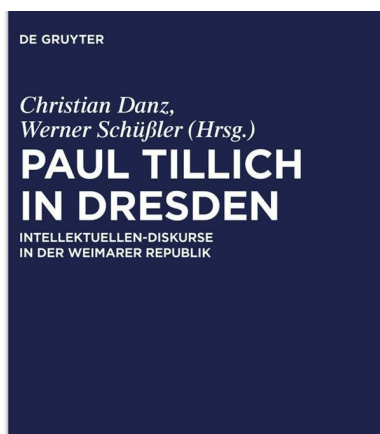
[Link to the publication.](#)



**Christian Danz, Christopher Arnold (eds.):** *Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph Schelling, Beiträge aus „Allgemeine Zeitschrift von Deutschen für Deutsche“ (1813), Ueber die Gottheiten von Samothrace (1815), Bericht über die Aeginetischen Bildwerke (1817).* Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt: frommann-holzboog 2023.

From 1813 on, Schelling pursued three main fields of work in Munich, which this volume makes accessible. These are contributions from the 'Allgemeine[n] Zeitschrift' founded by Schelling himself, which contains, among other things, an epistolary confrontation with the philosophy of A.C.A. Eschenmayer. The academy speech 'Ueber die Gottheiten von Samothrace' (On the Deities of Samothrace) of October 12, 1815, is closely related to the "Weltalter" project initiated as early as 1810. Furthermore, Schelling wrote extensive linguistic and art-philosophical notes on the pediment figures of the Aeginetan temple of Aphaia and published them in 1817 with Johann Martin von Wagner. All in all, the volume opens up Schelling's still little researched philosophical development between the "Theismustreit" with F. H. Jacobi and the later 'Erlanger Vorträge' from 1820 on.

[Link to the publication.](#)

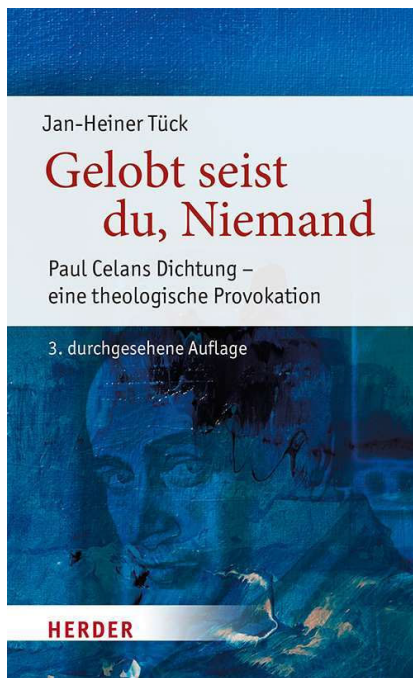


**Christian Danz, Werner Schüßler (eds.):** *Paul Tillich in Dresden. Intellektuellen-Diskurse in der Weimarer Republik.* Berlin/Boston: DeGruyter 2023.

This volume is the first to examine Paul Tillich's activities in Dresden in the context of the intellectual discourse of the Weimar Republic. Tillich was appointed to a professorship in religious studies at the General Department of the Saxon Technical University in Dresden in 1925 and taught in the Elbe metropolis until 1929. In Dresden, not only

fundamental works such as "Die religiöse Lage der Gegenwart" (1926), "Das Dämonische. Ein Beitrag zur Sinndeutung der Geschichte" (1926) as well as the two "Kairos" volumes (1926 and 1929) were written, his Dogmatik, which he had already begun in Marburg, also received its further elaboration here. In five sections - 1. dispute about the Weimar Republic, 2. Dresden intellectual milieu, 3. Dresden philosophical discourses, 4. Kairos, religion and culture: theological interpretation of time, 5. theological discourses in the Weimar Republic - the volume illuminates the different facets and networks in Tillich's Dresden period against the background of the interpretive struggles about the Weimar Republic. In this way, the volume Paul Tillich in Dresden offers the first comprehensive examination of Tillich's theology and philosophy of religion in the second half of the 1920s.

[Link to the publication.](#)



**Jan-Heiner Tück:** *Gelobt seist du, Niemand. Paul Celans Dichtung – eine theologische Provokation*, Freiburg i. Br.: Herder <sup>3</sup>2023.

Paul Celans poems were extracted from silence. They move along the limitations of language in order to provide a poetic place of memory for the unburied victims of the Shoah.

At the same time his poems revolve around the non-present God, who is being addressed paradoxically as „nobody“. In this well-received study, Jan-Heiner Tück uncovers the religious traces in the poetry of Celan and interprets his writings as an inspiration for a Theology after Auschwitz. Eckhard Nordhofen has added a preface for this extended edition.

[Link to the publication.](#)

## PUBLICATIONS: Selected Articles

**Kurt Appel:** *L'Europa, il sacrificio, l'apocalisse. Il contributo biblico per la pace*, in: *Hermeneutica. Annuario di filosofia e teologia. Le ragioni della pace e le ragioni della Guerra*, Morcelliana: Brescia 2023, 85-104.

Firstly the article considers the conception of the European Community as a peace project. It examines which narratives and particularities characterise Europe and why the European Union has assumed a special vocation to pioneer the realisation of a peace order. Secondly, the significant contribution that biblical tradition offers to a rationality of peace is examined philosophically. Two biblical categories are considered, namely the apocalypse and sacrifice. The paper highlights how apocalyptic tradition represents an ironic challenging of imperial order. Furthermore, the historiography of apocalypticism is imbued with a memory of suffering, a dimension which also shapes the European Union. The work reveals how the Bible reinterprets sacrifice as a gift of life and not of death; furthermore, how the New Testament tradition rejects any imperial sacrificial logic. Thus, secularisation ought not to be understood as a loss of religion, but as an abolition of imperial ideology.

**Kurt Appel:** *Annullare le coscienze. Menzogna, manipolazione, oppressione. Riflessioni da G. Orwell*, in: *La coscienza e il potere. Forme e figure della politica* (Chiesa in Italia – Edizione 2023. Annale de Il regno), 67-78.

[Link to the publication.](#)

**Ingeborg G. Gabriel:** *Christian Reflexions on the Environment*, in: *Asian Horizons* 15 (2021), 201-217 (erschienen 2023).

Grave ecological damages threatening our planet and human lives are side effects of ambivalent technological progress and an overuse of resources by a consumer culture of a growing world population of 8 billion. They also must be attributed, however, to a one-sided worldview of mastery and greed requiring ethical as well as spiritual responses. The article starts with an analysis of the biblical creation narratives arguing that they are hardly responsible for present day ecological catastrophes stemming from a different time and cultural context. It rather is the predominance of a scientific mindset with its subject-object dichotomy that regards nature as useable matter only, without worth of its own. This ideology needs to be corrected. Romantic holism and evolutionism further reduce the human sense of responsibility required to mitigate damages already done. Ecological laws and regulations are of importance, but need to be founded in a new worldview. For this "cultural revolution" (Laudato si' 142) Christian ethics should rediscover basic virtues as a sense of humility vis-a-vis the given reality as of measure and most of all gratitude for creation and its beauty of which humans are but a part of.

[Link to the publication.](#)

**Ingeborg G. Gabriel:** *Ein Schatz in irdenen Gefässen. Zum Verhältnis von Synodalem Prozess und Katholischer Soziallehre*, in: *StZ* (2023), 613-623.

In the worldwide synodal process, questions of participation in church decision-making processes are also being discussed. This becomes clear in the new "Instrumentum laboris", the preparatory document for the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October 2023. Ingeborg Gabriel addresses the question of what inspirations can be gained for a whole-church culture of synodality from the guiding values of Catholic social teaching (equality of persons, democracy and fundamental rights, subsidiarity, solidarity) advocated by the Church for the secular sphere. The article points to the fundamental historicity and formability of structures in the service of the Church's common good.

[Link to the publication.](#)

**Ingeborg G. Gabriel:** *Illusion Europa? Überlegungen zur gegenwärtigen Situation*, in: *ThPQ* 171 (2023), 116-126.

Even if, in the face of the Corona pandemic and the Ukraine war, support for the EU has increased in principle, current crises reveal the fragility of a European project that remains dependent on stable common values and shared ideas and narratives. This article is about a critical and differentiated reassurance of the challenges of the unification process and its not least historical conditions. The author argues that the fault lines between East and West that persisted after the end of communism and their significance for political and social action, as well as a corresponding culture of remembrance, are of particular importance. Only in this way will the unification of Europe remain viable and not become an illusion.

[Link to the publication.](#)

**Ingeborg G. Gabriel:** *Gaudium et spes revisited. Christian Engagement and Ethics in the Modern World*, in: *Asian Horizons* 17 (2023), 284-294.

[Link to the publication.](#)

**Elisabeth Holzleithner:** *Law and social justice: intersectional dimensions*, in: The Routledge International Handbook of Intersectionality Studies. London: Routledge 2023, 251-263.

Starting with the precarious relation of law and social justice, this paper focuses on how the law might contribute to fighting social injustice that is based on intersecting categories of oppression. Against the background of this broad aspiration of social justice committed to providing the conditions for equal freedom, special attention is given to the role of intersectional legal thinking and its contribution to antidiscrimination law, one core tool of legal efforts at institutionalizing social justice. It is shown how the law has often failed those seeking its protection due to an inadequate understanding of intersecting grounds of discrimination, particularly Black women. The paper develops a concept of (legal) categories as normatively constituted and intersectionally enriched as a precondition for transcending the shortcomings of conventional single category approaches in antidiscrimination law. In view of this approach, several cases decided by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) are explored, specifically those concerning Muslim women wearing headscarves. It is shown how the CJEU failed at taking the intersection of gender, religion, and race/ethnicity seriously, and what an adequate approach to these cases might look like. The paper concludes with a call to exploring intersectional legal thinking committed to social justice in a broad fashion.

[Link to the publication.](#)

**Katerina Koci and Martin Koci.** *"A Hidden Life of Love: Sacrifice in Malick's Cinematographic Philosophy"*, in: *Life Above the Clouds: Philosophy in the Films of Terrence Malick*, 319-335. Ed. by Steven DeLay. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2023.

Leaving a promising career in academic philosophy to embark on a career in film, American director Terrence Malick has created cinematic works of art that are also deeply philosophical. His contribution to philosophy through a half century of filmmaking has become the focus of increasing scholarly attention. Inviting the reader along a journey of reflections at the intersection of film, art, and philosophy, *Life Above the Clouds* brings together an international team of contributors to present the most current and definitive statement of the filmmaker's work. Accessibly written and exploring films such as *Badlands*, *Days of Heaven*, *The Thin Red Line*, *The New World*, *The Tree of Life*, *To the Wonder*, *Knight of Cups*, *Song to Song*, and *A Hidden Life*, the nineteen essays herein will be of interest not only to scholars and students of philosophy, theology, film studies, and aesthetics, but also to anyone with a true love of film.

[Link to the publication.](#)

**Katerina Koci:** *"Art and Sacrifice: Human Self-Transcendence toward Freedom and Truth"*, in: *Finding Meaning: Essays on Philosophy, Nihilism, and the Death of God*. Ed. by Steven DeLay. 181-196. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2023.

The word "nihilism" today is everywhere. A staple of common speech ever since its coinage by Friedrich Heinrich Jacobi in the eighteenth century, is there any other term of philosophical provenance more descriptive of our times? *Finding Meaning: Essays on Philosophy, Nihilism, and the Death of God* deepens the longstanding and ongoing debate about the problem of nihilism. Drawing upon a wide range of philosophical and theological schools, traditions, and figures, the eleven specially commissioned essays by international scholars enrich the discussion of how to meet the challenge of nihilism.

**Katerina Koci and Martin Koci:** *"Eine ketzerische Deutung der Geschichtsphilosophie: Jan Patočka"*, in: *Geschichtskritik nach 1945*. Ed. by Liebsch, Burkhard. 399-413. Hamburg: Felix Meiner Verlag, 2023.



There is no question that none of the philosophical systems has been able to "defend us against the horror of history" (Mircea Eliade). But how are we still to understand our lives as historical, especially when history continues to be excessively violent and holds out no prospect of compensation for extreme injustice? Is everyone ultimately left to his or her own devices? This book undertakes a wide-ranging survey of important historical-critical positions that have been held since 1945, both by those who have considered 'historical-philosophical' thinking largely obsolete and by its critics. The focus of interest is not a comprehensive historiography of discussions of historical theory, but how the critique of history advanced after 1945 still challenges us today

[Link to the publication.](#)

**Milja Radovic:** *Reframing Space: Religion, History, and Memory in the Early Documentary Film of the Yugoslav Space*, in: *Journal of Religion & Film*: Vol. 27: Iss. 2, Article 3.

This paper examines cinematic representations of religion and religious communities in the early cinema of the Yugoslav space. This paper introduces the readers to the rich heritage of the cinema of the Yugoslav space by providing 1) the first study of the representations of religion and the concepts of faith in the early film, and 2) novel approaches in reading religion and history through film. Film is used as a primary rather than supplementary source in historical research on diverse religious and ethnic communities in this part of the Balkan Peninsula. This is the first study that investigates the importance, place, and role of religion in everyday life in the Yugoslav space through the case study of the early documentary film between 1896 and 1939. This paper will enrich scientific inquiry by providing new approaches for researching history through the documentary film.

[Link to the publication \(full access\).](#)

[Discover more publications by our members](#)

## RESEARCH: Projects

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### THIRD PARTY FUNDED PROJECTS



#### **FWF Project: Documenta Q 16**

*Project lead:* Univ.-Prof. Dr. Markus Tiwald

*Key data:* lifetime 4 years, with a budget of 254,268.00 €

With 11th of October the FWF-Project P 35908:

**Documenta Q 16** (<https://documenta-q-16.univie.ac.at/en/project-description/>) of Prof.

Markus Tiwald will start, dealing with the Sayings Source Q. The *Two Document Hypothesis* sustains that the Gospels of Matthew and Luke had not only used the older Gospel of Mark but also the so called "Sayings Source" abbreviated as "Q" (for the German "Quelle" = source). The Sayings Source is not preserved in any extant manuscript. Its existence has been deduced and its content reconstructed out of the parallel passages in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke after subtracting the common material that they share with the Gospel of Mark. The study of the Sayings Source Q is linked to two major topics of New Testament studies: First, the knowledge about old Jesus-traditions, and second, the question of the "parting of the ways" between Jews and Christians. Q has preserved old Jesus-traditions of Palestinian

(most probably Galilean) followers of Jesus, who had not broken with their Jewish roots.

In 2000 the *Critical Edition of Q (CEQ)* was published, offering not only *the most probable* reconstruction but naming also *all the different possible reconstructions* for each verse of Q. These possibilities are called *variation units*. They are marked with numbers in the text itself and listed as footnotes at the end of the text. Based on the *variation units* of the *CEQ*, the ongoing project *Documenta Q* (supervised by Prof. C. Heil, University Graz/Austria: <https://neues-testament.uni-graz.at/de/fwf-projekte-zu-q/internationales-q-projekt/documenta-q/>) presents the complete literature spanning over the last three centuries (C19<sup>th</sup> to C21<sup>st</sup>, i.e. since the upcoming of the Q-hypothesis until present) that has been written to each of these *variation units*. In total, the *Documenta Q* Series comprises 32 monographic volumes. One of these volumes is the here presented project: *Q 16:13.16-18: God or Mammon – Since John the Kingdom of God – No Serif of the Law to Fall – Divorce-Logion* (short: *Documenta Q 16*).

Besides the scholarly value of documenting the research on these four verses in the last three centuries, the here named topics are strikingly crucial in our quest for the “historical” Jesus: In Q 16:13 Jesus criticises human greediness – typical for Jesus’ advocacy for the poor. In Q 16:16 he announces the beginning of the Kingdom of God – which stands in accordance with Jesus’ eschatological expectations, his hope for a God that intervenes, in favour of a better world. Q 16:17 insists on the eternal validity of the Jewish Law – a valuable hint that neither Jesus nor the authors of Q had broken with their Jewish roots. Finally, in Q 16:18 we find Jesus’ rejection of dismissing one’s wife. This reconstruction helps us to understand that Jesus campaigned for the rights of helpless divorced women. Thus, our project, while documenting research history, also sheds light on the intentions of the “historical” Jesus and helps us understand that beginning Christianity was deeply embedded in its Jewish matrix.

## STAND-IN PROFESSORHIP



### **Jakob Deibl: New post as stand-in professor at the University of Regensburg**

From October 01, 2023 until January 31, 2024, Jakob Deibl will take on the position as professor for fundamental theology at the Faculty of Catholic Theology at the [University of Regensburg](https://www.uni-regensburg.de/), Germany.

# Vienna Doctoral School of Theology and Research on Religion

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## Change in the VDTR management

The term of office of Prof. Dr. Markus Tiwald as Director of the VDTR expired on 30 September 2023. Markus Tiwald has been the founding director of the VDTR since its launch in July 2021, and in this capacity (and even before) has built up and institutionalised the Doctoral School. He has been a tireless advocate for the internal cohesion and visibility of the VDTR at the university level, and his commitment has been a major factor in the success of the VDTR. We'd like to thank him very much for all he's done! As of 01 October, **Prof. Dr. Gerhard Langer** has taken over the leadership of the VDTR and we wish him all the best!



## NEW VDTR Prae doc assistant: Muhammad Bilal

As of 01 July 2023, Muhammad Bilal has started his work as VDTR Prae-Doc. Muhammad Bilal studied Islamic sciences (Dars-i Nizami) at Madrasa (institute of traditional Islamic sciences). He holds a master's degree in comparative History from Central European University Budapest. His research focus at CEU revolved around 19th-century Sufi Jihad movements in North Africa, specifically exploring the concept of jihad in Abd al-Qadir's (1808–1883) thought.

Based on the theory of "Habitus" by Pierre Bourdieu, Bilal intends to explore the process of identity transformation within the Madrasas in Pakistan. By employing discourse analysis and participant observation, he seeks to explore the intricate interplay between the syllabus and the social milieu of madrasa in shaping the identities of the students of madrasas. Drawing from his personal experience as a madrasa graduate, he aspires to provide an insider's perspective and amplify the voices of students of Madrasas within contemporary academic discourse.

## October 16, 2023: VDTR Masterclass with Prof. Cyril Hovorun (University College Stockholm)

Take the opportunity to meet with this renowned expert on ecclesiology, international relations and ecumenism. On 16 October 2023, the Faculty of Catholic Theology will host the dies facultatis and we are pleased to welcome [Prof Dr. Hovorun \(University College Stockholm\)](#) on this occasion. He will hold a master class with doctoral students from 14.00 - 15.30. This is a unique opportunity to interact with the expert on ecclesiology, international relations and ecumenism.

If you want to attend, please register per mail at: [contact.vdtr@univie.ac.at](mailto:contact.vdtr@univie.ac.at).

## 6 November 2023: VDTR's Open Research Day



The fourth VDTR Open Research Day will be held on **6 November 2023 in the Dean's Meeting Room of the KTF in the main building of the university as a hybrid event.**

Once again, the plenary session will take place in the morning, during which VDTR PhD students will provide insight into their research work in presentations. After the lunch break, we would again like to invite you to a thematic exchange with other participants.

Those interested in participating can register per mail at [contact.vdtr@univie.ac.at](mailto:contact.vdtr@univie.ac.at)

## EVENTS

### UPCOMING EVENTS: Lecture Series



### Forum Religionsphilosophie - presentations during the winter term 23/24

- **December 13, 2023:** Stephan Steiner: *Die Wissenschaften und das Schöne. Eine Annäherung an Charles S. Peirce's "Neglected Argument for the Reality of God"*
- **January 17, 2024:** Jenna Kemp: *Collective Violence in the Hebrew Bible*
- **January 19, 2024:** Annette Langner-Pitschmann: *'...und mein Spaten biegt sich zurück' (PU §217) Zum Verhältnis zwischen Ideologie und Religion*

For more information, please visit: <https://religion.phl.univie.ac.at/>

### Lecture Series: Feminism and Religion

Organized by Astrid Mattes and Mirijam Salfinger

- November 08, 2023: Lecture by Jessica Albrecht about "Anti-Gender & Religion"
- November 29, 2023: Lecture by Rabbi Lior Bar-Ami about "Judaism and Feminism"
- December 13, 2023: Lecture by Maria Rhomberg about "Christianity and Feminism"
- January 10, 2024: Lecture by Amani Abuzahra about "Islam and Feminism"

For more information, click [here](#).



**Gastvorträge**

des Instituts für Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft  
im WiSe 2023

Evangelisch-Theologische Fakultät  
Schenkenstraße 8-10, 1010 Wien, 6OG, HS 3

Do 12. Oktober, 9:45-11:15  
**Prof. Dr. Jan Dietrich** (Bonn)  
*Denktypen im Alten Testament,  
Zur antiken Epistemologie im alten Israel*

Mi 18. Oktober, 15:00-16:30  
**Prof. Filip Čapek** (Prag)  
*Cult Transformations in Iron Age Judah,  
Between Tel Moza and Jerusalem*

Die Gastvorträge sind öffentlich – Gäste sind herzlich willkommen!

- October 12, 9:45 a.m.- 11:15 a.m.: Prof. Dr. Jan Dietrich (Bonn) Denktypen im Alten Testament. Zur antiken Epistemologie im alten Israel
- October 18, 03:00 p.m.-04:30 p.m.: Prof. Filip Čapek (Prag) Cult Transformations in Iron Age Judah. Between Tel Moza and Jerusalem

For more information, click [here](#).

## Lecture Series: Climate Justice and Religion

*Every Tuesday, 06:30-08:00 p.m. (starting at October 10, 2023), lecture hall 6 (Franz König), Main Building*

The topic of the climate crisis or environmental responsibility has been at the center of social debates not only since the actions of the "Last Generation" or before that of "Fridays for Future". Scientifically, it is also at the center of research efforts, not only at our university. The lecture series will focus on the contribution of religions and theology to this question. Religions claim to stand up for a good or successful life of people; at the same time, as large organizations and often business enterprises, they themselves are responsible for doing more for sustainability. The spectrum of topics ranges from the theology of creation, a new view of human beings within this creation ("end of the Anthropocene"), animal ethics issues, to the analysis of the phenomenon of "apocalypticism," which is often used to describe scenarios of the climate crisis.

To view the full programme, click [here](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS: Workshops, Conferences, Presentations

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Institut für Philosophie

FORUM RELIGIONS- PHILOSOPHIE

Workshop BIBEL UND PHILOSOPHIE

10:00-10:40	Sandra Lehmann Göttliche Gewalt, göttliches Erleiden: Versuch über Walter Benjamins Glück im Untergang
10:40-11:20	Esther Heinrich-Ramharter Genesis 2-3 als Urszene schwacher Metaphysik
Pause	
11:40-12:20	Isabella Guanzini Der sprechende Körper: Philosophische Annäherungen zum Hohelied
12:20-13:00	Richard Heinrich Bewegung auf der Jakobsleiter
Mittagspause	
15:00-15:40	Jakob Deibl Archen und alternative Welten: zwischen Immunisierung und Fragilität
15:40-16:20	Isabella Bruckner Die Geburt der kommenden Gemeinschaft
Pause	
16:40-17:20	Clarissa Breu Doppeltes Umwenden und Duplizität in Joh 20:11-18: Eine performative Lesart
17:20-18:00	Kurt Appel Weitschöpfung durch Schrift. Gedanken zu Mk 16 (und Joh 20)

20. Oktober 2023, RaT-Büro (Raum 53), Schenkenstraße 8-10, 2. Obergeschoß  
ZuhörerInnen sind sehr willkommen  
Anmeldung bitte an: [marian.weingartshofer@univie.ac.at](mailto:marian.weingartshofer@univie.ac.at)

### Workshop: "The Bible and Philosophy"

*October 20, 2023, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; RaT office (Schenkenstraße 8-10, 2nd floor, room 053)*

The workshop will explore the manifold relationships between the Bible -- the New Testament and the Hebrew Bible -- and philosophy. The focus will be on considerations that identify the relationship between philosophy and the Bible as being relevant in today's world. Transformations of concepts, narratives, minor and major theories that reach into the present will be considered. Among other things, the workshop will serve to prepare a volume that will be published in the J-RaT series.

With presentations by: Kurt Appel, Clarissa Breu, Isabella Bruckner, Jakob Deibl, Isabella Guanzini, Esther Heinrich-Ramharter, Richard Heinrich, and Sandra Lehmann.

If you are interested, please register by sending an e-mail to: [marian.weingartshofer@univie.ac.at](mailto:marian.weingartshofer@univie.ac.at)



## Sacrifice and the Body beyond Metaphysics

November 2, 2023 6:00 PM - Friday,  
November 3, 2023 10:00 PM; Institut für die  
Wissenschaften vom Menschen (IWM),  
Spittelauer Lände 3, 1090 Wien

This workshop will examine the concept of sacrifice and its relationship to the body from the perspectives of philosophy, theology and film. Historically, sacrifice has been discussed primarily as a metaphysical concept within the realm of ethics. However, feminist scholars in philosophy and theology have increasingly focused on the embodied nature of sacrifice and its concrete impact on the (mainly female) body. The workshop will explore the approaches to sacrifice and the body, highlighting ways in which they differ and overlap. We will seek a nuanced understanding of sacrifice, one that acknowledges the ways in which the body is implicated in sacrificial acting and the differential impact of sacrifice on different bodies. In the broader sense, the workshop will aim for an embodied approach to sacrifice which can offer new insights into the nature of sacrifice itself, as well as its social and cultural significance.

The full programme can be read [here](#).



## Self-Annihilation as Self-Realization: Interreligious Perspectives. International Conference

November 3–4, 2023, Sitzungssaal des  
Dekanats der Katholisch-Theologischen  
Fakultät; Main Building, 2. floor on the right,  
stairway 8

With lectures by Max Rohstock (Neoplatonism), Frederek Musall (Judaism), Marco Antonio Sorace (Christianity), Raid Al-Daghistani (Islam), Silvia Schwarz Linder (Hinduism), Sebastian Vörös (Buddhism), Claire Maes (Jainism), Friederike Assandri (Daoism), and Fabian Völker (Global Philosophy of Religion).

Organization: Fabian Völker (Department of Intercultural Philosophy of Religion, University of Vienna) and Raid Al-Daghistani (Centre for Islamic Theology, University of Münster) in cooperation with RaT (Research Centre "Religion and Transformation in Contemporary Society", University of Vienna) and APiG (Archivbibliothek für Post-Neukantianismus und kritischen Idealismus der Gegenwart, Wuppertal).

The detailed conference program can be found [here](#).

## The Crisis of Liberal Democracy and the Role of Religion Therein

November 28, 2023, 10:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.; Volkshalle of Vienna City Hall

On November 28, 2023 (10:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.), an inter- and transdisciplinary conference on "The Crisis of Liberal Democracy and the Role of Religion Therein" will be held in the Volkshalle of Vienna City Hall, where the publication „Values – Politics – Religion: The European Values Study. In-depth-Analysis – Interdisciplinary Perspectives – Future Prospects“ will be presented and its findings discussed with stakeholders from society, politics, education, business, and religious communities. Perspectives for action will be explored to strengthen democracy - including the specific contribution of religious communities. For more information: [regina.polak@univie.ac.at](mailto:regina.polak@univie.ac.at). Registrations are now already possible at the Department of Practical Theology, Faculty of Catholic Theology at the University of Vienna: [monika.mannsbarth@univie.ac.at](mailto:monika.mannsbarth@univie.ac.at).

## **Breaking Boundaries in Theology. In Conversation with Roger Haight SJ**

*November 30, 2023, 03 p.m.- December 02, 6 p.m.; online via zoom*

Wider critical engagement with the thought of renowned Roman Catholic theologian Roger Haight SJ seems long overdue, especially in Europe. This US-American Jesuit was honored recently with the prestigious John Courtney Murray award by the Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA). Despite his prodigious volume of published work in print, Haight's theology has received, thus far, surprisingly little attention beyond the US. This online international conference, conducted in English, will engage Haight and his theology at a critical time when the limits and limitations of (academic) theology are again being examined at several levels. The focus of such inquiries revolves around the question: Is it possible or even necessary to break some of the boundaries in theology, since "one of the deepest challenges to religious consciousness [is] its seeming irrelevance?" (Haight 2022).

The conference offers an introduction to key elements from Haight's extensive theological oeuvre, built up over 50 years. On three consecutive afternoons (CET) Haight will present papers on "Foundational Issues" (Nov. 30), "Creation and Spirituality" (Dec. 1), and "Religious Pluralism & Liberating Christology" (Dec. 2). Each paper is followed by responses from international scholars with various religious backgrounds. Following these responses, there will be the opportunity for short online public discussion and thereupon breakout room discussion for students only.

The full conference program can be found [here](#).

## **Poetics Lectureship: Jan Philipp Reemtsma: Christoph Martin Wieland und andere – das Belangloswerden des Religiösen**

*December 11, 2023, 7 p.m.; Main Building, lecture hall 6*

Christoph Martin Wieland: innovator, Enlightenment philosopher, writer, journalist, political animal, judge of character... In his highly acclaimed biography, Jan Philipp Reemtsma finally frees Wieland from the long shadow in which Goethe and Schiller have placed him. In Vienna, Reemtsma gives a lecture on Wieland as part of the "Poetikdozentur Literatur und Religion" (Poetics Lectureship on Literature and Religion) under the motto "Belangloswerdens des Religiösen" (Becoming irrelevant of religion).



**Der junge Paul Tillich und die Theologie um 1900**  
Studium – Dissertation – Habilitation

14.-16. Dezember 2023  
Schenkenstraße 8-10, 6OG, HS 3



## **Der junge Paul Tillich und die Theologie um 1900. Studium - Dissertation - Habilitation**

*December 14-December 16, 2023;  
Schenkenstraße 8-10, 6th floor, lecture hall 3*

The full program can be found [here](#).



## THIRD MISSION ACTIVITIES

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RaT members contribute to public discourse by writing in newspapers, giving statements in television and podcasts, and by publishing on our blog.

### RAT @ derstandard

As part of our cooperation with the Austrian daily derstandard, two articles have recently been published on their website:

- an obituary on the philosopher Gianni Vattimo, who passed away on September 19, 2023, written by **Jakob Deibl**: <https://www.derstandard.at/story/3000000188120/anarchie-der-freundschaft-dank-an-gianni-vattimo>
- an article by **Thomas Schmidinger** about the historical background of the crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh: <https://www.derstandard.at/story/3000000189908/das-ende-des-armenischen-erzachs>

### Notable Internet Appearances

The recently published volume on [Humanitarian Islam \(RaT Series volume 24\)](#), edited by **Rüdiger Lohker** and **Katharina Ivanyi**, has been reviewed by the "Center for Shared Civilizational Values": [https://civilizationalvalues.org/2023\\_09\\_28\\_brill-academic-publishers-humanitarian-islam/](https://civilizationalvalues.org/2023_09_28_brill-academic-publishers-humanitarian-islam/)

### RaT-Blog

After its summer break, our blog has started publishing new articles again: Our latest entry includes a two part series by **Rüdiger Lohker** on Mandeism, a religion with a longstanding tradition, originally from the Near East. Apart from an introduction to the basic teachings of Mandeism, the text also addresses the situation of the small but lively community in Austria and the challenges they face:

- Part 1: <https://rat-blog.univie.ac.at/?p=3732>
- Part 2: <https://rat-blog.univie.ac.at/?p=3750>

Coverfoto by [Chris Lawton](#) on [Unsplash](#)

#### Impressum

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| [religionandtransformation.at](http://religionandtransformation.at) | [Unsubscribe here](#)

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