

The conference addresses the forms of significant spiritual networks that have characterised literatures and cultures from the Enlightenment to the present. The Christian religion and its diverging forms and practices—especially in the aftermath of the Reformation—have been representing core issues of Western society, shaping the lives of individuals and determining the social, literary, and political climate of any given period. Such forms and practices are testimony to the ongoing (re-)negotiations of spiritual attitudes in context with the historical succession of religious and secular world models. The underlying paradigm shifts, in turn, have affected all ways of social life within cultural communities as well as the intellectual dispositions of their members and agents.

Set within the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran reformation, the conference envisages an international and interdisciplinary dialogue about the transcultural *dispositif* 'spirituality' as manifest in the Western world across national boundaries. Inviting a decidedly diachronic perspective, the conference brings together experts from different philologies, literary studies, ecclesiastical history, cultural studies as well as art history.

Organisation

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Conference Venue

Campus Steintor
Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg
Department of English and American Studies
Adam-Kuckhoff-Straße 35

Sponsored by



MARTIN-LUTHER-UNIVERSITÄT
HALLE-WITTENBERG

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**MUHLN
BERG
CENTER**
FOR AMERICAN
STUDIES

SPIRITUAL NETWORKS

RELIGION IN LITERATURE AND THE ARTS, 1700 TO THE PRESENT

Papers in Honour of Sabine Volk-Birke

18-20 MAY 2017

PROGRAMME



THURSDAY, MAY 18

Hörsaal I

17.00

ADDRESSES

Wolfgang Auhagen (Vice-Rector, MLU)

Georg Maas (Dean, Faculty of Humanities II)

Ulrich Busse (Managing Director, Department of English and American Studies)

Daniel Fulda (Managing Director, IZEA)

Organisation team

18.00

KEYNOTE

John Richetti (U of Pennsylvania/USA):

“Poetry Heard, Not Overheard: Performance and Dialogue in 17th- and 18th-Century Verse, Religious and Secular”

19.00

Reception

20.00

Conference Warming: Osteria da Salvatore (Kl. Ulrichstr. 21)

FRIDAY, MAY 19

E.06.0 (“Glaskasten”)

09.00–10.00

KEYNOTE

William Gibson (Oxford Brookes U/UK):

“Sermons as Literature in the Long Eighteenth Century”

10.30–12.00

PHILOSOPHY AND SATIRE

Heinz Thoma (MLU): “Natürliche Religion und Religion der Natur im Zeitalter der Aufklärung”

Clare Haynes (U of East Anglia/UK): “A Religious Satire in Song, Print and Clay: Narrating *The Vicar and Moses* in Late Eighteenth-Century England”

12.00–13.30

Lunch: Brasserie Lözius (Am Steintor 9)

13.30–15.00

CONFESSION AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Penny Pritchard (U of Hertfordshire/UK):

“Reforming a Careless World: The Cultural Significance of Josiah Woodward’s *Fair Warnings* (1707)”

Angela Richter (MLU): “Autobiografisches Schreiben zu Beginn des 19. Jahrhunderts: Die *Žitije* von Gerasim Zelić”

15.30–16.30

KEYNOTE

Laura Stevens (U of Tulsa/USA): “The Stories Children’s Bibles Tell in Eighteenth-Century Britain”

17.30–18.30

Guided Tour: Franckesche Stiftungen

19.00

Dinner: MahnS Chateau (Oleariusstraße 4a)

SATURDAY, MAY 20

E.06.0 (“Glaskasten”)

09.00–10.00

KEYNOTE

Robert DeMaria, Jr. (Vassar College/USA):

“Samuel Johnson and Religious Melancholy”

10.30–12.00

LITERARY (ANTI-)WORSHIP

Elisabeth Décultot (MLU): “Zur Konstruktion eines ausländischen Klassikers: Die Shakespeare-Rezeption in Frankreich und Deutschland im 18. und 19. Jahrhundert”

Jürgen Meyer (Bielefeld U/MLU): “Lyrical Transformations of Salome in England and Germany, 1600–1890”

12.00–14.00

Lunch: Brasserie Lözius (Am Steintor 9)

14.00–15.30

(POST-) MODERN PERSPECTIVES

Thomas Austenfeld (U of Fribourg/Switzerland):

“Gestures of Faith in Contemporary American Poetry”

Dorothee Birke (Aarhus U/Denmark):

“Alien Religion: Michel Faber’s *The Book of Strange New Things*”

15.30

CONCLUSION