

# Catalogue of the severall Sects and Opinions in England and other Nations With a briefe Rehearfall of their false and dangerous Tenents.



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INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP  
**Urbanity and the Formation of  
Religious Groups**

15-16 June 2023 | Haus Dacheröden, Erfurt

## Urbanity and the Formation of Religious Groups

This exploratory workshop asks how an 'urban way of life' influenced the genesis of different religious and confessional groups. The workshop considers processes such as the definition of groups by members of that group as well as descriptions of groups by "outsiders". Notions of urbanity could also shape the discourses around religious group formation, for instance the Heavenly Jerusalem as a key aspect of Puritanism. Adaptations to religious rituals and belief systems because of urban demands could lead to the emergence of religious groups that could later spread beyond the urban environment.

The working hypothesis of the workshop is that by considering the mutual formation of religion and urbanity, we can also gain new insights into the phenomenon of religious group formation(s) and find new ways to understand how, when and why, groups formed and how they were visible (or invisible) in cities. Many of the processes of group formations show that both local and trans-regional points of reference played a part, which is why the workshop takes a broad geographical view. It addresses religious group formation and urbanity in a long-term perspective and in a wide range of different settings, in order to ask:

- What are the motives of individuals gathering as groups and which (legal) tools were used for gaining recognition? How were groups named, promoted and how did they become (in)visible in urban settings?
- Where are religious semantics and practices used for non-hierarchical segmentation, where for pragmatically (ir)relevant differentiation or even discrimination? Where do they intersectionally reinforce or conceal different kinds of inequality?

- How was cohesion within a group formed? What role did urbanity play in this process?
- How do religious groups relate to each other and what role does urbanity play in their (self-)definition vis-à-vis other religious groups?
- When can we speak of a group in a meaningful way?

## Programme

### Thursday, 16 June 2023

**11:30-12:30** | Arrival and Lunch  
**12:30- 1:00** | Welcome (Martin Christ)

### Section I: Violence & Group Formation (Chair: Sara Keller)

**1:00-1:45** | **Mara Albrecht** (Erfurt): "Claiming the City as Our Own: Group Formation through Religious Rituals and Violence in Contested Urban Space"  
**1:45-2:30** | **Tom Hamilton** (Durham): "Urbanity & the Formation of Confessional Groups in Sixteenth-Century France"

**2:30-3:00** | Coffee Break

### Section II: Real & Imagined Groups (Chair: Aileen Becker)

**3:00-3:45** | **Harry O. Maier** (Vancouver): "Some Illustrations of Urbanity & Group Formation in Early Christianity"  
**3:45-4:15** | **Benedikt Brunner** (Mainz): "Heavenly Communities in Life & Death. Normative Implications of the "New Jerusalem" for Urban Societies in Nuremberg, Basel, London and Boston (1600-1750)"  
**4:15-5:00** | **Heinrich Lang** (Erfurt): "Mediterranean Trade Diasporas in Late Medieval and Early Modern History. An Outline of a Concept"  
**5:45-6:45** | Joint Discussion, introduced by Susanne Rau  
**7:00** | Conference Dinner

### Friday, 16 June 2023

### Section III: Building & Imagining Differences (Chair: Elisa Iori)

**9:00-9:45** | **Miri Rubin** (London): "Building Difference in Medieval Cities"  
**9:45-10:30** | **Ben Pope** (Manchester): "Urban & Rural Elites as Integrated and Diverging Religious Groups in Late Medieval Upper Germany"  
**10:30-11:15** | **Jon Keune** (Michigan State): "Diffuse, Multiple, and Overlapping: Ambedkarite and Buddhist Organizing in Nagpur"

**11:15-11:45** | Coffee Break

**11:45-1:00** | Joint Discussion, introduced by Martina Stercken  
**1:00-2:00** | Lunch & Goodbye

## Organiser

Martin Christ (University of Erfurt)  
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The workshop is organised by the focus group "Group Formation, Segmentation and Fragmentation", which is coordinated by Martin Christ. The focus group is part of the DFG-funded Humanities Centre for Advanced Studies *Religion and Urbanity: Reciprocal Formations* (FOR 2779), based at the Max Weber Centre for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies of the University of Erfurt, Germany. The group analyses the mutual formation of urbanity and religion from antiquity to the present. It focuses on specific case studies, like Mediterranean or Indian cities of the ancient world, early modern political and religious centres or modern European towns, and introduces more wide-ranging theoretical investigations. Susanne Rau and Jörg Rüpke are its spokespersons.



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