

MONDAY LECTURES | SOSE 2025/26 IN RELIGIOUS, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

RESEARCH BUILDING "WELTBEZIEHUNGEN" | C19.00.02/03 | 16:15 - 17:45

19.01.2026 | ANJA KIRSCH

RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR WORLDMAKING: NARRATIVE CULTURES AND THE PERCEPTION OF DIFFERENCE



Do religious and secular people experience the world differently? This lecture discusses early 19th-century emigrant narrative cultures as practices of worldmaking. Migrating to North America not to discover but to create a new world, social reformers such as radical pietists, socialists, and early communists were united by the utopian spirit of their time. Yet in their new environment, their communal storytelling diversified rapidly: routines were disturbed, everyday activities gained renewed significance, new experiences and challenges became worth recounting. The presentation explores the relationship between intellectual argument, vernacular religious practice and education of the senses at the Frontier. It investigates the historical, aesthetic, and perceptual conditions under which conflicting worldviews gained epistemic affordance as contrasting modes of observing, interpreting, and enacting the world.