

UNIVERSITÄT ERFURT
Philosophische Fakultät

MONDAY LECTURES | WISE 2026/27
IN RELIGIOUS, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

RESEARCH BUILDING "WELTBEZIEHUNGEN" | C19.00.04 | 16:15 - 17:45

11.01.2027 | EVELYN REUTER

AN OVERLOOKED RELIGIOUS MINORITY: THE BAHÁ'Í IN INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE IN CONTEMPORARY ALBANIA

Scholarly accounts of Albanian religious life largely overlook the Bahá'í community, despite its engagement in informal and local interreligious exchange. This latent presence reflects the community's small size and its increasing confinement to community initiatives. It has been gradually sidelined since the reconstruction of formal religious structures after 1990. This lecture addresses this gap by examining the Bahá'í as a case study of how religious minority positions are structurally produced and actively negotiated within formal interreligious dialogue structures. Drawing on Elias' figurational sociology and Bourdieu's concepts of field and capital, the presentation traces how the structure of a formally reconstructed religious field generates graded recognition, rendering some communities invisible. Situating the Bahá'í case within a broader comparison, the lecture illustrates the range of positions negotiated with Albanian interreligious dialogue by examining the trajectory of the Evangelical Union from outsider to established stakeholder, and the claim of the Sunni Sufi orders to double representation. The lecture concludes that overlooking the Bahá'í community means overlooking a key site where the limits of religious recognition become apparent.





Join Zoom-Meeting

ORGANIZED BY SEMINAR FÜR RELIGIONSWISSENSCHAFT.

ALL GUESTS WELCOME.
NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY.