



**UNIVERSITÄT
ERFURT**

Forschungszentrum
Gotha

Winterprogramm 2026

Michael Driedger (St. Catharines, Kanada) **Martin Luther, Scheinriese: A Playful Provocation**

15. Oktober 2026 | 17:15 Uhr | Forschungszentrum Gotha | Schloßberg 2 | Vortragssaal

In the June 2024 edition of "Damals: Das Magazin für Geschichte", the church historian Thomas Kaufmann (Göttingen) shared an engaging essay on Thomas Müntzer as a "faux-giant" (Scheinriese). This semester's opening talk will engage with this provoking attribution. By comparison with Müntzer, Martin Luther was certainly a much more significant early sixteenth-century figure. However, scholars such as John Bossy, Constantin Fasolt, Peter Marshall, and Nicholas Terpstra have fruitfully searched for alternatives to the Romantic, Germanic, heroic story of "the Reformation." Driedger's talk will combine this with some perhaps outrageous suggestions for viewing early modern European religious history in a global perspective.

**Der Vortrag findet auf Englisch statt.
Eintritt frei – alle Interessierten sind herzlich willkommen.**

Michael Driedger ist Professor an der Brock University in St. Catharines/Kanada und forscht zum Verhältnis von radikaler Reformation und radikaler Reformation, insbesondere zu mennonitischen Verlegern und Aktivisten in der Niederländischen Republik des 17. und 18. Jahrhunderts.