

- 15.00–15.10 | **David Garbin**  
Respondent
- 15.10–16.10 | **Joint Discussion**
- 16.10–16.30 | **Coffee Break**
- 16.30–18.30 | **Panel 6**  
Chair: Jörg Rüpke
- 16.30–16.45 | **Qudsiya Contractor**  
Ritual Pollution, Secular Filth and the Politics of Cleansing Mumbai
- 16.45–17.00 | **Martin Fuchs**  
Precarious Belonging  
Religious Options and Engagements with the World in a Metropolitan Context.  
The case of Dalits in Dharavi (Mumbai)
- 17.00–17.15 | **Nora Lafi**  
Conceptualizing Urbanity, Practicing Coexistence: The Relationship between Religion and the Civic Sphere in Cities of the Middle East and North-Africa between the Middle Ages and Ottoman Times
- 17.15–17.30 | **Sunil Kumar**  
Respondent
- 17.30–18.30 | **Joint Discussion**
- 19.00 | **Dinner**

#### Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> of November

- 09.00–11.00 | **Panel 7**  
Chair: Beatrice Renzi
- 09.00–09.15 | **Onno van Nijf / Christina Williamson**  
Connecting the Greeks Multi-Scalar Festival Networks in the Hellenistic World
- 09.15–09.30 | **Cristiana Facchini**  
Seeing Cities in Travelogues and Missionary Texts in the Early Modern Period

- 09.30–09.45 | **Supriya Chaudhuri**  
Spaces of the Sacred: Religious Practice in Urban Interstices
- 09.45–10.00 | **Asuman Lätzer-Lasar**  
Respondent
- 10.00–11.00 | **Joint Discussion**
- 11.00–11.15 | **Coffee Break**
- 11.15–13.15 | **Panel 8**  
Chair: Martin Christ
- 11.15–11.30 | **Miri Rubin**  
Difference and Urbanity in the Age of Religion
- 11.30–11.45 | **Rana P. Behal**  
Religion, Religiosity and the Urban World: Everyday Lives of People in Amritsar City, Punjab, India
- 11.45–12.00 | **Beatrice Renzi**  
Religion at the Crossroads of Rural-Urban Life-Works: Systems of Relatedness in Transition
- 12.00–12.15 | **Zoe Opacic**  
Respondent
- 12.15–13.15 | **Joint Discussion**
- 13.15–14.00 | **Lunch**
- 14.00–15.00 | **Final discussion**
- 15.15–17.00 | **Guided tour of Erfurt**

#### Organizers:

Susanne Rau and Jörg Rüpke, University of Erfurt, in cooperation with Rubina Raja, Centre for Urban Network Evolutions, Aarhus University

To register, please contact Diana Püschel:  
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#### Further information:

[www.uni-erfurt.de/go/urbrel](http://www.uni-erfurt.de/go/urbrel)



UNIVERSITY OF ERFURT

Conference

Religion and Urbanity:  
“Theorising Mutual Formations”

6<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> November 2018 | Augustinerkloster,  
Erfurt



Religion has affected dramatic developments in the history of cities, such as waves of immigration, transformations of spaces and practices, (re-) ghettoization and genocide, but also smaller changes in patterns of settlements, urban life styles and ideas about real and imagined cities. Rituals have shaped shared spaces and the very notion of ‘public’ or ‘city’ has at times been defined by religious factors. Vice versa, rituals, conceptions of ‘gods’, their location, accessibility and division of labour, the location and ontology of ancestors and how to relate to them (and other ‘spiritis’, ‘demons’ or ‘semi-gods’ or just ‘powers’). Indeed, ‘religion’ and how to live one’s life in the face of the gods has been influenced, if not decisively shaped, by the spatial, social, and political structure of cities, small or large.

Our research project on ‘Religion and Urbanity’ intends to tackle central questions which arise from these observations by bringing together historical and contemporary research (in particular on Europe and Asia) with regard to three questions: What role has religion played for urbanization, how has urbanity changed religion, and how do they continually influence one another?

In this conference, co-organised with the Centre for Urban Network Evolutions (Aarhus, Denmark), we wish to discuss and develop the conceptual and terminological apparatus for this research. It is not the discussions of the ‘big’ terms of ‘city’, ‘urbanisation’ or ‘religion’, which we would like to duplicate, but concepts and terms that might help us to better capture and describe the processes of mutual influence. Thus, pairings like ‘urban religion’ or ‘religious urbanity’, ‘citification of religion’ or ‘sacralisation of urban space’ will be discussed with regard to their power of differentiation and scalability and compared to ‘urbanity’ or ‘spirituality’, ‘ceremonial centre’ or ‘holy city’. ‘Atmosphere’ and ‘civic identity’ will be discussed in relation to ‘urban aspirations’ and ‘religious imaginaire’. Above all, we are interested in not limiting our termi-

nological resources to English terms, but also in presenting, discussing or testing terms that occur in French or Hindi, Sanskrit or Mandarin, Arabic or German and have not yet entered the international debate.

The conference will bring together leading experts who focus on empirical and theoretical questions and represent multiple disciplines, such as religious studies, history, classics, archaeology, urban studies and anthropology of religion and it will concentrate on important debates of old and new conceptual frameworks.

**Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> of November**

- 14.00** | **Welcome and Introduction to the Conference by Susanne Rau, Rubina Raja and Jörg Rüpke**
- 14.15–16.15** | **Panel 1**  
Chair: Rubina Raja
- 14.15–14.30** | **Susanne Rau**  
Urbanity
- 14.30–14.45** | **Jörg Rüpke**  
Beyond Urban Religion
- 14.45–15.00** | **Anne Murphy**  
Which Urbanity? Secondary Urban Centres and their Attendant Religious Formations at the Border with the Rural
- 15.00–15.15** | **Ulrike Freitag**  
Respondent
- 15.15–16.15** | **Joint Discussion**
- 16.15–16.30** | **Coffee Break**
- 16.30–17.50** | **Panel 2**  
Chair: Susanne Rau
- 16.30–16.45** | **Rubina Raja**  
Religion and the Urban: Network Evolutions as a Lens
- 16.45–17.00** | **Benno Werlen**  
The Constitution of Geographical and Urban Realities. An Interpretive Approach to Geographical Urban Research
- 17.00–17.10** | **Markus Vinzent**  
Respondent

- 17.10–17.50** | **Joint Discussion**
- 18.15** | **Reception followed by Dinner**

**Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> of November**

- 09.00–11.00** | **Panel 3**  
Chair: Martin Fuchs
- 09.00–09.15** | **Mar Griera/ Marian Burchardt**  
Religious Events and the Politics of Space in the Mediterranean City
- 09.15–09.30** | **Ranjeeta Dutta**  
Religious Interactions and Urban Configurations in a Temple Town of South India: the Case of Shrirangam in Tamil Nadu
- 09.30–09.45** | **Paroma Chatterjee**  
Urbanity and Religion in the Chronicle of John Malalas (6th century): Coexistence and/or Conflict?
- 09.45–10.00** | **Harriet Rudolph**  
Respondent
- 10.00–11.00** | **Joint Discussion**
- 11.00–11.30** | **Coffee Break**
- 11.30–12.50** | **Panel 4**  
Chair: Emiliano Rubens Urciuoli
- 11.30–11.45** | **Pralay Kanungo**  
Conceptualizing the Urban Religioscape
- 11.45–12.00** | **Mariachiara Giorda**  
From Urban Geometry to Religious Urbanity
- 12.00–12.10** | **Martin Christ**  
Respondent
- 12.10–12.50** | **Joint Discussion**
- 13.00–14.30** | **Lunch**
- 14.30–16.30** | **Panel 5**  
Chair: Asuman Lätzer-Lasar
- 14.30–14.45** | **Christopher Smith**  
What is Religious about Founding a City?
- 14.45–15.00** | **Emiliano Rubens Urciuoli**  
Citification of Religion: What is it?