



**Venue: Schloss Ettersburg**

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**UNIVERSITÄT  
ERFURT**

Max-Weber-Kolleg

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**RELIGION, URBANITY & TRADE**

PROCESSES OF MERCANTILISATION IN URBAN SPACE

13-15 November 2024 | Schloss Ettersburg

## RELIGION, URBANITY & TRADE

### Processes of Mercantilisation in Urban Space

The international conference focusses on mercantilisation brought on and shaped by the interaction of religious and urban practices, institutions, and agents. At the core of the conference convened by Heinrich Lang and Susanne Rau lays the triangular relation of economies, religion, and urbanity. This triangular relationship will be approached from different disciplinary perspectives and across historical epochs and regions to come to a more complex understanding of cities in global history.

Processes of mercantilisation mobilised humans, non-humans and goods within cities, along the (peri-)rural areas bordering cities, and along trade routes linking urban centres. By mercantilisation, we refer to both to the expansion of economic exchange relations into areas of life hitherto understood as exclusively religious or urban, as well as contrary developments. Economic practices like trading with objects and services or the bookkeeping of debit and credit as well as sins and virtues by religious and urban actors alike are just two examples of the mutual interrelation and overlapping of economies, religion and urbanity.

In the long history of urban settlements, markets and their infrastructures developed mainly in the centres and structured the urban surrounding them. Some exceptions like cattle markets were outside cities, linking urban and rural spaces. Economic practices changed the shape of societies and conflated urban and religious spaces. In the urban context marketplaces and sacred spaces were interwoven and partially overlapped. In many cases, the presence of religious agents and their sites even fuelled economic activities in towns.

The conference is funded by the German Research Foundation (FOR 2779).

## WEDNESDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2024

**2:00 - 2:15** | Welcome & Introduction by Susanne Rau & Heinrich Lang

### PANEL A: SPACES | CHAIR: MARTIN CHRIST

**2:30 - 2:50** | **Élodie Vigouroux** (*Lyon*): The endowment of the Umayyad Mosque of Damascus in the Middle Ages and its role in the city's commercial activity

**2:55 - 3:15** | **Dimitri De Roover** (*Leuven*): The creation and demarcation of new urban parishes as a window on the socio-economic dynamics within industrial neighbourhoods in Belgium (1884-1914)

**3:20 - 3:50** | Coffee Break

**3:50 - 4:10** | **Bojana Babic** (*Berlin*): Reassembling the agency of religiously embodied subjectivists of displaced Syrian women through the urban markets and city life of Fatih (Istanbul)

**4:15 - 4:35** | **Bärbel Beinhauer-Köhler** (*Marburg*): Access to economic spaces and the role of religion. Examples from medieval Cairo with a special view on material culture

**4:40 - 5:00** | Short Break

**5:00 - 5:45** | Discussion of Panel A

### PANEL B: MARKETS AND GOVERNANCE | CHAIR: MARTIN FUCHS

**5:50 - 6:10** | **Corinna Riva** (*London*): Feeding the gods, feeding the market: the case of southern Etruria (Central Tyrrhenian Italy, circa middle of the 1st millennium BC)

**7:00** | Dinner

## THURSDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2024

**9:00 - 09:20** | **Evelyn Korsch** (*Venice*): The Venetian *renovatio urbis*. Strategies for merchandising the city's 'myth'

**9:25 - 09:45** | **Sebastian Schwecke** (*Delhi*): The last bankers of Banaras. Handling obligation, and the death (and survival) of a bazaar economy in mid-twentieth century north India.

**9:50 - 10:10** | Coffee Break

**10:10 - 10:55** | Discussion of Panel B

### PANEL C: BOUNDARIES | CHAIR: JÖRG RÜPKE

**11:00 - 11:20** | **Dorothea Rohde** (*Cologne*): Trading in the streets and in the tabernae: the social and economic role of women in urban neighborhoods

**11:25 - 11:45** | **Aviya Doron** (*Jerusalem*): Jews on the Go: The Pull and Push of the Medieval Marketplace

**11:50 - 12:10** | Short Break

**12:10 - 12:30** | **Elisabeth Gruber** (*Salzburg/Erfurt*): Charity as economic practice? Transgressing boundaries between political, economic, social, cultural, and religious domains in late medieval Austrian towns

**12:30 - 02:30** | Lunch Break

**2:30 - 3:15** | Discussion of Panel C

### PANEL D: MARKETS AND VALUES | CHAIR: MATEUSZ FAFINSKI

**3:20 - 3:40** | **Valentina Toneatto** (*Lyon*): Between Religion and Economy: the mercantilisation of the relationship with the divine in late antique Christianity

**3:45 - 4:05** | Coffee Break

**4:05 - 4:25** | **Clément Lenoble** (*Lyon*): Property, the sacred and commodification: how canonists and theologians have defined market space (13th-15th century)

**4:30 - 4:50** | **Jon Keune** (*East Lansing/Michigan*): Roles of Buddhism Among Indian Ambedkarite Professionals in Japan, 1995-present

**4:55 - 5:15** | Short Break

**5:15 - 6:00** | Discussion of Panel D

**7:00** | Dinner

**8:30** | Night Club: Discussion with Heinrich Lang

## FRIDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2024

### PANEL E: MOBILITY | CHAIR: SARA KELLER

**9:00 - 9:20** | **Supriya Chaudhuri** (*Kolkata*): Pilgrims, Merchants and Markets in pre-colonial and colonial India

**9:25 - 9:45** | **Laura Verdelli** (*Tours*): Mobility and boundaries: How did economic practices impact on urban and religious spaces? The case of the Chettiar in the nineteenth and twentieth century

**9:50 - 10:10** | Coffee Break

**10:10 - 10:30** | **Raminder Kaur** (*Brighton*): A Reflection on the Trinity of Water Tank, Text and Trade in Amritsar

**10:35 - 11:20** | Discussion of Panel E

**11:30 - 12:45** | World Café: Informal Discussion - Panels A-E

**12:50 - 1:00** | Concluding Remarks

**1:00** | End of conference: Lunch and Goodbye