

**9.00–9.45 | Rachna Mehra (Delhi)**

Faith in Motion: Spatial Dynamics of Belief and Praxis in Rural-Urban India

**9.45–10.30 | Yogesh Snehi (Delhi)**

From Ram Tirath to Valmiki Tirath: The Making of Valmiki Religious Identity in Amritsar

**10.30–10.45 | Coffee Break**

**10.45–12.30 | Chair: Susanne Rau**

**10.45–11.30 | Katharina Mersch (Bochum)**

Perforating Urban Boundaries with Processions in the High and Late Middle Ages

**11.30–12.30 | Final Round Table (Chaired by Martin Fuchs and Susanne Rau)**

**12.30 | Lunch**

### Organisers

Jörg Rüpke and Emiliano Urciuoli,  
University of Erfurt

To register for participation, please contact  
Valeria Wahl | [urbrel-conf@uni-erfurt.de](mailto:urbrel-conf@uni-erfurt.de)

The conference is part of the DFG-funded Humanities Centre for Advanced Studies “Religion and Urbanity: Reciprocal Formations” (FOR 2779). The group is based at the Max Weber Centre for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies of the University of Erfurt, Germany. The group analyses the mutual formation of urbanity and religion from antiquity to the present. It focuses on specific case studies, like Mediterranean or Indian cities of the ancient world, early modern political and religious centres or modern Indian or European towns, and it also introduces more wide-ranging theoretical investigations.

### Further information

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

See here for our Religion and Urbanity Online:

[www.degruyter.com/view/db/urbrel](http://www.degruyter.com/view/db/urbrel)

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<http://urbrel.hypotheses.org>

**UNIVERSITY  
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Max-Weber-Kolleg

CONFERENCE

**Blurring Boundaries: Diffusing  
and Creating Urban Religion  
beyond Urban Space**

23rd–26th November 2021 |  
Schloss Ettersburg, Weimar





## Blurring Boundaries: Diffusing and Creating Urban Religion beyond Urban Space

Gathering contributions from religious studies, Indology, history, art and architectural history, the conference will take a closer look at religious phenomena associated with, or produced in, urban space but diffused beyond and customised outside cities. The conference is an invitation to think 'urban religion' as a processual category that captures attempts to blur as well as to stress any topographical boundary between supposedly rural and urban religious traditions. We are not aiming at fixing origins to given territorial habitats or confining survivals to certain spatial determinants (thus engaging in the production of urbanity and rurality ourselves). Instead, we are interested in observing and interpreting the ongoing traffic of religious signs, carriers, practices, and institutions across a more or less externally demarcated city border, thus testing their changes under different socio-spatial conditions. Within the wide range of possible movements, the conference focuses on the direction of diffusion out of cities and towns directly into their hinterlands. Within the framework of our research group, we are interested in questions such as: Which religious phenomena are diffused outside of the city? How are they marked or perceived or 'unseen' as urban? Who are the agents of diffusion? How do they relate to the rest of rural societies? Under what conditions is religious change induced beyond such agents? How is change conceptualised, perhaps explicitly justified in spatial terms, that is, how is it renegotiated as either urban or rural? How does such rurality in religious terms produce repercussions in urban religion? How do such processes produce (our) sources and their legibility?

## Programme

### Wednesday, 24th of November

9.30–9.45 | **Welcome and Introduction to the Conference by Jörg Rüpke and Emiliano R. Urciuoli**

#### Panel 1

##### A Fine Line: Town and Countryside

9.45–11.15 | **Chair: Martin Fuchs**

9.45–10.30 | **Jörg Rüpke and Emiliano R. Urciuoli (Erfurt)**

Urban Religion Beyond the City

10.30–11.15 | **Benno Werlen (Jena)**

Urbanity and Rurality as Geographical Practices

11.15–11.30 | **Coffee Break**

11.30–13.00 | **Chair: Jörg Rüpke**

11.30–12.15 | **Handan Aksünger-Kizil (Vienna)**

Cem-Rituals: Moving Urban Ideas into Village Religion

12.15–13.00 | **Audrey Ferlut (Lyon)**

Urban Religion in Ancient Rural Contexts in the Roman Provinces: The Case of Nehalennia

13.00–14.30 | **Lunch**

14.30–16.00 | **Chair: Sara Keller**

14.30–15.15 | **William Elison (Santa Barbara)**

Under the Sign of Religion: Colonialism, Caste, and Cosmopolitanism in Late Nineteenth-Century Bombay

15.15–16.00 | **Marika Vicziany (Melbourne)**

The Political Economy of Koli Religions: The Blurring of City and Country, Water and Land, Koli and Non-Koli Religions

16.00–16.30 | **Coffee Break**

16.30–18.30 | **Chair: Asuman Lätzer-Lasar**

16.30–17.15 | **Valentino Gasparini (Madrid)**  
Bat your Lashes. Thibilis' Magistrates Making Eyes at the "Libyan" God Bacax in the Cave of Ghar Djemaa (Bouhamdane, Guelma, Algeria)

17.15–18.00 | **Marietta Horster (Mainz)**

Cult Expansionism of Roman Priesthoods?

18.00–18.30 | **Intermediate Summing-Up 1**

19.00 | **Dinner**

20.30–22.00 | **Reflections at the Fireplace**

### Thursday, 25th of November

#### Panel 2

##### Building across the Line: Water, the Dead, and Monks

9.00–10.30 | **Chair: Martin Christ**

9.00–9.45 | **Sara Keller (Erfurt)**

Migration of Hydro-Spaces in Medieval India

9.45–10.30 | **Barbara Happe (Jena)**

Urban Ideas in Rural Cemeteries in the 16th and 19th Century

10.30–11.00 | **Coffee Break**

11.00–12.30 | **Chair Emiliano R. Urciuoli**

11.00–11.45 | **Elisa Iori (Erfurt)**

Releasing Urban Religion: The Case of Ancient Buddhism

11.45–12.30 | **Roberto Alciati (Florence)**

The Monastery as a Space of Urban Relationships outside the City: The Case of the Jura

12.30–14.30 | **Lunch Break**

14.30–16.00 | **Chair: Elisa Iori**

14.30–15.15 | **Jens-Uwe Hartmann (Munich)**

From the Wilderness into Town and Back to the Countryside

15.15–16.00 | **Laszlo Ferenczi (Prague)**

Rural Minds in Urban Settings

16.00–16.30 | **Coffee Break**

16.30–18.00 | **Chair: Simone Wagner**

16.30–17.15 | **Ingrid Würth (Potsdam)**

Between City and Countryside: The Beginnings of the Servite Order in Germany

17.15–18.00 | **Intermediate Summing-Up 2**

19.00 | **Dinner**

20.30–22.00 | **Reflections at the Fireplace**

### Friday, 26th of November

#### Panel 3

##### Walking the Line: Processions and Pilgrimages

9.00–10.30 | **Chair: Sara Keller**