

JUDIT MAJOROSSY

PROJECT:

Spaces and Ways of Belonging: The Religiosity of Changing Urban Communities in Late Medieval East Central Europe

The major aim of the project is to explore the link between internal efforts to reform and to open up the religious community towards its lay urban environment in the fifteenth century and demonstrate the functioning of these new social strategies on the example of a few selected East Central European towns. Over the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, when urban communities gradually took a bigger share or became more involved in religious activities, towns and urban contexts became laboratories of different developments of religious life in this particular region of Central Europe. The project also investigates the various strategies used to spread reform ideas and reactions to crisis and changes among different social groups and religious communities in gradually differentiating urban contexts. The new perspective to the analysis will be a regional comparative analysis beyond the traditional time span. The changing intensity and structure of bequests; the ways how certain urban religious institutions function and the process of transformation of lay religious life; the role of kinship (networks and strategies) in shaping the institutional framework of civic religiosity with the inclusion of the role of gender; and the usage of space and social topographical aspects are among the research questions for a period between the late-fourteenth and mid-sixteenth centuries.