

International Summer School “Religious Conversion in Plural Societies Past and Present”, Erfurt, 11.–15. July, 2022

Religious conversion is as elusive as it is topical in the contemporary world, where religious identifications and narratives have returned to the fore of political rhetoric and social scientific enquiry. Both the common-sense idea and the scientific notion of “conversion” start from the premise that “religion” and “religious identity” are stable entities. But in contemporary societies, the idea of a stable religious identity is increasingly questioned through religious pluralism, bricolage mentality, and expressive social identities. This raises a number of questions as to what constitutes a religious conversion and to what extent contemporary religious conversions conform to those of the past.

These questions and others will be approached from a variety of angles at a summer school addressed to graduate students (from advanced MA level to PhD) from a variety of disciplines, including Religious Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, History, Political Science, and others. It will take place in Erfurt, Germany from 11. to 15. July, 2022 at the Augustinian Monastery, where Martin Luther started his career as a recently converted Catholic monk. The summer school is organised by Dr. Sebastian Rimestad (Leipzig), Prof. Dr. Katharina Waldner (Erfurt), and Dr. Helena Kupari (Helsinki) and will include participant presentations, workshops, lectures, and an excursion. For confirmed participants, all expenses are covered, including travel (up to € 750), accommodation and food.

In order to participate, please send a motivation letter of 1-2 pages to [summerschoolconversion\(at\)uni-leipzig.de](mailto:summerschoolconversion(at)uni-leipzig.de) by 31. January, 2022

The letter must include

- your educational background
- your current affiliation and place of residence (to calculate travel costs)
- your current research field and how this relates to the topic of conversion
- the title of your presentation for the summer school, including a short abstract

For further information, please visit <https://www.gkr.uni-leipzig.de/religionswissenschaftliches-institut/summer-school/> or send an e-mail to [summerschoolconversion\(at\)uni-leipzig.de](mailto:summerschoolconversion(at)uni-leipzig.de)

We look forward to the Summer School, which will hopefully be an opportunity to meet in person after a long period of uncertainty due to CoVid-19, opening up for a fruitful exchange of ideas and perspectives and bringing the study of religious conversion forward!

Sebastian Rimestad, Katharina Waldner, and Helena Kupari