

16.00 | Coffee Break

16.30 | **Gewalt der Christenverfolger in
Laktanz' De mortibus persecutorum**
Gianna Zipp
(Universität Mainz)

18.30 | Dinner

Sunday, July 16th

Session V:

Politics, Power, and Violence in Late Antiquity

9.00 | **Collaboration and Identity after
Persecution: Liminality and Religious
Conflict**

Elizabeth De Palma Digeser
(University of California, Santa Barbara)

9.45 | **Constantine and Religious Violence**

Mark Edwards
(University of Oxford)

10.30 | Coffee Break

11.00 | **Training Christians to Kill**

Jamie Wood
(University of Lincoln)

11.45 | **Final Discussion**

13.00 | Lunch



Sponsored by:
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)
Schwerpunkt Religion der Universität Erfurt

UNIVERSITY OF ERFURT

Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies
Professur für Allgemeine Religionswissenschaft,
Philosophische Fakultät

UNIVERSITY OF ERFURT

Conference

**Violence, Trauma, and
Identity in Early Christianity**

14 to 16 July, 2017 | Erfurt, Augustinerkloster

The Christian faith traces its origins in an act of extreme violence. In the aftermath of the Jesus' execution, his followers were left to grapple with the implications of both the fact and the violent manner of his death. For some Christians, identification with the crucified Jesus meant a willingness to suffer violence, and even the active pursuit of death. Other Christians debated whether membership in the ekklesia prohibited them from fulfilling the grisly duties required of their occupations. While Christians in the first three centuries were more likely to find themselves on the receiving end of state-sanctioned violence, by the end of the fourth century, elite Christians were confronted by the dilemma of determining the conditions under which it might be legitimate to use state violence for their own ends.

This research conference aims to examine how early Christian experiences as victims and perpetrators of violence contributed to the construction of Christian identity(ies) in the first four centuries of the Christian era, through the reign of Theodosius.

Contributors will investigate the realities and imaginations of violence among early Christians, as well as their Pagan and Jewish contemporaries in the Greco-Roman world. Lectures will explore themes including martyrdom, persecution, and capital punishment, as well as those that extend the question to topics such as the extirpation of the passions, violence and war, trauma, and sacrifice.

Organisation

Jennifer Otto (Max-Weber-Kolleg für Kultur- und sozialwissenschaftliche Studien)
Katharina Waldner (Professur für Allgemeine Religionswissenschaft, Universität Erfurt)

To register, please contact:
katharina.waldner@uni-erfurt.de

Program

Friday, July 14th

- 13.00** | **Arrival**
- 14.00** | **Introduction**
Jennifer Otto (Universität Erfurt)
Katharina Waldner (Universität Erfurt)

Session I

Cultural Contexts – Semantics and Practices of Violence

- 14.30** | **Attitudes on Violence in the Roman Empire: between Pagan and Christian Worlds**
Dirk Rohmann
(University of Sheffield)
- 15.15** | **Coffee Break**
- 15.45** | **Violence: Between Theory and Practice Reading Early Rabbinic Sources**
Cristiana Facchini
(Università di Bologna)
- 16.00** | **The Beginnings of Christianity as Response to the Jewish Rebellion against the Romans**
Markus Vinzent
(King's College London/
Max-Weber-Kolleg Erfurt)

- 17.00** | **Guided tour through the Augustinerkloster**
Pfarrerin Dr. Irene Mildenberger
(Augustinerpfarrerin, Erfurt)

- 19.00** | **Dinner**

Saturday, July 15th

Session II

Violence and the (Re)construction of History

- 9.00** | **Violence and War: How the Gospels Reflect Contemporary History**
Eve-Marie Becker
(Aarhus University)
- 9.45** | **The Martyrdom of James and James 5:6 Sivurgin Lárus Jónsson**
(Aarhus University)

- 10.30** | **Coffee Break**

Session III

Theologies of Violence

- 11.00** | **Origen and the Ethics of Execution**
Jennifer Otto
(Universität Erfurt)
- 11.45** | **A Violent Salvation: Stigma, Discipline, and Masculinity in the Teachings of Silvanus**
Blossom Stefaniw
(Martin-Luther-Universität Halle)

- 12.30** | **Lunch**

Session IV:

Narrating the Trauma of Persecution

- 14.30** | **Unoffered Pain: the Sacrifice of Sacrifice among Supporters of Martyrdom**
Emiliano Urciuoli
(Max-Weber-Kolleg, Erfurt)
- 15.15** | **Trauma and Violence in Eusebius' Martyrs of Palestine**
Katharina Waldner
(Universität Erfurt)