

## International Conference

### “What is Western about the West?”

#### Ideological chronologies and cartographies”

(Erfurt, October 24-26, 2019)

The conference “What is Western about the West?” focuses on spatio-temporal practices regarding the production and representation of westernness. Taking critical perspectives, which view the West from the inside and the outside, the nine panels plus keynote address issues of highest political and social relevance. The word “West” is omnipresent and often unquestioned, which implies quite effective and uncritical figures of thought. The goal of the conference is to elaborate a critical reflection on this concept and make these implicit processes explicit. The contemporary crisis of globalization can be interpreted as ideological (or intensional) crisis as well as a cartographic (or extensional) crisis of the concept of the West itself. The conference brings together researchers from different continents, various disciplines and points of view, which bring forth different ideological chronologies and cartographies of the “West”. They work through the West’s past and present, also retracing lines of development, which give hints about its future.

## Programme

### Thursday, October 24, 2019

#### 09:00–09:30 Welcome & Introduction

#### 09:30–11:30 Session I: What is Western about the West? Orientalism?

Nil Palabiyik (Munich): Was there an Eastern Orientalism? How Ottoman Learned Practices Shaped Oriental Studies in Early Modern Europe

Ottfried Fraise (Halle/Saale): Ignác Goldziher’s Perspective from the Margins of Europe: Historicizing Islam between East and West

Lena Salaymeh (Tel Aviv): What is Western about the West? Coloniality of Scholarship

Chair: Omar Kamil (Erfurt)

Coffee Break

#### 12:00–14:00 Session II: East Asian Perspectives on the West

Hong-Bin Lim (Seoul): Korean Soul at Crossroads: Against Antiliberal Use of “Orientalism” (in German)

Changwon Sung (Seoul): Reflections on “Western” Morality

Chair: Bärbel Frischmann (Erfurt)

Lunch

#### 15:30–17:30 Session III: What does Western Reason mean?

Heiner Klemme (Halle/Saale): Self-Conceptions of Reason in Kant

Klaus Vieweg (Jena): Reason and Universalism in Hegel – against the Terror of the Particular (in German)

Pirmin Stekeler-Weithofer (Leipzig): The Universal Notion of a Person in a Globalized Western Culture

Chair: Sergey Sistiaga (Erfurt)

Coffee Break

**18:00–19:00 Keynote**

Mark Bassin (Stockholm): A Russian Clash of Civilizations? Huntington's "West" and Lev Gumilev's Theory of "Superethnos"

Conference Dinner

**Friday, October 25, 2019**

**09:00–11:00 Session IV: What is Western about the Postcolonial?**

Sam Haddad (New York): Bypassing the West with Derrida and Glissant

James Kim (New York): Homer, Fanon, and the Angry Little Asian Girl: Towards a Comparative Analysis of Racial Anger

Cristiana Sogno (New York): Response

Chair: Chris GoGwilt (New York)

Coffee Break

**11:30–13:30 Session V: What is Western about the Postsecular?**

Mahlika Hopwood (New York): The Genderings of Eden: Postsecular Communities and the Loneliness of the West

Holt Meyer (Erfurt): Orthodox Postsecularism in *The Americans*

Chris GoGwilt (New York): Producing a Postsecular West: The Television Set of *The Americans*

Chair: Cristiana Sogno (New York)

Lunch

**15:00–17:00 Session VI: Orthodox Christian Cultures and their Neighbors on the West: Constructions, Overlappings, Alliances**

Alfons Brüning (Amsterdam-Nijmegen): Inter-Religious Dialogue or Strategic Alliance? Encounters between Russian Orthodoxy and Islam since the End of the Soviet Union

Mark Sedgwick (Aarhus): Alexander Dugin, Orthodoxy and Islam: The Geopolitics of Eurasia and the Atlantic West

Vasilios N. Makrides (Erfurt): Dimitri Kitsikis and his Geopolitical Theory about the "Intermediary Region" between East and West

Chair: Vasilios N. Makrides (Erfurt)

Coffee Break

**17:30–19:30 Session VII: The (Medieval) Occident – a Spatio-Temporal Construct and Its World-Shaping Claims**

Christoph Mauntel (Tübingen): Competing with the East. Geographic Ideas and Cultural Self-assessments of the West in Medieval Latin-Christian Thought

Thorsten Wollina (Dublin): Power and Knowledge About History: Syrian and Egyptian Engagements with the ‘Middle Ages’

Markus Vinzent (London/Erfurt): What is Foreign Becomes Close and what is Close Becomes Foreign. Meister Eckhart’s Geography

Chair: Sabine Schmolinsky (Erfurt)

Conference Dinner

**Saturday, October 26, 2019**

**09:00–11:00 Session VIII: Masaryk’s realistic Center in spatial and textual Models between East and West**

Nora Schmidt (Erfurt): A (Western) Culture of Dialogue and its Transformations into Text. The figure of T.G.Masaryk

Johannes Gleixner (Munich): The Empirical Foundation of a Discursive Space. Masaryk as a Mediator between East and West (in German with English summary)

Vratislav Doubek (Prague): Czech Political Thought between East and West during World War I (in German with English summary)

Chair: Anna Artwinska (Leipzig)

Coffee Break

**11:30–13:30 Session IX: Places and Times of the Utopian and the West**

Daniel Boyarin (Berkeley): Revisioning Diaspora

Nikolaus Wegmann (Princeton): Re-reading the West

Justus Fetscher (Mannheim): Unbridging the Gap. The Resilience and Return of Things Southern in Saša Stanišić’s “Wie der Soldat das Grammophon repariert (How the Soldier Repairs the Gramophone)”

Chair: Nils Plath (Erfurt)

**13:30 Final Discussion**

Chair: Holt Meyer (Erfurt)

**16:00 Guided City Tour**

**Contact: Registration requested until October 9, 2019**

Research Group “What is Western about the West?” (Spokesperson: Prof. Dr. Holt Meyer)

<https://www.uni-erfurt.de/index.php?id=48537&L=1>

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**Conference Venue:** Augustinerkloster / Luther-Saal, Augustinerstraße 10, 99084 Erfurt / Germany  
(see map below)

The Augustinerkloster can be reached within ten minutes from Krämerbrücke & city centre.

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