

24 May 2017 + 8 June 2017

Master Class *Religion and Identity Building: Faith as a Tool of Participation?*

Both in past and contemporary cultures, religion plays a fundamental role in the building of individuals' and group identities. As it happens, the affiliation with a certain religion determined and still determines cultural, figurative and territorial boundaries. Examining the process of defining oneself and others through the exclusion and inclusion in religious rituals and practices thus gives an important perspective on the topic of (not just religious) participation. By combining both historical and contemporary perspectives, the Master Class will address the following questions:

- How do groups and populations use religion to justify territorial predominance?
- How does an individual's religious identity relate to a group's religious identity?
- How can religious participation lead to the creation of a culture and/or community?
- What role does faith have in facilitating or hindering participation in ancient and contemporary societies?
- How are boundaries of the public and the private negotiated in perceived secular states?
- How do postsecular developments in society affect religious identity building and participation?

Hosted by the PhD program 'Cultures of Participation', the Master Class "Religion and Identity Building: Faith as a Tool of Participation?" takes place on two separate days – May 24th 2017 and June 8th 2017. This class features three invited speakers who will address the participating PhD students in a series of short lectures and workshops.

Prof. Dr. Jörg Rüpke (Erfurt)

Jörg Rüpke (born in 1962) is Professor for Comparative Religions at the University of Erfurt. Since 2008, he is co-director of the research group "Religious Individualization in Historical Perspective" as well as vice director of the Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies. Prof. Rüpke chairs the Graduate School for "Religions in Modernization Processes" in Erfurt. He also won the Gay-Lussac-Humboldt price in 2008.

PD Dr. Mariano Barbato (Münster)

Mariano Barbato combines research on international relations, politics, religion, sociology, political theory, and history. His current project *Legions of the Pope. A Case Study in Social and Political Transformation* is funded by German Research Foundation (DFG) and based at the Center for Religion and Modernity, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster. The project examines papal pilgrims and pilgrim popes and how they support actorness, agency and influence

of the Holy See in world society and international relations. Dr. Barbato teaches political science at Universität Passau.

Dr. Maria Engström (Dalarna)

Maria Engström is Associate Professor of Russian at the School of Humanities and Media Studies at Dalarna University (Sweden). Her research focuses on the Post-Soviet conservatism and right-wing intellectual milieu, imperial aesthetics in contemporary Russian art, the Orthodox Church in Russian politics and Russian utopian imagination.

Preliminary Schedule

24 May 2017

9:15 – 10:30	introductory speech + discussion
10:30 – 11:00	coffee break
11:00 till 12:30/13:00	workshop + PhD project presentations

Prof. Dr. Jörg Rüpke

Prof. Dr. Rüpke's contribution in the workshop will touch on the problem of explaining the religious transformation in ancient times using the modern theories of religion. Focusing on the role individuals had in building their own cults, Prof. Rüpke will provide examples of how religion can be described "as a precarious cultural resource articulated through the agency of individuals and allowing changed attributions of individual agency" (Rüpke 2015).

Rüpke, Jörg. "Religious agency, identity, and communication: reflections on history and theory of religion." *Religion* 45.3 (2015): 344-366.

15:00 – 17:00 Introductory speech + workshop/discussion

PD Dr. Mariano Barbato

Dr. Barbato introduces the notion of the pilgrim as a metaphor of personhood for political actors in world politics and opens a perspective for applying a concept of agency as pilgrimage to the European political context. Pilgrimage and pilgrims also give visibility to the Pope's and Catholic

Church's 'soft power'; Dr. Barbato's research pilgrimage discloses insights into the relation of religious mass movements, political agency and participation, as well as the identity-generating potential of pilgrimage on religious groups, elites and mass movements.

Barbato, Mariano. "What kind of person is the state? The pilgrim as a processual metaphor beyond the Leviathan." *Journal of International Relations and Development* (November 2014). doi:10.1057/jird.2014.25

Barbato, Mariano. "Legionen des Papstes. Pilgermobilisierung als Machgrundlage des Heiligen Stuhls in der Moderne. *Zeitschrift für Politikwissenschaft* 26.4 (2016): 375-396. doi:10.1007/s41358-016-0064-x

8 June 2017

13:00 – 14:15 Introductory talk + discussion

14:15 - 14:45 Coffee break

14:45 – 16:00 Workshop and project presentations

Dr. Maria Engström

The central topics of Maria Engström's introductory talk are the rise of the political theology in Russia with the focus on the inclusion and exclusion in religious rituals as a tool for creating the identity of the nation, countercultural groups and individuals. Furthermore, this part of the master class concentrates on the collision of the post-secularity with the clericalization process in modern Russia and (cultural) forms of resistance.