

WORLDVIEWS IN CONFLICT? CONTROVERSIES BETWEEN SECULAR AND SACRED CONVICTIONS

Interdisciplinary Conference organised by the Ph.D. Programme "Secularities: Configurations and Developmental Paths", Research Academy of the University of Leipzig, Germany

Leipzig, 27 - 28 September 2013

Call for Papers

Currently, the role of religion in our society is tackled in a variety of both public and political discussions. Issues such as the legitimacy of religious education, the public funding of places of worship, the non/abolition of state churches, and the negotiation of a reference to God in a constitution are examples par excellence. Within these discussions, it is usually taken for granted that the "modern" society is based on secularity—at least in Europe. However, a consideration of non-European cultures or other historical contexts highlights that both the demarcation of secularity and the discourses thereof can take different shapes. And throughout the history of the European continent, these differences are to be acknowledged as well. In the Ph.D. Programme "Secularities", we examine different configurations of secularity within different societies past and present, concentrating on the analysis of secularities and secularisations in distinct cultural and historical contexts.

Consequently, our interdisciplinary conference focuses on the dynamic relationship between the religious and the secular. We aim to explore questions such as when and where religious realms are distinguished from non-religious ones. How are these realms established? And, once established, how do they interact? Moreover, we are interested in the question who the agents of such distinctions between religious and non-religious realms are, and in what way these distinctions are negotiated? Hence, for our conference we invite papers which discuss phenomena of secularity from different disciplinary perspectives, reflecting on the regional, historical, and cultural circumstances under which secularities are manifested. Possible papers could investigate secularity on both a micro-sociological level and a macro-sociological level, tackling theoretical and empirical issues. We appreciate the adoption of different methodological approaches.

We are particularly interested in papers addressing the following questions:

- How do secular and religious claims to validity encounter each other? Are they configured along conflictual or non-conflictual lines?
- Under which circumstances do religious aspirations and arguments prevail over secular ones? And, vice versa, when and where does the secular prevail over the religious?
- How can different worldviews be communicated inside and outside the respective realms?
- How are different secularities—construed in terms of the demarcation between the secular and the religious—implemented through discursive, symbolic, or medial communication?

Our conference offers opportunities to discuss the demarcation of the religious and the secular—especially to researchers at early stages of their career. Correspondingly, we aim to foster and facilitate contact and communication between researchers from different disciplines.

We invite papers from the humanities and social sciences, particularly from the sociology of religion, the psychology of religion, history, art history, theology, religious studies, legal studies, as well as political sciences. Papers focusing on specific regions, even aiming at comparative analyses but not limited to these targets, are welcome as well.

Please submit your abstract (2500 characters maximum) and your CV including (if applicable) a list of your publications to **tagung-secularities@uni-leipzig.de**. The deadline for submission is **19 April 2013**. The abstract should sketch your argument, clarifying your methodology, the theory or the theories you refer to, and, if applicable, the empirical data which you will utilise in your paper.

For further information see:

<http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~ral/gchuman/klassen/saekularitaeten-konfigurationen-und-entwicklungspfade>

Contact:

Beate Backe, Claudia Götze und Frank Schenker

Graduiertenklasse

„Säkularitäten: Konfigurationen und Entwicklungspfade“

PF 111521

04009 Leipzig

+49 341 / 9737153

tagung-secularities@uni-leipzig.de