

Churches and Identity in Central and Eastern Europe

The post-socialist transformation of Eastern and Central Europe challenges the identity of their Christian Churches as well. Despite decades of state-led marginalization of religion, when many people now search for meaning, they seek it mostly in the traditional Churches. At the same time, new demands by the states on Churches, a hitherto unknown religious diversity, and the growing pluralization of the societies, call for clear and theologically substantiated answers. Although the Churches have developed different strategies for coping with this new situation, all are characterized by the search for their own ecclesial identity within their respective historical, theological, and political experiences. This conference, the biennial convention of the "Study of Religion" section of the German Association for East European Studies, will address the search of the Christian Churches in Central and Eastern Europe for identity in times of a massive social transformation. Case studies of single countries will analyze the commonalities and differences of the respective Christian traditions and of the different post-socialist contexts. The resulting variegated composite picture of the Christian identities in the region will provide an important contribution for a better understanding of the role of the Churches in current societal and political developments.

Conference Coordination

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde e. V.
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Conference Organization

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Conference Venue

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Conference Language

English

Registration

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Churches and Identity in Central and Eastern Europe

International Conference of the German
Association for East European Studies,
Section Religion

21–22 June 2019
Berlin

ZOIS Zentrum für Osteuropa-
und internationale Studien
Centre for East European
and International Studies

DGO
► Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Osteuropakunde e.V.

Friday, 21 June 2019

2.00 pm Welcome

Gwendolyn Sasse, Centre for East European and International Studies, Board Member German Association for East European Studies, Berlin

Regina Elsner, Centre for East European and International Studies, DGO-Section Religion, Berlin

2.30 pm Lecture

[Religion and Identity](#)

Olaf Müller, University of Münster

4.00 pm Coffee Break

4.30 pm Panel I — Belarus

[The Formation of a National Identity in Belarus: The Mission of the Catholic Church](#)

Alena Kharko, University of Eichstätt

[The Identity of the Belarusian Orthodox Church: Between Belarusian Political Regime, Russian Imperialism and National Revival](#)

Natallia Vasilevich, Centre Ecumena, Minsk / University of Bonn

6.15 pm Dinner

7.30 pm Public Lecture

[Church and Identity after 1989](#)

Bishop Johann Schneider, Halle-Wittenberg

Saturday, 22 June 2019

9.00 am Panel II — Central Eastern Europe

[Christian Identity. Its Universal Challenges and Local Traditions in Slovakia](#)

Miro Kocúr, Theologian, Bratislava

[Church Identity in Hungary](#)

András Máté-Tóth, University of Szeged

10.30 am Coffee Break

11.00 am Panel III — Churches from Eastern Europe in Germany

[Orthodoxy in Germany](#)

Nikolaj Thon, Assembly of Orthodox Bishops in Germany

[Pastoral Work with Native-Speaking Communities in Berlin](#)

Klaudia Höfig, Catholic Archdiocese of Berlin

12.30 pm Lunch Break

2.00 pm Panel IV — Ukraine

[Orthodoxy and Ukrainian Identity](#)

Sergii Bortnyk, Theological Academy, Kyiv

[The Greek-Catholic Church and Ukrainian Identity](#)

Natalia Kochan, Kuras Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies, Kyiv

3.30 pm Coffee Break

3.45 pm Panel V — Orthodoxy as Minority

[Orthodoxy in Estonia](#)

Irina Paert, University of Tartu

[Overlapping Waves: Russian Orthodox Identity in North America](#)

Nadieszda Kizenko, University at Albany

5.30 pm Panel VI — Russia

[Russian Orthodoxy and the Transformation of Society](#)

Scott Kenworthy, Miami University

[Protestant Communities After the End of the Soviet Union](#)

Nadezhda Beljakova, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow

7.00 pm Closing Discussion