



First meeting of the RALDIFS Network

(Religions and Atheism, Law, Doctrines and Identities,
Fluctuating Secularization)

Kulturwissenschaftliches Kolleg, Konstanz
1–3 June 2016

Background

This meeting will bring together scholars working to put together an international research network focusing on the nature, dimension, and challenges of religious pluralism. While the core group of scholars is mostly historians, we seek collaborators in other disciplines in the humanities and social sciences.

RALDIS is an initiative of the Institut du Pluralisme Religieux et de l'Athéisme (www.ipra.eu), based in Nantes (France). IPRA is seeking to launch a collaborative European network of scholars working on religious pluralism and in particular at the place of religious or non-religious minorities and individuals in the social and legal systems of Europe. Three of the scholars associated with KuKo this year are part of this evolving consortium: Dorothea Weltecke, Ana Echevarria and John Tolan.

RALDIFS is currently seeking funding from the Agence nationale de la recherche, in view of creating a Horizon 2020 network in response to European H2020 call SC6 – Understanding Europe, promoting the European public and cultural spaces – CULT-COOP-2017-5 Religious diversity in Europe – past, present and future.

This will constitute the first meeting of members of this consortium and would provide a venue for the continuation of the collaborative activities of the 2015/2016 Kuko fellows and this evolving European network. One of the central points of discussion will be the putting into place of a database of sources on religious pluralism and pluralistic societies as a major resource for researchers and teachers. This will be a multilingual database, modeled on the [RELMIN database](#). Discussion will focus on the institutional bases for this collaborative database, the planning of its establishment, and the roles of each of its institutional partners.

In addition to forging a European network, IPRA is creating links with non-European universities. We are working with building collaboration with Iranian universities, in particular the University of Isfahan. Pedram Khosronejad, an Iranian anthropologist who works with IPRA, and Asghar Montazerolghaem, dean of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Isfahan will participate in the RALDIFS meeting.

Tentative program

Wednesday, 1 June 2016

Morning: arrivals of Pedram Khosronejad & Asghar Montazerolghaem

Afternoon: Religious studies in Iran.

Presentations by Pedram Khosronejad (research associate IPRA and Associate Director for Iranian and Persian Gulf Studies at Oklahoma State University) and Asghar Montazerolghaem (dean of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Isfahan).

Thursday, 2 June 2016

Morning: arrival of members of the RALDIFS network

Afternoon:

13:30–16:30 first meeting of RALDIFS network.

Introductions, exchange of points of view about the creation and development of the network. Planning for the response to the H2020 call: division of work, planning of intermediate meetings and timetable, preparation and submission by the deadline of February, 2017.

17:00 Arbeitsgespräch des Kulturwissenschaftlichen Kollegs in der Reihe „Konstanzer Forschungen zur Religion“. John Tolan: „Judaei nostri: England's Jews embroiled in the conflicts between Henry III and his clerical and lay opponents, 1218-1266 “

Dinner.

Friday, 3 June 2016

Morning: Discussion about possible participation in RALDIFS network of colleagues at Konstanz and of KUKO fellows working on religious minorities.

Afternoon: final meeting of RALDIFS network. Summing up of last 3 days; discussion of possible adjustments to make to program; discussion of possibly additions to network members. Planning of future meetings

Late afternoon/evening: possibility of a public event (in English or English and German): round-table discussion or lecture, for example on religion and the net: challenges and opportunities for scholars. (Possible participation of colleagues from Konstanz and from the RALDIFS network)