

Indifference: Religious Boundaries in Question, 1650 – 1750

Goethe-University Frankfurt, Normative Orders (EG 01)

Thursday, 28 May 2026

14:00 – 15:00 *Introduction*

Xenia von Tippelskirch (Goethe-University Frankfurt)

Francesco Quatrini (University of Florence)

Andreas Häckermann (Goethe-University Frankfurt)

Section 1 Religious Praxis of Indifference

Moderation Michael Leemann (Goethe-University Frankfurt)

15:00 – 15:45 *"Tolerance", not "Indifference". The Collegiants' Sermons between Religion and Politics.*

Francesco Quatrini (University of Florence)

15:45 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 16:45 *Spatial Dimensions of Confessional Indifference: The Perceptions of Mennonites in Albisheim and Krefeld (c. 1700–1750)*

Simon Franzen (UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø)

16:45 – 17:30 *Believing in God, Believing in Demons: Zones of Religious Continuity and Indifference in Early Modern Venice*

Federico Barbierato (University of Verona)

17:30 – 17:45 Coffee Break

17:45 – 18:00 Keynote-Introduction by Xenia von Tippelskirch

Keynote Lecture

18:00 – 19:30 *De Religione Cinganorum, or: On the Supposed Indifference of "Gypsies" Towards any Religion*

Jean-Pierre Cavaillé (EHESS Toulouse)

20:00 Dinner (Restaurant Stahlburg)

Friday, 29 May 2026

Section 2 Indifference in Knowledge Production

Moderation Nicole Reinhardt (Leibniz Institute of European History Mainz)

09:30 – 10:15 *Religions of the World: Grotius and Bayle*
Girolamo Imbruglia (University of Naples L'Orientale)

10:15 – 11:00 *Johann Jakob Scheuchzer and the Boundaries of Epistemic Indifference*
Karl Johann Scharpf (Humboldt-University Berlin)

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee Break

Moderation Alexander Schunka (Free University Berlin)

11:15 – 12:00 *Pictorial Dialectics of Indifference: Compilation as a Scholarly Stance in Picart's Corpus of Illustrations for the Cérémonies et Coutumes*
Paola von Wyss-Giacosa (Independent Researcher, Zurich)

12:00 – 12:45 *Indifference in the Mirror: Jean-Frédéric Bernard's Handling of Islam*
Andreas Häckermann (Goethe-University Frankfurt)

12:45 – 14:15 Lunch (Campus Dining Hall)

Section 3 Boundaries and the Dialectics of Indifference

Moderation: Xenia von Tippelskirch (Goethe-University Frankfurt)

14:15 – 15:00 *Shifting Boundaries. The Impact of Comparative Religion in the Dutch Republic 1650–1750*
Jo Spaans (Independent Researcher, Utrecht)

15:00 – 15:45 *Indifference as a Boundary Marker: The Controversy about Johann Franz Budde's Defense of the Kabbalah in the Early 18th Century*
Nora Blume (Martin-Luther-University Halle)

15:45 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 16:45 *Blurring Confessional Differences. Irenical Writing in 18th-Century Berlin*
Andreas Pietsch (University of Münster)

16:45 – 17:00 Final Break

17:00 – 18:00 *Final Discussion*
Moderation: Sophie Houdard (Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris)