The Research Network “Lutheran Orthodoxy Revisited” is sponsored by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

ORGANISERS

Dr. Sivert Angel
University of Oslo
Faculty of Theology
P.O. Box 1023 Blindern
NO-0315 Oslo
+47 228/50332
sivert.angel@teologi.uio.no

Dr. Joar Haga
MF Norwegian School of Theology
P.O.Box. 5144, Majorstuen
NO-0302 Oslo
+47 40041108
Joar.Haga@mf.no

Dr. Sascha Salatowsky
University of Erfurt
Gotha Research Library
Schloss Friedenstein
Schloßplatz 1
D-99867 Gotha
+49 361/737-5562
sascha.salatowsky@uni-erfurt.de

4th Workshop of the Research Network “Lutheran Orthodoxy Revisited”
Lutheran Piety
September 6–8, 2018 | Theological Faculty, University of Oslo

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University of Erfurt
Gotha Research Library
Schloss Friedenstein
99867 Gotha | Germany
Tel.: +49(0)361/737-5540

Image:
Lutheran piety in the 16th and 17th centuries is generally characterized by one of two opposing historiographical views. On the one hand, the central theory of a “crisis of piety” has asserted great influence on the assessment of this era up until the present. Its origins can be traced back to contemporary claims that a reform of life never followed the reform of teaching, but that the emphasis on confessional differences hardened the fronts between believers. Preachers and theologians who allegedly focused much more on dogma than on piety in their sermons have been made responsible for this development. In the same accord, devotional literature, such as Johann Arndt’s famous “Vier Bücher vom wahren Christentum”, has been predominantly ascribed to heterodox circles rather than orthodox circles due to its dogmatic vagueness. At the same time, Balthasar Meisner’s call for a true pia desideria in reaction to church grievances reflects the situation of the time and cannot be simply marginalized as spiritualistic or mystic. Especially influential was the verdict of the pietist Gottfried Arnold who spoke of a “dead orthodoxy”, excluding true piety.

On the other hand, a more differentiated historiographical perspective has developed that views the claimed opposition between dogmatics and piety as two facets of church life, varying in significance according to place, time and person. Not first after the end of the 30 Years’ War, as has been claimed, but rather already at the outset of the 17th century, pastors and theologians saw the urgent need for improving life in the church and vitalizing piety. In this context, Baltasar Meisner’s call for a true pia desideria in reaction to church grievances reflects the situation of the time and cannot be simply marginalized as spiritualistic or mystic. Especially influential was the verdict of the pietist Gottfried Arnold who spoke of a “dead orthodoxy”, excluding true piety.

The workshop re-investigates these two central perspectives on Lutheran piety. It seeks to describe how piety was manifested and expressed in specific situations and pursues the question of whether one can speak of a continuous development of piety since the Reformation specific to the Lutheran confession. Furthermore, it examines the role and significance of pastors and theologians in shaping piety. The workshop takes a European perspective in order to better discern cultural and socio-political differences within the Lutheran confession.

**PROGRAMME**

**Thursday, September 6, 2018**

12 pm | Lunch, welcome from the Faculty

1 pm | Thematic introduction
Joar Haga, Sivert Angel

**SESSION 1, CHAIR: JAN VAN DE KAMP**

1.30 pm | Frömmigkeit. Ein Forschungsüberblick
Stefan Michel

2.30 pm | “Frömmigkeit” as an aspect of Lutheran confessional culture
Walter Sparn

3.30 pm | Break

4 pm | Sightseeing of Oslo with a short presentation of one of the first printed books in Norway: Christen Bangs “Descriptio Civitatis Christianensis” of 1651, a pious description of the city
Joar Haga

**Friday, September 7, 2018**

9.15 am | Welcome from the Faculty

**SESSION 2, CHAIR: SIVERT ANGEL**

9.30 am | Expressions of piety. Trends in Danish and Norwegian church furnishings of the seventeenth century
Martin Wangsgaard Jürgensen

10.30 am | Break

11 am | Who can approach Jerusalem without crying? The destruction of Jerusalem in Danish sources
Eivor Oftestad

12 pm | Reform der Kirche. Quellen und Einfluss von Theophil Großgebauers (1627–1661) „Wächterstimme auß dem verwüsteten Zion“ (1661)
Jan van de Kamp

1 pm | Lunch

**SESSION 3, CHAIR: JOAR HAGA**

2.30 pm | The minister’s wife as mediator/bearer of office and tradition
Anders Jarlert

3.30 pm | Break

4 pm | A Nordic ars moriendi? A reading of the Leksvik tapestry (1570–1580)
Kristin Aavitsland

5 pm | Concluding discussion with our guests

**Saturday, September 8, 2018**

9.15 am | Internal discussion

12 pm | End of the Workshop