



Rama is the seventh avatar of the Hindu God Vishnu.

> Organisation

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Centre for Islamic Theology

> Venue

Hörsaalgebäude des Exzellenzclusters
Room JO 101
Johannisstraße 4
48143 Münster

A conference of the **Cluster of Excellence "Religion and Politics"**, the **Center for Religion and Modernity (CRM)** and the **Centre for Islamic Theology (CIT)** of the University of Münster.

Within the Cluster of Excellence some 200 academics from more than 20 disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and from around 14 countries deal with the relationship of religion and politics across epochs and cultures.

The CRM is a research cluster which focuses on investigating the changing role of religions, religious communities, and religious actors in modern societies. It aims to perpetuate the subject of Religion and Modernity as a long-term focus in research and teaching.

The CIT represents a university department dedicated to faith-oriented Islamic theology and Islamic religious education. With experts addressing questions about Islam as a religion, the Centre seeks to meet the growing demand for independent Islamic theology in German society.

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Conference of the Cluster of Excellence "Religion and Politics"

> God's Own Gender?

Religions and their Concepts of Masculinity

10. and 11.11.2016



Bildnachweise: Painting of Rama (circa 1820) © Trustees of the British Museum; hochzeitsfotograf_pixelio.de; wikipedia / Schorle; gettyimages; wikipedia





Secular wedding of two male persons



Tibetan Monk creates a Mandala out of Sand in Münster in September 2013



Semâ ceremony at the Dervishes Culture Center at Avanos, Turkey.

> God's Own Gender?

Throughout history religions have shaped how people thought about and practised gender, a core concept of any social order. Linking it to concepts of 'God(s)', to the Cosmos and creation, religions preached a fundamental divide between man and woman – and emphasised the dominant role of 'the man', in religion as well as in society: he was seen as the actual image of God, had the sole right to serve as priest, and was considered head of the family.

Today religion is still an important source for images of men. But as both, gender and religion, undergo manifold transformations, they are no longer reliable social categories: shifts in men's gendered identities as well as in the contended boundaries of sexuality challenge traditional concepts of masculinity, as we can see in discussions on homosexuality in different religions. At the same time, secularization and growing religious plurality question traditional religious gender ideas and practices.

This international and transdisciplinary conference will ask how exactly these changes affect different religions and their traditional masculinities. It will explore the ways in which religions and their sacred texts have been sources for images of men and ask what changes can be seen throughout history. The conference will explore contemporary controversies on masculinity within different religions and ask how far different religious actors are willing to take into account the challenges of religious and gendered diversity.

Questions and discussions, tensions and controversies affect all religions around the globe. The conference therefore includes research on different religious traditions, among them the major 'world religions', and examines the relations between religion and concepts of masculinity in a global perspective.

> Programme

Thursday, 10.11.2016

14:00–14:15 Welcome and Introduction
Detlef Pollack, Münster

Concepts of Masculinity in Christianity

14:15–15:45 Chair: Christel Gärtner, Münster
Concepts and Ideas of Masculinity in Catholicism and Protestantism in the 19th and 20th Centuries – some Reflections on Recent Research
Yvonne Maria Werner, Lund
Feminization or Re-masculinization of Religion? Results from Empirical Research
Friederike Benthous-Apel, Bochum
Respondent: Felix Krämer, Erfurt
Discussion

Concepts of Masculinity in Islam

16:15–17:45 Chair: Thomas Bauer, Münster
Which is Worse: Zina or Liwat? Why, and For Whom? Concepts and Practices of Masculinities in 'Pre-Modern' Islam
Andreas Ismail Mohr, Berlin
The Crisis of Islamic Masculinities
Amanullah De Soudy, Cork
Respondent: Scott Kugle, Atlanta
Discussion

Keynote

18:15–19:45 Chair: Michael Krüggeler, Münster
Critical Men's Studies in Religion: How it started and Where it needs to go
Björn Krondorfer, Flagstaff/Arizona
Discussion

Friday, 11.11.2016

Concepts of Masculinity in Judaism

09:15–10:45 Chair: Katrin Kogman-Appel, Münster
Concepts and Debates on Masculinities in Talmudic Culture
Matthias Morgenstern, Tübingen
Sexuality and Masculinity in a Comparative Medieval Perspective
Ruth Mazo Karras, Minnesota/Jerusalem
Respondent: Rüdiger Schmitt, Münster
Discussion

Concepts of Masculinity in Asia

11:15–12:45 Chair: Thomas K. Gugler, Münster
Manly Monks and Lustful Ladies: Images of Masculinity, Sex, and the Body in Indian Buddhism
John Powers, Canberra/Melbourne
The First Gender: The Construction of Masculinity in Ancient India
Renate Syed, Munich
Respondent: Perry Schmidt-Leukel, Münster
Discussion

Critical Men's Studies in Religion – Challenges and Perspectives

14:15–15:45 Chair: Daniel Gerster, Münster
Olaf Blaschke, Münster
Heidemarie Winkel, Bielefeld
Stephen Hunt, Bristol
Discussion