

Netzwerktagung Identitäten in (Mittel- und Ost-)Europa

20.-22.05.2026

Trnava University
Faculty of Theology



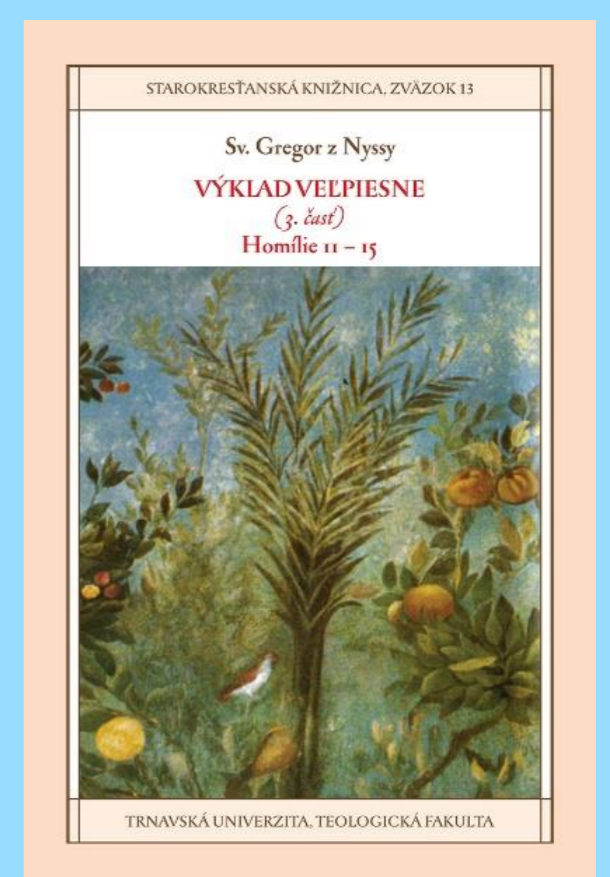
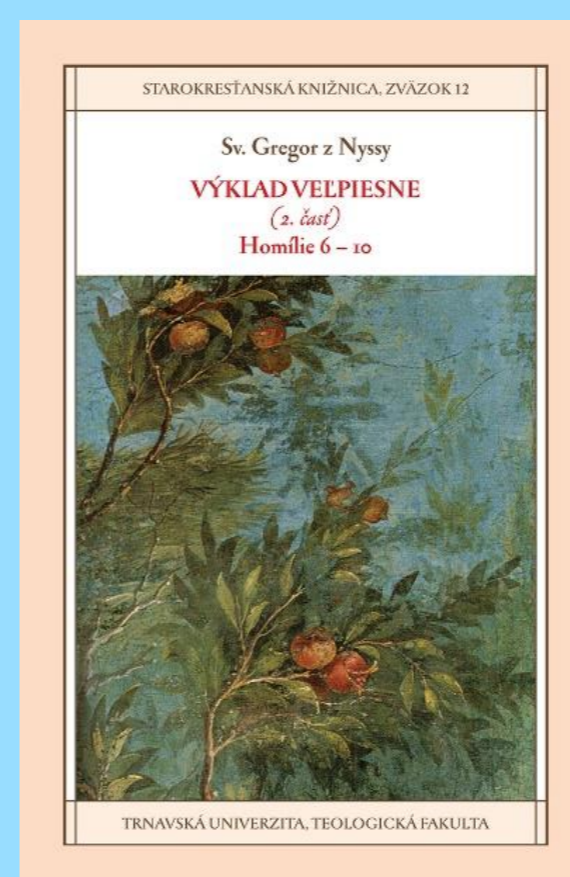
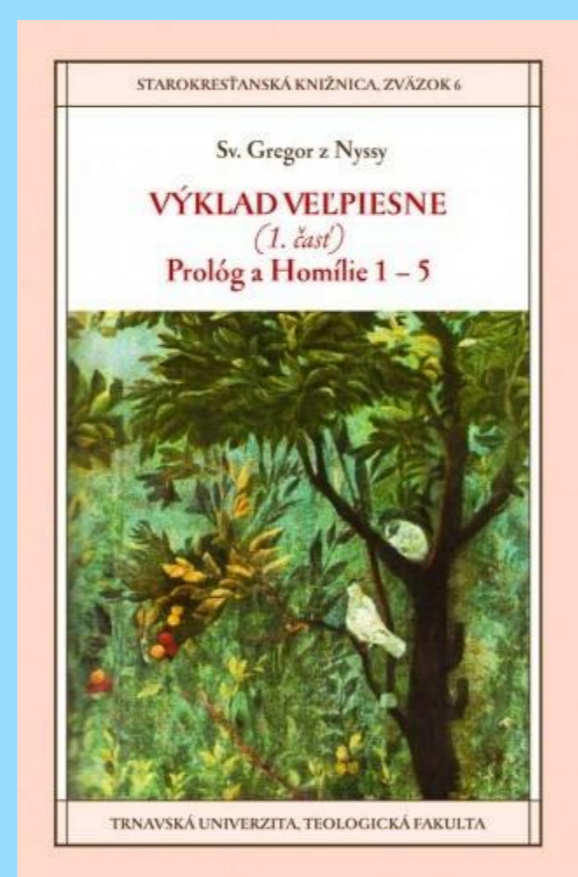
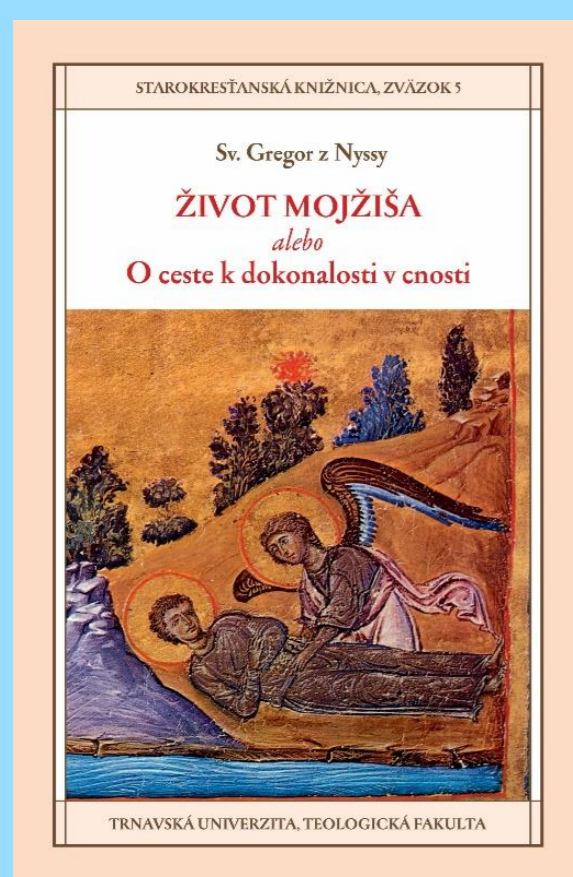
doc. Mgr. Helena Panczová, PhD.

Department of biblical and historical studies

helena.panczova@truni.sk

WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH (INTEREST) IN RELIGION / IDENTITY?

- Slovak series of patristic translations after 1989
 - Relevance of allegorical exegesis in present-day Christianity
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PERSPECTIVES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH & COOPERATION

- Ancient Christian literature – allegorical exegesis
- The language of symbols in modern society

Netzwerktagung Identitäten in (Mittel- und Ost-)Europa

20.-22.05.2026

Charles University
The Hussite
Theological Faculty



UNIVERZITA
KARLOVA



**Mgr. Pavel Kolář, M.T.S.,
Th.D.**
HTF – Department of
Practical Theology

**Mgr. Veronika Matějková,
Ph.D.**
Department of Practical
Theology

WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH (INTEREST) IN RELIGION / IDENTITY?

- Material aspects of social memory
 - Stations of the cross; pictures; memorials / kenotaphs
 - Restoration of contested memorials
- Landscape and social memory
 - Memorial trails/paths/pilgrimages
- Religious identities and chronotopos
- Formation and Development of a Christian's Identity
 - Spiritual accompaniment in difficult life situations
 - How meaning-making (memory) influences our individual and group conception of a beliefs system

PERSPECTIVES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH & COOPERATION

- Poetics and politics of religious social memory's materiality
- Bakhtin's concept of chronotopos in the context of ritual and memory studies; chronotopos and religious identities
- How do national/religious narratives contribute to a responsible and open system of belief?

Netzwerktagung Identitäten in (Mittel- und Ost-)Europa

20.-22.05.2026

University of Split
Catholic Faculty



Jadranka Garmaz

Chair of Religious Pedagogy and Catechetics

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Domagoj Runje

Chair of Old Testament

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Gina Sparada

Catholic Faculty

Chair of Philosophy

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WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH (INTEREST) IN RELIGION / IDENTITY?

- The representation of war in Croatian religious textbooks. An analysis from a biblical and communicative-theological perspective.
- Psychological patterns of surviving war trauma in Croatia



PERSPECTIVES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH & COOPERATION

- Critical rather than mythical remembrance
- Dialogue and reconciliation
- The critical examination of violence and injustice
- Peace education in Catholic religious education
- Post-trauma development
- PTSD in war context
- Role of religion in development of post-trauma resilience

Netzwerktagung Identitäten in (Mittel- und Ost-)Europa

20.-22.05.2026

 UCLouvain



Université catholique
de Louvain
Faculty of Theology
and Religious Studies

Dr. Dr. Stipe Odak
Department of Ethics
stipe.odak@uclouvain.be

WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH (INTEREST) IN RELIGION / IDENTITY?

My research focuses on the intersections of conflict, collective memory, and peacebuilding. Ethnographically, I have studied identity-based conflicts primarily in the Balkans and Rwanda, with particular attention to their religious dimensions. I am currently exploring the ambiguities of processes involving both identity and religion, such as reconciliation, dignity, and forgiveness.

PERSPECTIVES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH & COOPERATION

- Relationships between power and identity
- Religion as a catalyst of conflict and a mobilizer of peacebuilding
- Identity as both an anchor and an obstacle to human flourishing

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Charles University



Kyle Parsons

Ph.D. Candidate

Instructor of Religious Studies/Trinity Western University

WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH (INTEREST) IN RELIGION / IDENTITY?

My research examines how communities construct collective identities through acts of remembrance, with particular attention to how texts and images shape moral memory and reputational judgment.

- Construction of collective identity through remembrance
- The use of the past to shape moral and communal boundaries
- Villainy (e.g., Judas) as a tool for defining belonging and exclusion
- Interplay between textual and visual traditions
- Images as active participants in interpretation, not mere illustration
- Visual and textual media in processes of moral formation, identity construction, communal memory shaping.

PERSPECTIVES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH & COOPERATION

This research explores how texts and images work together to shape collective memory, moral judgment, and identity, offering a framework that can be applied across multiple disciplines.

- History: Memory formation, historiography, and the use of the past in constructing communal narratives
- Art History / Visual Culture: Images as interpretive media that communicate moral and theological meaning
- Gender Studies: Representation of women and the construction of gendered identities in memory traditions
- Identity Studies: Formation of “insiders” and “outsiders” through figures such as villains, foreigners, and marginalized groups
- Religious Studies / Theology: The role of memory and representation in shaping doctrine, moral teaching, and communal boundaries
- Classics / Rhetoric: Connections with progymnasmata and genus synkrisis in the comparative and persuasive function of images / texts

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THE JOHN PAUL II
CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITY
OF LUBLIN | **KUL** 1918

John Paul II Catholic
University of Lublin

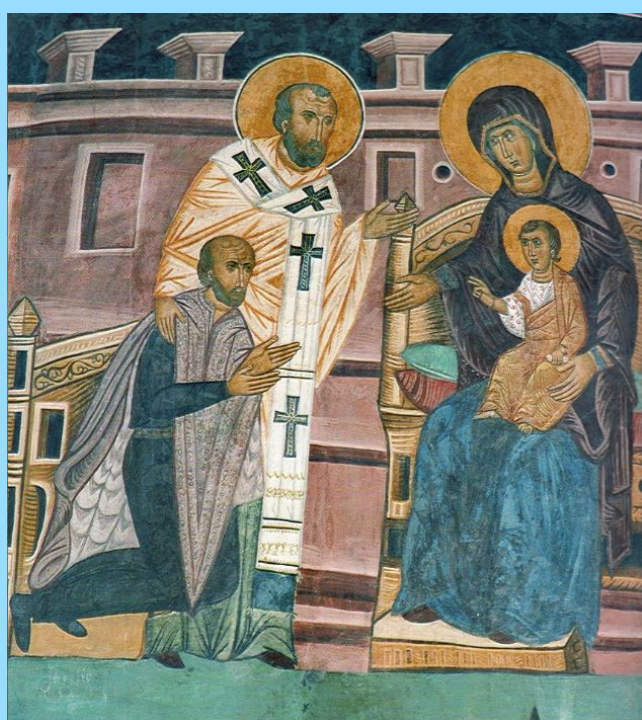


Prof. Dr. Pawel Kras, Director.
Center of Medieval Studies

palks@kul.pl

WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH (INTEREST) IN RELIGION / IDENTITY?

- Religious violence and toleration: regulations, practice, stereotypes
- Preaching and the transformations of lay piety (John of Capistrano and the Franciscan Observants in East Central Europe)
- Historiography and the construction of collective identities in the late Middle Ages and early modern period (Austria, Bohemia, Poland)



PERSPECTIVES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH & COOPERATION

- Networking and research projects (majority-minority relations framing collective and religious identities)
- Exchange of researchers and students
- Conferences and workshops

Netzwerktagung Identitäten in (Mittel- und Ost-)Europa

20.-22.05.2026

University of Sofia
Faculty of Theology



Prof. Dr. Ivaylo Naydenov

hnaydenov@theo.uni-sofia.bg

WORAN FORSCHEN SIE IM BEREICH DER IDENTITÄT UND RELIGION?

IMAGO: How do images speak? The dynamics of figures, metaphors and symbols in Christian discourse and beyond:

- Die Verwendung von Bildern im christlichen Diskurs ist komplex. Im Laufe der Geschichte wurden bestimmte Orte, Personen oder Ereignisse als Typen verstanden und mit einer symbolischen Rolle versehen. Visuelle Bilder besitzen ein enormes Potenzial, Narrative, Werte und Normen über Zeit hinweg und durch verschiedene kulturelle Räume zu verbreiten.

PERSPEKTIVEN FÜR KÜNFTIGE FORSCHUNG UND KOOPERATION

- Interdisziplinäre und komparative Forschung: Analyse der Rolle von Bildern, Metaphern und Symbolen bei der Konstruktion religiöser Identitäten im Dialog zwischen Theologie, Kunstgeschichte und Kulturwissenschaft.
- Fokus auf Transformationen und Medien: Untersuchung der Dynamiken visueller Kommunikation von traditionellen ikonographischen Formen bis hin zu digitalen und öffentlichen Bildkulturen.
- Nachhaltige Kooperationen: Aufbau gemeinsamer Forschungsprojekte, Workshops und digitaler Plattformen zur Vernetzung und langfristigen Zusammenarbeit.



Netzwerktagung Identitäten in (Mittel- und Ost-)Europa

20.-22.05.2026



Universität Mostar
Theologisch-katechetisches
Institut



Assist. Prof. Dr. Marko Šutalo, PhD
Professor für Religionspädagogik und Katechetik
Universität Mostar, Theologisch-Katechetisches Institut

marko.sutalo@tki.sum.ba

WORAN FORSCHEN SIE IM BEREICH IDENTITÄT UND RELIGION?
Meine Forschung konzentriert sich auf die Rolle der Religionspädagogik und Katechetik bei der Formung persönlicher und kollektiver Identitäten, insbesondere im multikonfessionellen und Post-Konflikt-Kontext von Bosnien und Herzegowina. Ich interessiere mich dafür, wie religiöse Bildung in Schulen und Pfarrgemeinden eine starke katholische Identität fördern und gleichzeitig den interreligiösen Dialog, Toleranz und die Friedensförderung im breiteren Rahmen Mittel- und Osteuropas vorantreiben kann.

PERSPEKTIVEN FÜR KÜNFTIGE FORSCHUNG & KOOPERATION

- **Vergleichende Studien:** Interkulturelle Forschung zur religiösen Bildung und Identitätsbildung von Jugendlichen in mittel- und osteuropäischen Ländern.
- **Entwicklung pädagogischer Modelle:** Gemeinsame Erstellung zeitgemäßer katechetischer Materialien, die aktuelle Herausforderungen (z. B. Säkularisierung, digitale Medien) aufgreifen und gleichzeitig die religiöse Identität bewahren.
- **Interreligiöse Initiativen:** Vernetzung zur Entwicklung akademischer und praktischer Modelle für den interreligiösen Dialog und die Versöhnung durch Religionspädagogik in Bildungseinrichtungen.

Netzwerktagung Identitäten in (Mittel- und Ost-)Europa

20.-22.05.2026

Georgian American
University



**Prof. Dr.
Besik Lortkipanidze**
Department of History,
School of Humanities and
Liberal Arts

beso.lort@gmail.com

**Assoc. Prof. Dr.
Nikoloz Murgulia**
Department of History,
School of Humanities and
Liberal Arts

nikomurgulia@yahoo.com

WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH (INTEREST) IN RELIGION / IDENTITY?

Soviet religious memory: Anti-Religious Policy in Soviet Georgia.

Anti-religious policy that was carried out in Soviet Georgia. From the moment they came to power, the Bolsheviks declared a ruthless struggle not only against landowners and entrepreneurs, but also against clergy of various religions. During the 1920s–1950s, churches, mosques, and synagogues were destroyed; countless priests, mullahs, and rabbis were executed, arrested, or deported.



Cover of the Georgian magazine "Mebrdzoli Ughmerto" ("Militant Atheist"). 1932.

PERSPECTIVES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH & COOPERATION

- Multireligious Caucasus – the history of coexistence of different religious confessional communities – culture, traditions, art, etc.
- Germans in Georgia – according to written sources, archival documents, and personal memoirs
- Anti-religious campaigns and repressions in Soviet Georgia

Netzwerktagung Identitäten in (Mittel- und Ost-)Europa

20.-22.05.2026

Charles University



Stu Talené

Ph.D. Candidate

Faculty of Protestant Theology, New Testament

stutalene@gmail.com

WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH (INTEREST) IN RELIGION / IDENTITY?

My project utilizes recent New Testament research regarding rhetorically competitive literary techniques and uses of genre in the ancient world in conjunction with Gilles Deleuz and Félix Guattari's socio-psychological and pragmatic metaphysics to provide a new theoretical and methodological approach to examine how Luke-Acts stutters his received traditions to create a new collective identity during times of internal and external conflict



PERSPECTIVES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH & COOPERATION

- Cultural trauma and ethics studies
- New philosophical & pragmatic tools to study the creation of ancient and contemporary collective identity
- Studies of ancient and modern religion, politics, and identity creation

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Universität Passau
 Department für
 Katholische Theologie/
 Geistes- und Kulturwissenschaftliche Fakultät

Prof. Dr. Sandra Huebenthal (Programme Director)
 Chair of Exegesis and Biblical Theology

PHD CHRISTIAN IDENTITIES AND ORIGINS (STRUCTURED PHD-PROGRAMME) *Rethinking Christianity through identity, memory, and culture*

- A unique European doctoral programme at the intersection of theology and cultural studies, exploring how Christian identities are formed, transformed, and remembered across time and contexts
- Structured, international, and research-driven: students work in small cohorts with close supervision, combining interdisciplinary methods with practical training and producing original research that engages both academia and society.

PHD Christian Identities and Origins			
Übersicht - 6 Semester (Vorläufig) - gültig ab WiSe 2023/24			
Semester	Module Area A (10 ECTS)	Module Area B (10 ECTS)	Module Area C (10 ECTS)
1	M1 Doctoral Seminar: Cultural Memory Theory (5 ECTS)	M2 Doctoral Seminar: Memory Studies and Identity (5 ECTS)	M3 Research Project and Research Questions (Doctoral Seminar / Research Retreat, 10 ECTS)
2	M4 Workshop: Historical and Cultural Studies Methods (5 ECTS)	M5 Workshop: Epistemological and Cultural Studies Methods (5 ECTS)	M4 Research Design and Proposal (Doctoral Seminar / Research Retreat, 10 ECTS)
3	M6 Workshop: Academic Writing (5 ECTS)	M6 Workshop: Science Communication / Public History (5 ECTS)	M5 Conference Participation with Poster or Presentation (5 ECTS)
4	M7 Workshop: Academic Writing (5 ECTS)	M7 Workshop: Science Communication / Public History (5 ECTS)	M6 Article or Paper in Science Communication / Public History (5 ECTS)
5	M8 Workshop: Academic Writing (5 ECTS)	M8 Workshop: Science Communication / Public History (5 ECTS)	M7 Conference Participation with Poster or Presentation (5 ECTS)
6	M9 Workshop: Academic Writing (5 ECTS)	M9 Workshop: Science Communication / Public History (5 ECTS)	M8 Presentation of Research Progress (Doctoral Colloquium / Research Retreat, 25 ECTS)
			M9 Teaching a Tutorial, Workshop, or Comparable Format in Science Communication (5 ECTS)
			M10 Submission of the PhD Thesis (10 ECTS)
			M11 PhD Thesis Defense (10 ECTS)
	10 ECTS	10 ECTS	20 ECTS
	Gesamt: 100 ECTS		100 ECTS

Sem	Module Area A: Skills Development Modules	Module Area B: Practical Modules and Soft Skills	Module Area C: Research Project, Supervision and PhD Thesis	ECTS
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M1 Doctoral Seminar: Cultural Memory Theory (5 ECTS) M2 Doctoral Seminar: Memory Studies and Identity (5 ECTS) – Interdisciplinary approaches M3 Workshop: Historical and Cultural Studies Methods (5 ECTS) M4 Workshop: Epistemological and Cultural Studies Methods (5 ECTS) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M3 Research Project and Research Questions (Doctoral Seminar / Research Retreat, 10 ECTS) – Project management and research strategy – Information on advising and coaching services – Supervision framework – Supervision meeting 	30
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M4 Workshop: Academic Writing (5 ECTS) M5 Workshop: Science Communication / Public History (5 ECTS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M4 Research Design and Proposal (Doctoral Seminar / Research Retreat, 10 ECTS) – Accompanied by 2-3 meetings – Conferencing and networking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M4 Research Design and Proposal (Doctoral Seminar / Research Retreat, 15 ECTS) – Research proposal and work plan – Supervision meeting 	30
3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M5 Conference Participation with Poster or Presentation (5 ECTS) – Accompanied by 2-3 meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M5 Article or Paper in Science Communication / Public History (5 ECTS) 	30
4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M6 Article or Paper in Science Communication / Public History (5 ECTS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M6 Conference Participation with Poster or Presentation (5 ECTS) – Accompanied by 2-3 meetings 	30
5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M7 Conference Participation with Poster or Presentation (5 ECTS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M7 Teaching a Tutorial, Workshop, or Comparable Format in Science Communication (5 ECTS) 	30
6		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M8 Presentation of Research Progress (Doctoral Colloquium / Research Retreat, 25 ECTS) – Presentation of written work in progress – Supervision meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M8 Submission of the PhD Thesis (10 ECTS) M9 PhD Thesis Defense (10 ECTS) 	30
ECTS	30	20	50	100

PERSPECTIVES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH & COOPERATION

- We warmly welcome programme partners, including hosts for international study weeks
- We invite colleagues to join us in supervising doctoral research
- We encourage applications and the active promotion of the programme within your networks



Passau International
 Centre for Advanced
 Interdisciplinary Studies



Netzwerktagung Identitäten in (Mittel- und Ost-)Europa

20.-22.05.2026

St. Patrick's Pontifical
University



Rev. Dr. John-Paul Sheridan

Lecturer and Coordinator of Education Programmes

WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH (INTEREST) IN RELIGION / IDENTITY?

I have written on the subject of Religious Education and Catechesis, as well as on Children and Liturgy. In my role, I have been closely involved in the development and delivery of programmes aimed at supporting both initial teacher education and the ongoing professional formation of educators.

My work reflects a particular interest in the integration of faith, identity and practice within contemporary educational contexts, with a focus on nurturing reflective and critically engaged practitioners.

I am committed to fostering dialogue between identity and education, and my teaching encourages students to engage deeply with the theological tradition while remaining attentive to the lived realities of learners in diverse settings.

PERSPECTIVES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH & COOPERATION

I have recently returned to the area of my PhD research, which is teacher identity and formation. This renewed focus opens up important perspectives for future research and collaboration, particularly in understanding how educators articulate their professional and vocational identities in complex contexts.

- I am especially interested in arts-based and reflective methodologies as ways of accessing the lived experience of teachers. I aim to explore how these approaches can contribute to both initial teacher education and ongoing professional development.
- I am keen to develop partnerships that examine the intersection of faith, identity, and practice. I am also interested in comparative and international research on teacher formation across diverse cultural settings. Such collaboration could support the co-creation of resources and programmes that respond to the evolving needs of educators, particularly in Religious Education and faith-based schooling.
- Ultimately, my aim is to contribute to research that deepens theoretical understanding while also having a tangible impact on practice. I seek to support teachers as reflective, resilient, and ethically grounded professionals.



Netzwerktagung Identitäten in (Mittel- und Ost-)Europa

20.-22.05.2026



**Babeş-Bolyai Universität
Cluj (Klausenburg)-Ro**



UNIVERSITATEA BABEŞ-BOLYAI
BABEŞ-BOLYAI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM
BABEŞ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITÄT
BABEŞ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY
TRADITIO ET EXCELLENTIA

**Dr. Habil. Sarolta Püsök, Universitätsdozentin
Fakultät für Reformierte Theologie und Musik
Systematische Theologie**

sarolta.pusok@ubbcluj.ro, pusoksarolta@gmail.com

WORAN FORSCHEN SIE IM BEREICH DER IDENTITÄT UND RELIGION?

- Die verschiedenen identitätsbildenden Faktoren
- Die gemeinsame Geschichte in Rumänien (rumänische, ungarische, siebenbürgisch-sächsische und -schwäbische, armenische, hutterische, jüdische, türkische usw. Gemeinschaften)
- Analyse der gesellschaftlichen Veränderungen nach dem Systemwechsel und ihrer Folgen

PERSPEKTIVEN FÜR KÜNFTIGE FORSCHUNG UND KOOPERATION

Eine Untersuchung der Identitätsbildung im Zuge der Veränderungen des 20. und 21. Jahrhunderts in Mittel- und Osteuropa

Die Suche nach Antworten auf bioethische Fragen, die sich im Zuge dieser Veränderungen stellen.