

Workshop: Cultural encounters and the origins of violence

Date: 27-28 March 2023

Location: Freiburg Institute for Advanced Study (FRIAS), Freiburg, Germany

The workshop will take place in a hybrid format.

Convenors: Judith Becker, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany; Julia Torrie, FRIAS External Fellow 2022-23, St. Thomas University Fredericton, Canada

For reasons that ranged from engaging in trade and migration through experiencing persecution, colonization and violence, people with (perceived) different backgrounds came to share the same physical spaces. The resulting encounters juxtaposed individuals with varying values, experiences and religious or secular worldviews. Frequently, these individuals found ways to live together peacefully. Sometimes, their interactions became violent. When people of different backgrounds coexisted peacefully, why did their peaceful coexistence end? What caused relationships to shift from peaceful to contentious (or from contentious to peaceful)? Using a series of historical examples, this workshop will explore peaceful coexistence and inter-community violence, as well as the interstices between these two states and, especially, the turning-points between harmony, friendship, community, accommodation and peace on the one hand, and conflict, tension and violence on the other.

The workshop bring together scholars of religious history, cultural history and the history of war and violence to explore these questions in the 19th and 20th centuries, which were marked by colonialism and industrial warfare. Conflicts arose in which perceived cultural, ethnic and religious identities served as grounds for violence. The workshop aims to open up opportunities for interdisciplinary discussion and networking between historians of war and violence and historians of religion and culture.

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Please note: Times are given in CET because the group meeting in person will meet in Germany

Monday, 27 March

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| 14.00–14.30 | Julia Torrie/Judith Becker: Introduction |
| 14.30–16.00 | Eveline G. Bouwers (Mainz): Catholicism as a Category of Difference: Religion-Related Violence in the Nineteenth-Century World |
| | Mahalakshmi Rakesh (New Delhi): Encountering Cultures: Reading Monier Williams' <i>Modern India and the Indians</i> |
| 16.00–16.30 | <i>Break</i> |
| 16.30–18.00 | Jairzinho Lopes Pereira (Stavanger): Dynamics of Loyalties in the Missionary Accounts of Colonial Violence in the Congo-Angola Region (1890-1975) |
| | Margherita Picchi (Cape Town/Freiburg): Being Muslim in a rainbow society: suggestions from the pulpit of Cape Town's Claremont Main Road Mosque |
| 18.00–18.30 | <i>Break</i> |

18.30–20.00 Panel Discussion: Peaceful cohabitation and conflict: before and during the war in Ukraine (Moderator: Dietmar Neutatz; Panelists: Michael Abeßer, Elmira Akhmetova, Oksana Mykhalchuk)

Tuesday, 28 March

9.00–10.30 François Wassouni (Maroua): Terrorist narratives, radicalization and Boko Haram's violent extremism in the Lake Tchad region

Judith Becker (Berlin): Reactions of Christian internationalists to the outbreak and end of World War I

10.30–11.00 *Break*

11.00–12.30 Julia Torrie (Fredericton/Freiburg): Encounters, underlying violence and open violence: attacks on German personnel in occupied France, 1940-44

Amar Mohand-Amer (Oran): How did the "Evian Accords" aim to "pacify" the end of the war in 1962 in Algeria?

12.30–13.30 Résumé and Final discussion (led by Jürgen Osterhammel, Freiburg)