

Research

Version November 2010

Research Areas and Projects

Bielefeld University (2006 -)

Since 2006-
Bielefeld University

Since my acceptance of a chair at Bielefeld University, I have been developing various research projects in religious studies with an **empirical** and **interdisciplinary orientation**. These have resulted in several applications for research grants to the German Research Foundation (DFG) as well as in cooperative projects with local, national and international colleagues. These activities have effected a certain concentration of my research program as well. The methodological and theoretical basis of all research projects in the sociology of religion is my *analysis of habitus*, which builds on Bourdieu's sociology (see various publications as well as a new monograph, to be published in 2011). Most of the PhD theses under my supervision thus work in synergy to publish, in the near future, a model for the analysis and theory of religious identities. The areas of material research are situated in religion, social inequality and conflict, as well as in religion and transnationalization. This basic research will stimulate work in the social sciences and religious studies as well as in theology, especially in theological ethics.

Externally funded research

- 1) DFG [German Research Foundation] Project: **The Ethos of Religious Peace Builders (Bosnia and Herzegovina)**. From 2008, for 3 years. Funding for 2 PhD students. Research into identity dispositions of religious actors in conflicts and peace processes.
- 2) DFG Project: **Religious Belief and Social Action in Guatemala und Nicaragua, 1985/2012**. Under submission. For 3 years. Funding for 2 PhD students. Follow-on project with a diachronic perspective, already formulated in large part.
- 3) PhD Project CONACYT (Mexican Counterpart of DFG): **Religious Diversity under conditions of relative social equality**. Since October 2009. Field research finished. Cooperation with the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México*.
- 4) PhD Project funded by German National Academic Foundation: **Religious Taste. Religious preferences and social stratification using the example of religious change in Buenos Aires**. Since 2007, for 3 years, 1 PhD.
- 5) DFG Research Group Application: **The Field of Identity Politics in the Americas**, subproject: *Religious Identities, Identity Politics and*

Transnational Symbolic Resources in the Framework of Ethnically Hybrid and Socially Unequal Context in the Periphery of São Paulo. Under submission. 1 PhD position for subproject, 3 years. Cooperation with the *Universidade Metodista de São Paulo*.

6) Application for DFG-Priority Program: **Religion –Conflict – Peace: Violence and Peace Potentials of Religions and Communities of Faith in Crisis and War Situations**; Cooperation, main applicant Prof. A. Hasenclever; under submission.

7) Cooperation on Application for a Cluster of Excellence to the DFG: **Signatures of Threat**. Cooperation of 20 Researchers; speaker: Prof. Dr. W. Heitmeyer, Institute for Interdisciplinary Research on Conflict and Violence, Bielefeld University. Under submission

PhD Thesis Projects attached to Specific Research Areas:

- Peace Builders in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Seibert)
- Religious Preferences in Argentina (Köhrsen)
- Religious Diversity in Mexico (Tovar)
- Conflict Mediation and Theological Ethics (Stockmeier)
- Pentecostal Movement, Shamanism and the Theology of the Kingdom of God in Korea (Kim)

My Own Research, Partly in Cooperation with Members of my Team:

- Bertelsmann Foundation “**Religion Monitor**“: work on the areas of Pentecostal Movement Worldwide and Latin America (see Publications).
- PEW-Foundation “**Spirit and Power**“, a 10-Country Survey of the Pentecostal Movement. Analysis of the data in cooperation with the Statistics Consulting Centre of Bielefeld University.
- **Fundamentalism**. Long-term research focus dating back to the 1980s and intensified since my cooperation in an international research group of the World Council of Churches at the Chateau de Bossey, Geneva (1998 to 2002, see below). A comparative study of Islamic and Christian fundamentalism was published in 2008 by Suhrkamp Verlag (see Publications).
- **Habitus Analysis**. Elaboration of my own method of qualitative interview analysis, begun in the 1980s, and its testing in current projects; published in a joint book with three co-authors (see Publications)
- **Religious Identity as Network**. Elaboration of the theoretical foundation of habitus analysis and of further empirical findings into a theory.
- **Pneumatology and Second Modernity**. Area of work in the theological theory of the Holy Spirit; dates back to research and teaching in Latin America since 1997, especially to an interreligious dialogue with the American-Indian and African-American religions, the debate with activists of social movements about problems concerning justice and the ecology, and the critical cooperation with the Pentecostal Movement. The hermeneutic approach in a contextual theology informed by the social sciences opens up the possibility of a formulation of Christian pneumatology that can readily be communicated, and is relevant, to the public at large in the fields of interreligious dialogue, ecology, justice or new religious and social movements.

During my Professorships in Latin America (1995-2003)

During my time in Latin America, work on and with the **Pentecostal Movement** was continued steadily, and will for this reason not be mentioned as a separate research project. The major research areas of this period are the following:

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| 1998 to 2002
Ecumenical Institute,
Bossey / Geneva | World Religions in the Process of Globalization
Regular collaboration in an interdisciplinary and intercultural research group on the role of religions at the points of friction of cultural, economic and political globalization, and on the chances for an interreligious dialogue. Specialization in the political lines of conflict between religions, fundamentalisms and questions of theory (see Publications: in preparation) |
| 1998 - 2002
Humboldt University,
Berlin | Network Theory of Cultural Identity
On the basis of an empirical study of religious movements, development of a method for the analysis of concrete cultural identities as well as of a theory of identity, which offers at the same time a method of intercultural understanding. |
| 1996 to 2002
Ruhr University,
Bochum | Religion as Practical Logic
Reading religion and theology as differently specialized logics of social practice that, together with societal variables, open up specific possibilities of social action. Amongst other things, also a theoretical approach for comparative religious research with a pragmatic orientation. |

During my PhD Studies at the University of Bochum (1985-1986)

In the framework of my thesis in theology at the University of Bochum (supervised by Prof. Konrad Raiser), I worked on two empirical topics which found their way into my thesis in different ways.

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| 1985
Guatemala | Field Research on the Presbyterian Church (1882-1986)
A social-historical investigation into a church of Historical Protestantism in the framework of political and ethnic conflicts as well as religious competition. Oral-history method. <i>Funding:</i> World Council of Churches, Protestant Academy Villigst, World Alliance of Reformed Churches. |
| 1983, 1985 and 1986
Guatemala, Nicaragua | Field Research on religious movements in crisis regions
Qualitative and quantitative studies on fast growing religious movements, in particular the Pentecostal Movement and Evangelicalism. Foundation for a development of a discourse-analytical research method in the framework of Pierre Bourdieu's social theory. <i>Funding:</i> World Council of Churches, Protestant Academy Villigst. |

Scientific Cooperations

Bielefeld (2006 -)

Since 2006,
Bielefeld University

Interdisciplinary Cooperations at the Bielefeld University *Inter-American Studies*

- Preparatory work for an application for a **DFG Research Group:** The Field of Identity Politics in the Americas (s.a.) Inter-American Studies Program, Department of History, Faculty of Literary Studies, Faculty of Sociology, Department of Theology.
- Preparatory work for an application to the **BMBF** (Federal Ministry of Education and Research) on *Intercultural and Transnational Dynamics in the Americas*. Inter-American Studies Program, Department of History, Faculty of Literary Studies, Faculty of Sociology, Department of Theology
- **Application for a cluster of excellence:** *Signatures of Threat* In cooperation with 19 colleagues from widely different disciplines, inter alia Psychology, Education, Health Science, History, Theology etc.

Institute for Interdisciplinary Research on Conflict and Violence

- **Graduate School *Group-focused Enmity*** (Institute for Interdisciplinary Research on Conflict and Violence, Bielefeld University): Heading a working group on the topics of "Fundamentalism in the USA" and "Research Methodology", and a lecture on research methodology (2006).

Faculty of Sociology

- All research projects in the sociology of religion.

Bielefeld Centre for Education and Capability Research

- Work on problems in the area of conflict between universalist and communitarian ethics (see Publications).

2006 -
Bielefeld University

Cooperations at the national level

- ***Interdisciplinary Research Network on Religion and Conflict*** at the research centre of the Evangelische Studiengemeinschaft (FEST, Protestant Institute for Interdisciplinary Research) founded in cooperation with the German Foundation for Peace Research and the Protestant Academies in Germany: Member of the Guide Lines Committee.
- ***Interdisciplinary Research Group on Pentecostalism***, University of Heidelberg. (A cooperative body of German-language researchers on the Pentecostal Movement).
- ***Bertelsmann Foundation:*** Collaboration on the *Religion Monitor* (Pentecostal Movement worldwide, Latin America).
- ***Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GtZ, Society for Technological Cooperation):*** Knowledge transfer from the research project on peace builders in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2006 -
Bielefeld University

Cooperations at the international level

- University of **Sarajevo**, Center for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies, Bosnia and Herzegovina: DFG-project on Religious Peace Builders.

- Universidad Nacional Autónoma de **México**: CONACYT project *Religious Diversity...*
- Universidade Metodista de **São Paulo**, Brazil: DFG-Research Group *The Field of Identity Politics...*, cooperative project.
- Universidad de **Buenos Aires** (*CEIL-PIETTE*) and *Instituto Superior de Teología*, Argentina; project “*Religious Preferences in Argentina*”.
- New York University, **New York**, USA (Professor Marcia Pally): Research on fundamentalisms, religion and politics in the USA.
- University of **Chicago**, Martin Marty Center (Professor Andrea Althoff): Latin-American Migrants of the Charismatic and Pentecostal Movements.
- Red Latinoamericana de Estudios del Pentecostalismo (RELEP, **Latin-American** research network of the Pentecostal Movement): a research group of academics, who are members of Pentecostal churches, with the aim to conduct interdisciplinary research on the Pentecostal Movement. Collaboration since 2002 as the only non-Pentecostal and non-Latin American member.
- **European** Research Network on Global Pentecostalism (GloPent): Collaboration on the website, conferences.
- **Inter-American-European** research group *E pluribus unum? Identities in processes of transnationalization in the Americas* (10/08 - 8/09) at the Bielefeld Center for Interdisciplinary Research: Associated Fellow.

During my Professorships in Costa Rica (1995-2003)

1992 - 2003
Germany, Switzerland,
Costa Rica, Mexico,
USA, Brazil etc.

Institutions

Seminars, lectures, and working groups for such institutions and organizations as *Chateau de Bossey*, WCC; *United Nations Population Fund* (UNFPA); *Consejo Latinoamericano de Iglesias* (CLAI); *Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales* (FLACSO); *Instituto de Estudos da Religião* (ISER); *Departamento Ecuménico de Investigaciones* (DEI); as well as the universities of Basel, Bochum, Cologne and Hamburg.

Subject Areas

Religious and cultural identities and strategies; religion and societal living conditions; religious and social movements; the Pentecostal Movement and Afro-American religions; theologies of the Pentecostal Movement and Liberation Theology; social science theories of actions; the sociology of Pierre Bourdieu; discourse analysis; cultural transnationalization; intercultural hermeneutics; the ecumenical movement.

Current Memberships in Scientific Associations

- Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft für Theologie (WGTh, Scientific Society of Theology)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Religionswissenschaft (DVRW, German Society for the History of Religion)

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziologie (DGS, German Society for Sociology)
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutsche Lateinamerikaforschung (ADLAF, German Society for Latin American Studies)
- Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR)
- International Society for the Sociology of Religion (ISSR)
- Forschungsverbund Religion und Konflikt (FVRK, Research Network on Religion and Conflict)
- Interdisziplinärer Arbeitskreis Pfingstbewegung (IAKP, Interdisciplinary Research Group on Pentecostalism)
- European Research Network on Global Pentecostalism (GloPent)

List of Lectures and Presentations at Recent Conferences

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| Bielefeld/Sarajevo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Symposium in cooperation with the University of Sarajevo and the German Society for Technological Cooperation (GtZ) at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF): <i>The ethos of religious peace builders in Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>, 16.-19.7.2007. Lecture on methodological perspectives of research. |
| Berlin | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Institute for Advanced Study</i>, Berlin, 7.6.2007: Colloquium with Prof. Marcia Pally, New York University, on religion and foreign policy in the USA. |
| São Paulo, Brazil | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Universidade Metodista de São Paulo</i>, Brazil, 4.10.2007. Lecture on "Fundamentalisms, modernities, and global political tensions". |
| Concepción, Chile | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Universidad de Concepción</i>, Chile, lecture on „Worldwide Pentecostalism: comparative observations“, 19.5.2008. |
| Santiago, Chile | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Red Latinoamericana de Estudios del Pentecostalismo (RELEP)</i>, lecture on "Latin American Pentecostalism – some basic orientations and hypotheses", Santiago de Chile, 22.5.2008. |
| Buenos Aires, Argentina | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Universidad de Buenos Aires</i>, CEIL-PIETTE, Argentina, lecture on "The method of analysis of habitus", Buenos Aires, 26.5.2008. |
| Bielefeld,
Latin America and USA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Center for Interdisciplinary Research</i>, research group <i>E pluribus unum?</i> – Initial Conference, lecture on "The field of identity politics – a theoretical approach", Bielefeld, 9.11.2008. |
| Luisville, USA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR)</i>, annual conference at Luisville, KT, lecture on "Religious logic, social position and religious identity politics", Luisville, 18.10.2008. |
| Santiago de Compostela,
Spain | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>International Society for the Sociology of Religions</i>, international congress, Santiago de Compostela, Spain, July 2009, paper: "Theory and method of habitus-analysis". |
| Hamburg | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Workshop on <i>Pentecostalism in transformation</i>, Hamburg, 26.-28.4.2009, paper: "Pfingstkirchen, soziale Differenzierung und Identitätspolitik (Pentecostals, social differentiation and identity politics)". |
| Bielefeld | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International conference on <i>Closing the Capability Gap – Renegotiating social justice for the young</i>. 16.5.2009 Bielefeld University, Germany: "Concluding statement for final debate". |
| Berlin | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Conference, <i>Freie Universität Berlin: "30 years Sandinista revolution – retrospective and presence of transnational movements"</i>, 9. -11. 7.2009, Berlin. Paper: "Los santos en la revolución – sobre el rol de los movimientos religiosos (The Saints |

- in revolution – on the role of religious movements)”.
 Münster
 - International Conference, Universität Münster: *Crossroads – Christentümer in Bewegungen und Begegnungen* (... Christendoms in movement and encounter), Münster, 8.-10.10.2009. Paper: “Erfolg (neo-) pentekostaler Christentümer – Ursachenanalyse” (The success of (Neo-) Pentecostal christendoms – in search of the causes).
 Copenhagen, Denmark
 - International Congress, University of Copenhagen, *Beyond Bourdieu - Habitus, Capital & Social Stratification*, 1.-2.12.2009. Paper: “Habitus-Analysis: a method to analyze cognitive operators of practical logic”.
 Eschborn
 - Congress of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutsche Lateinamerika-Forschung on *Wie (un)abhängig ist Lateinamerika? (How independent is Latin America?)*, 27.-29.5.2010, Eschborn (GtZ). Paper: “Interdependencias religiosas – políticas transnacionales de identidad del movimiento pentecostal. (Religious Interdependencies – transnational identity politics of the Pentecostal Movement)“.
 Gothenburg, Sweden
 - International Sociological Association, XVII World Congress of Sociology, 11.-17.7.2010, Gothenburg. Papers: “Uncertainty management by risk-specific religious habitus construction” and “Social power and religion – creative potentialities of Pierre Bourdieu’s sociology”. In addition, two papers from members of my team (Köhrsen, Seibert).
 Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Fifth International Conference on *Unity and Plurality in Europe*, Forum Bosna, 1.-3.8.2010, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Paper together with Zrinka Štimac and Leif Seibert: “The Ethos of Religious Peace Builders. Intermediate results from the research project on religion and post-conflict peace building in Bosnia and Herzegovina”.
 Mexico City, Mexico
 - Instituto de Investigación Social, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Symposium *Actos de Fe y sus actores.*, 2.9.2010. Paper: “Pentecostalismo latinoamericano: algunas observaciones e hipótesis”.
 Frankfurt
 - Kongress 2010 der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie; section sociology of religion, 11.-15.10.2010. Paper: “Der Geist ist transnational – und lokal: zur religiösen Transnationalisierung aus der Sicht Lateinamerikas” (The spirit is transnational – and local: On religious transnationalization from the point of view of Latin America].
 New York, USA
 - New York University, public Round Table with José Casanova, Muqtedar Khan, Adrian Pabst and Marcia Pally, 21.10.2010. Paper: “Religious truth claims and liberal democracy“.
 Halle
 - Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, conference on *Religion in disputes*, 27.-29.10.2010. Paper on “Religion as schemes of meaning”.

Heinrich Wilhelm Schäfer

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