Contributors

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Karl Baier studied philosophy, cultural anthropology and Catholic theology at Vienna University. Between 1987 and 2009 he worked as assistant and assistant professor at the Institute of Christian Philosophy at the faculty of Catholic Theology, University of Vienna. In 2008 he submitted his habilitation thesis on the history of modern meditation and subsequently became professor at the Institute of Religious Studies, Vienna University. Besides his university employment he works since several decades as certified Iyengar Yoga teacher.

His current research interests include: Alternative religion, esotericism and occultism, Mesmerism, modern yoga, Psychedelia

Most important/recent publications: Meditation und Moderne. 2 vols. Würzburg: Königshausen und Neumann 2009; Karl Baier, Philipp A. Maas, Karin Preisendanz, eds. Yoga in Transformation. Historical and Contemporary Perspectives. Göttingen: V&R unipress 2018.

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Léo Bernard holds a PhD in history and religious studies from the École Pratique des Hautes Études (Université PSL – Paris). His doctoral thesis (defended in 2021) was focused on the relations between esoteric currents and medical holism in France during the interwar period. He is the co-founder and president of the Association Francophone pour l'Étude Universitaire des Courants Ésotériques (FRÉSO).

His current research interests include: Modern esoteric currents and medical holism Most important/recent publications: Léo Bernard, "La médecine néo-hippocratique des années 1930: le temps d'une rencontre," edited by Olivier Faure and Hervé Guillemain. Pour en finir avec les médecines parallèles, *Histoire*, *médecine et santé*, no.14 (hiver 2018): p.63–81.

Bodendörfer, Judith, Doctoral candidate, Université de Fribourg, Freiburg, Switzerland Judith Bodendörfer (*1987) studied religious studies, philosophy and sociology at the Ludwig-Maximilians Univeristät in Munich. Since April 2015 she is a PhD candidate in the project Die Geschichte der Religionswissenschaft in Auseinandersetzung mit nicht hegemonialen, insbesondere theosophischen Strömungen at the Université de Fribourg in Switzerland.

Her current research interests include: History of science, intellectual history of occult ideas, occultism and literature, Theosophical Society, Society for Psychical Research.

Most important/recent publications: Friedrich Max Müllers Science of Religion in Auseinandersetzung mit der Theosophischen Gesellschaft (PhD. diss., working title, forthcoming)

Böhme, Sabine M.A., Independent researcher, Berlin, Germany

Sabine Böhme studied Near Eastern Archaeology, Cuneiform and Prehistory at Albert-Ludwigs University, Freiburg. Then a sequence of several excavations in Syria followed: Tell Bi'a, Tell Sheich Hamad, Medinat al-Far, Tell Knedig. After living in Istanbul 1996–2000 she received vocational training in cultural management and started working on different projects

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(f.e. Assur exhibition 2004, Jordan exhibition 2006) with the Museum of Ancient Near East. Berlin from 2002 until now. In 1997 her daughter was born. In 2006 her first children's book about the museum was published. Around that time she started to work with schools in Berlin and different museums with the aim of a sustainable cooperation (last project: Gartenzwerg trifft Nebukadnezar 2016/17). She acted as a consultant for the primary school curriculum in Berlin-Brandenburg with the focus on establishing cooperation between schools and museums. During her second stay in Istanbul (2008–2012) she published several articles on topics connecting Ancient Near Eastern archaeology and the history of Istanbul, Since 2014 Sabine Böhme has devoted herself to research on the work and life of Walter Andrae, the founder and first curator of the Vorderasiatische Museum (Museum of Anceint Near East, Berlin). He is best known for his pain-staking reconstruction of the famous Ishtar Gate out of glazed and colourful brick fragments from the German excavations in Babylon before World War I. His professional friendship with the remarkable Gertrude Bell was to be crucial for securing these findings for Germany after the War. Sabine Böhme has made it her aim amongst others to find out more about the esoteric aspects of Walter Andrae's vision of a museum which he implemented in form of the Ancient Near Eastern exhibition in the Vorderasiatische Museum since 1928-1936.

Her current research interests include: The reception of the Ancient Near East in the beginning of the 20th century in Germany and its important impact by Walter Andrae and his anthroposophical leanings.

Most important/recent publications: "Die Goldene Leibniz-Medaille, eine Grußblatt-Sammlung, eine 'Festschrift' sowie ein Exlibris und die 'deutsche Wissenschaftstradition': Späte Ehrungen für Bruno Güterbocks (1858-1940) unendliche Arbeit als Schriftführer der DOG im Jahr 1928." Marru 6, 2018, 311-29.; "Ein Anthroposoph lässt in Berlin den Alten Orient wiedererstehen: Aus dem Gemessenen das Unermessliche." Antike Welt 4, 2017, 35-39.; "Katalog der neuassyrischen Siegelzylinderabrollungen und Stempelabdrücke auf Tontafeln, aufbewahrt im Eski Şark Müzesi, Istanbul (Nr. Ist.1-89)." In Die neuassyrische Glyptik aus Assur. Evelyn Klengel-Brandt. Wissenschaftliche Veröffentlichungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft 140, 2014, 37-65.; "Männer jagen, Frauen sammeln?" Der Weg einer Archäologin in den Orient. Verlag Hans Schiler.2012; together with Karen Bartram. Islamische Kunst für junge Leser. Eine Reise durch die Geschichte. E.A. Seemann.

Cyranka, Daniel Professor Dr., Professor of Religious Studies and Intercultural Theology, Martin-Luther -University Halle-Wittenberg, Halle, Germany

Daniel Cyranka, born 1969, studied Protestant Theology, Philosophy and Contemporary History in Naumburg, Tübingen, Berlin and Halle (1989-1997). (1997: Diploma (Evangelical Theology); 2004: Doctorate to Dr. theol. ("Lessing in reincarnation discourse"; summa cum laude); 2010: Habilitation as Dr. theol. habil. ("Studies on the German Image of Mohammed in the 18th Century"), Grant of the venia legendi for ecumenics, denominational studies, religious studies). 2011–2012 he was (temporary) Chair of Mission Studies and Religious Studies at the Faculty of Theology, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. In 2012 he was appointment as University Professor for Religious Studies and Intercultural Theology at the Faculty of Theology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, From 2014 to 2017 he was chairman of the Section "Religious Studies and Intercultural Theology" of the Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft für Theologie/Academic Society of Theology (WGTh) and since 2017 he is Member of the Executive Board of the Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft für Theologie/Academic Society of Theology (WGTh). Since 2015 he is coopted member of the

Philosophical Faculty I (Social Sciences and Historical Cultural Studies) of Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. From 2016 to 2018 he was Director of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Pietism Research (IZP) and from 2018 to 2020 he was Dean of the Faculty of Theology.

His current research interests include: Modern History of Religion, Contextual Theologies, Study of Esotericism, Enlightenment/Pietism and Religions, History of Protestant Mission, (Post-) Colonialism and the History of Religions

Most important/recent publications: Mahomet. Repräsentationen des Propheten in deutschsprachiger Literatur des 18. Jahrhunderts, 566. Göttingen: BERG, 6, 2018; Lessing im Reinkarnationsdiskurs. Eine Untersuchung zu Kontext und Wirkung von G. E. Lessings Texten zur Seelenwanderung, 522. Göttingen: KKR, 49, 2005; "Von der 'protestantischen Revolution' in den 'religionslosen Osten'. Überlegungen zur Macht von Repräsentationen." In Religion – Macht – Raum. Religiöse Machtansprüche und ihre medialen Repräsentationen. Edited by Daniel Cyranka and Henning Wrogemann, 141–154. Leipzig: VWGTh, 56, 2018; "Glaube als Gegenstand der Religionswissenschaft." In Glaube. Edited by Friedrich-Wilhelm Horn, 197–229. Tübingen: TdT, 13, 2018; Religious revolutionaries and Spiritualism in Germany around 1848. Aries 1 (2016): 13–48.

Frenschkowski, Marco Professor Dr., Professor of New Testament Studies and ancient Graeco-Roman religion (chair), Leipzig, Germany

Born 1960, studied Protestant Theology and Greek language and literature 1978–1983 at Mainz and Tübingen, teaching at a number of universities, since 2011 at Leipzig University.

His current research interests include: Early Christianity, magic both in antiquity and in modern times, religions in antiquity, new religious movements, religious pluralism in modern societies and interreligious dialogue, imaginative literature, library science.

Most important/recent publications: Magie im antiken Christentum: Eine Studie zur Alten Kirche und ihrem Umfeld. Stuttgart: Anton Hiersemann, 2016; Prophetie. Innovation, Tradition und Subversion in spätantiken Religionen. Stuttgart: Anton Hiersemann, 2018; Gustav Meyrink, Gesammelte Werke. edited by Marco Frenschkowski. Wiesbaden: Marix 2014. (4 of 8 volumes have appeared, annotated edition); Zauberbücher: Die Leipziger Magica-Sammlung im Schatten der Frühaufklärung. Katalog zur Ausstellung der Universitätsbibliothek Leipzig 15. 11. 2019–16. 02. 2020. Leipzig: Universitätsbibliothek Leipzig 2019

Huss, Boaz Professor Dr., Professor, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Be'er Scheva, Israel Boaz Huss teaches at the Goldstein-Goren Department of Jewish Thought at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. He is the vice-President of the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism and a co-Director of MEIDA Centre (Israeli Information Centre on New Religious Movements).

His current research interests include: The history of Kabbalah, Contemporary Kabbalah, Western esotericism, New Age Culture and New Religious Movements in Israel.

Most important/recent publications: The Zohar: Reception and Impact. The Littman Library of Oxford: Jewish Civilization, 2016; The Genealogy of Jewish Mysticism and the Theologies of Kabbalah Research. Tel Aviv: Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2016; "'The Quest Universal:' Moses Gaster's Interest in Kabbalah and Western Esotericism," Kabbalah 40, (2018).

Kollmar-Paulenz, Karénina Professor Dr., Full professor and chair, Institute for the Science of Religion, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland

Karénina Kollmar-Paulenz is full professor and chair of History of Religions and Central Asian Studies at the Department of the Arts and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, University of Bern, Switzerland. Having earned her M.A. degree in Tibetan Studies from Bonn University/Germany, she did her graduate work in Tibetan and Mongolian Studies at Bonn University and was awarded the Ph.D. in 1991 for a dissertation on the Zhi byed- and gCod school of Tibetan Buddhism. She was a postdoctoral lecturer at the universities of Bonn, Marburg and Moscow, and in 1999 received her habilitation in Central Asian Studies from Bonn University for a study of the Erdeni tunumal neretü sudur, an early 17th century Mongolian chronicle. Among her research awards have been grants from the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes, the German Research Foundation, the Swiss National Science Foundation, and the Gerda Henkel Foundation. She has conducted extensive fieldwork among exile Tibetans in Northern India and, in recent years, in Mongolia. She has authored and edited eleven books and has written numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals.

Her current research interests include: History of Inner Asian knowledge cultures, Global history of religion, The Tibet-Mongolia Interface, religion and politics in Inner Asia, reception of Buddhism in Europe.

Most important/recent publications: Erdeni tunumal neretü sudur: Die Biographie des Altan qayan der Tümed-Mongolen; Ein Beitrag zur Geschichte der religionspolitischen Beziehungen zwischen der Mongolei und Tibet im ausgehenden 16. Jahrhundert. Asiatische Forschungen, 142. Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 2001; "Lamas und Schamanen: Mongolische Wissensordnungen vom frühen 17. bis zum 21. Jahrhundert; Ein Beitrag zur Debatte um aussereuropäische Religionsbegriffe." In Religion in Asien? Studien zur Anwendbarkeit des Religionsbegriffs edited by Peter Schalk, Max Deeg, Oliver Freiberger, Christoph Kleine and Astrid van Nahl, 151-200. Uppsala: Uppsala Universitet, 2013; "Systematically Ordering the World: the Encounter of Buriyad-Mongolian, Tibetan and Russian Knowledge Cultures in the 19th century." In "L'orientalisme des marges: éclairages à partir de l'Inde et de la Russie". Edited by Philippe Bornet and Svetlana Gorshenina. Etudes de Lettres, 2-3, (2014): 123-146.; "Of Yellow Teaching and Black Faith: Entangled Knowledge Cultures and the Creation of Religious Traditions." In Dynamics of Religion: Past and Present. Edited by Christop Bochinger and Jörg Rüpke, 231–250. Berlin/Boston: de Gruyter, 2016.

Krämer, Hans Martin Professor Dr., Full Professor, Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany Hans Martin Krämer (born 1972) studied History, Japanese Studies, and Philosophy at Heinrich Heine University (Düsseldorf, Germany), Sophia University (Tokyo, Japan), and Ruhr University (Bochum, Germany). After research stays at the University of Tokyo, Harvard University, and the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Kyoto, Japan), he was assistant professor for Japanese Studies in Bochum. Since 2012, he is professor for Japanese Studies (History/Society) at Heidelberg University in Germany. His work has appeared in The Journal of Asian Studies, Monumenta Nipponica, Social Science Japan Journal, and a number of other German-, Japanese-, and English-language venues.

His current research interests include: social, cultural, and religious history of early modern and modern Japan

Most important/recent publications: With Julian Strube, eds. Theosophy Across Boundaries: Transcultural and Interdisciplinary Perspectives on a Modern Esoteric Movement. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2020; With Björn Bentlage, Marion Eggert, and Stefan Reichmuth, eds. Religious Dynamics under the Impact of Imperialism and Colonialism: A Sourcebook. Leiden: Brill, 2017; Shimaji Mokurai and the Reconception of Religion and the Secular in

Modern Japan. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2015; "Pan-Asianism's Religious Undercurrents: The Reception of Islam and Translation of the Qur'ān in Twentieth-Century Japan." The Journal of Asian Studies 73, 3 (2014): 619–640.

Mühlematter, Yves Research and Teaching Assistant, Department for Teacher Education, University of Freiburg, Switzerland; Lecturer in Teacher Training, PHBern, Switzerland.

In his doctoral dissertation (2021), Mühlematter examines hybridization processes between Theosophy and "Hinduism." These processes resulted in the publication of two textbooks which were used in several schools in India and became the basis for religious instruction in the Benares Hindu University. In his new project, he examines the implementation of Education for Sustainable Development in German-speaking countries while following up on his interest in textbook research and classroom communication.

His current research interests include: Education for Sustainable Development, intercultural communication and education, textbook research, religious studies, translational studies, esotericism, and postcolonial studies.

Most important/recent publications: "The Stages of Initiation in the Grand Scheme of Theosophical Evolution as the Basis for Ethical Education: Annie Besant's "Quickening of Evolution" as a Paradigmatic Example of Meshing Processes of Hybridization in the Global Colonial Discursive Continuum Around 1900" (PhD. diss., forthcoming); "Translation Between Theosophy, Yoga, Kant and Evolutionism: Annie Besant's Bhagavadgītā Translations around 1900" In ScriptUM: la revue du colloque VocUM (forthcoming); "Philology as an Epistemological Strategy to Claim Higher Knowledge: Translational Endeavors within the Theosophical Society; A Case Study of Annie Besant's Bhagavad-Gita." In ESSWE 6 Proceedings, Aries Book Series, Brill (forthcoming); "Charles Johnston's Interpretation of Yoga: Theosophy, Consciousness, and Spiritual Progress." In Contemporary Yoga and Sacred Texts. Edited by Susanne Scholz and Caroline van der Stichele. London: Routledge, forthcoming.

Pasche Guignard, Florence Dr., Assistant Professor, Faculté de théologie et de sciences religieuses, Université Laval, Quebec City, Canada

Florence Pasche Guignard holds a PhD in religious studies from the Université de Lausanne (Switzerland). Her research explores issues at the intersection of religion and ritual, digital and material cultures, embodiment, and gender. Her most recent publications focus on motherhood, parenting and religion in a variety of past and present cultural contexts. She brings her interdisciplinary scholarship in conversation with anthropology, ritual studies, media studies, as well as with gender and women's studies.

Her current research interests include: Religious studies, religion and gender, religion and motherhood, religion and media

Most important/recent publications: "Back Home and Back to Nature? Natural Parenting and Religion in Francophone Contexts." Open Theology 6/1 (2020): 175–201; "Religions and Mothers." In The Routledge Companion to Motherhood. Edited by Lynn O'Brien Hallstein, Andrea O'Reilly and Melinda Vandenbeld Giles, 156–164. London-New York: Routledge, 2020. With Giulia Pedrucci "Motherhood(s) and Polytheisms: Epistemological and Methodological Reflections on the Study of Religions, Gender, and Women." Numen 65/4 (2018): 404–434; "The Academic Study of Religions and Mothering, Motherhood and Mothers." In Maternità e Politeismi – Motherhood(s) and Polytheisms. Edited by Florence Pasche Guignard, Giulia Pedrucci and Marianna Scapini, 61–88. Bologna: Pàtron, 2017; "A Gendered Bun in the Oven. The Gender-

Reveal Party as a New Ritualization during Pregnancy." Studies in Religion / Sciences Religieuses 44 (2015): 479-500.

Sarmis, Dilek Dr., Post-doctoral Fellow, EHESS (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris), Paris, France

Dilek Sarmis is a post-doctoral fellow at Ecole des Hautes études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) and lecturer at the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INaLCO). She is specialist in intellectual history and history of knowledge in ending Ottoman empire and Republican Turkey. Her PhD was devoted to the reception of French philosopher Henri Bergson in Turkey. She is currently working on the history of social sciences in Turkey and on the place of religious knowledges within them, analyzing the epistemological and political functions of mysticist and spiritualistic discourses in academy.

Her current research interests include: Intellectual History, History of knowledge Most important/recent publications: "L'essor du bergsonisme en Turquie: une lecture de la guerre d'indépendance à travers la revue Dergâh (1921-1923)." In Turcs et Français. Une histoire culturelle, 1860-1960. Edited by Güneş Işiksel and Emmanuel Szurek, 115-132. Rennes: Presses Universitaires de Rennes, 2014; "Conceptualiser le mysticisme dans une perspective académique: la constitution d'une histoire générale du mysticisme chez Mehmet Ali Ayni (1868-1945)." European Journal of Turkish Studies [Online], 25 | 2017, Online since 20 December 2017, connection on 27 December 2017. URL: http://journals.open edition.org/ejts/5451; "Variations bergsoniennes dans les écritures intellectuelles et littéraires turques." In Annales bergsoniennes IX - Bergson et les écrivains. Paris: PUF, "Epiméthée", forthcoming; "Psychologies ottomanes et turques. Un laboratoire pour les partages savants", Revue d'histoire des sciences humaines et sociales 34 (forthcoming)

Schlieter, Jens Professor Dr., Extraordinary Professor, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland Trained in Western Philosophy, Comparative Religion, and Buddhist Studies, MA 1994; PhD (Philosophy) in 1999 (Comparative Philosophy of Language, Buddhism and Western Philosophy), Habilitation in 2006 (Buddhism and Bioethics). Research and publication comprise history of religions (especially Indian and Tibetan Buddhism), Theory of Religion, Near-death Experiences and the Discourse on Religious Experiences, and on Bioethics of Buddhism. Methodologically, research includes Conceptual Metaphor Theory and Philosophy of Language applied to the Study of Religion.

His current research interests include: Theory of Religion, Discourse on Religious Experience, Metaphors, Buddhist Ethics

Most important/recent publications: What is it like to be Dead? Near-death Experiences, Christianity, and the Occult. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018; "Buddhist Insight Meditation (vipassanā) in Religious Settings and Kabat-Zinn's 'Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction': An Example of Dedifferentiation of Religion and Medicine?" Journal of Contemporary Religion 32, no. 3 (2017): 447-463; "Religiöse Symbole im öffentlichen Raum: Symbolwirkung als kollektive Intentionalität einer Deutungsgemeinschaft." Zeitschrift für Religionswissenschaft 25, no. 2 (2017): 196-232.

Schulze, Reinhard Professor Dr., Prof. em., Director Forum Islam and the Middle East, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland

After studying Islamic Studies, Semitic Studies, Linguistics and Romance Studies at the University of Bonn, Reinhard Schulze earned his doctorate in 1981 and then held positions at the universities of Hamburg, Essen and Bonn. He completed his habilitation at the University of Bonn in 1987 and was appointed Professor of Oriental Philology at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum the same year. From 1992–95 he was Professor of Islamic Studies and Arabic Studies at the University of Bamberg. In 1995 he was appointed Professor of Islamic Studies and Modern Oriental Philology at the University of Bern. Since his retirement in 2018 he has been Director of the transdisciplinary Forum Islam and the Middle East at the University of Bern.

His current research interests include: History of knowledge in the Muslim world Most important/recent publications: Islamischer Internationalismus im 20. Jahrhundert: Untersuchungen zur Geschichte der islamischen Weltliga. Leiden: Brill 1990; "Was ist die islamische Aufklärung?" Die Welt des Islams 36 (1996): 276–325; "On Relating Religion to Society and Society to Religion." In Debating Islam. Edited by Samuel M. Behloul, Susanne Leuenberger, and Andreas Tunger-Zanetti, 325–348. Bielefeld: Transcript, 2013; Der Koran und die Genealogie des Islam. Basel: Schwabe, 2015; Geschichte der islamischen Welt: Von 1900 bis in die Gegenwart. München: Beck, 2016.

Sedgwick, Mark Professor Dr., Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark

He taught previously for many years at the American University in Cairo. He is convener of the European Network for the Study of Islam and Esotericism (ENSIE) and a former secretary of the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE). He studied history at Oxford University in England and then did his PhD at the University of Bergen in Norway.

His current research interests include: Islam; Sufism; esotericism; terrorism; Egypt
Most important/recent publications: "Western Sufism and Gnosis." In *The Gnostic World*.
edited by Garry Trompf, Gunner B. Mikkelsen and Jay Johnston, 527–536. New York: Routledge,
2019; Ed., *Key Thinkers of the Radical Right: Behind the New Threat to Liberal Democracy*.
New York: Oxford University Press, 2019; "Sufi Religious Leaders and Sufi Orders in the
Contemporary Middle East." *Sociology of Islam* 6 (2018): 212–32; *Western Sufism: From the*Abbasids to the New Age. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016; Against the Modern
World: Traditionalism and the Secret Intellectual History of the Twentieth Century. New York:
Oxford University Press, 2004

Strube, Julian Postdoctoral researcher at the Cluster of Excellence "Religions and Politics" at the University of Münster, Germany. PhD in Religious Studies and History from the University of Heidelberg. The leading themes of his research are the relationship between religion and politics from a global historical perspective, with a focus on India, Europa, and North America. He recently finished a project about "Tantra in the Context of a Global Religious History" and is now working on the exchange between Bengali, European, and North American reformers in the nineteenth century. He held positions, among others, at the University of Amsterdam, and recently replaced a professorship at the University of Hamburg.

His current research interests include: Global Religious History, Religion and Politics, Esotericism, Tantra

Most important/recent publications: With Egil Asprem, New Approaches to the Study of Esotericism. Leiden/Boston: Brill 2021; with Hans Martin Krämer, ed. Theosophy Across Boundaries: Transcultural and Interdisciplinary Perspectives on a Modern Esoteric Movement. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2020; Sozialismus, Katholizismus und Okkultismus im Frankreich des 19. Jahrhunderts: Die Genealogie der Schriften von Eliphas Lévi. Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter 2016; "Socialism and Esotericism in July

Monarchy France." History of Religions 57, no. 2 (2017): 197-221; "Occultist Identity Formations Between Theosophy and Socialism in fin-de-siècle France." Numen 64, no. 5-6 (2017): 568-595; "Socialist Religion and the Emergence of Occultism: A Genealogical Approach to 'Secularization' in 19th-Century France." Religion 46, no. 3 (2016): 359-388.

Zander, Helmut Professor Dr., Professor of comparative history and interreligious dialogue at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. Trained in political science, history and Catholic theology, PhD in political science and Catholic theology, habilitation in history of science.

His current research interests include: Comparative history of religions, especially the stability of differences; history of Anthroposophy.

Most important/recent publications: "Europäische" Religionsgeschichte: Religiöse Zugehörigkeit durch Entscheidung – Konsequenzen im interkulturellen Vergleich. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2016; "Hieroklasmus – Die okzidentale Reformation in religionsvergleichender Perspektive: Explorative Überlegungen." In Kirchengeschichte und Religionswissenschaft: Methoden und Fallstudien. Edited by Klaus Fitschen, Wolfram Kinzig, Armin Kohnle, and Volker Leppin, 175–220. Leipzig: Evangelische Verlagsanstalt 2018; Rudolf Steiner: Die Biographie. 3rd ed. München: Piper 2016. First published 2011 by Piper (München, Zürich).