Wednesday, 9. April
Holbornsche Haus, Rote Str. 34
17.00-17.15 Welcome // Regina Bendix, Victoria Hegner, Peter Jan Margry
17.15-18.00 Keynote Rik Pinxten // God and the city: contemporary perspectives and challenges
18.00-19.00 Reception at the Holbornsche Haus. Guided tour to "sacred" spaces and places in Gottingen.

Thursday, 10. April
Historische Sternwarte / Historical Observatory, Geismar Landstr. 11
→ Negotiating new religious spaces in the city
Chair: Peter Jan Margry
9.00-9.30  Dorothea Nold // Moving churches, changing cities - Spatial and iconic strategies of new congregations in Berlin and Istanbul
9.30-10.00 Gertrud Hüwelmeier // Religious place-making and the production of urban localities - new migrants in Berlin
10.00-10.30 Jill Sudbury // Buddhism in the British urban landscape: negotiation of new religious spaces
10.30-11.00 Coffee break
11.00-11.30 Marie Stephanie N. Gilles and José Edgardo A. Gomez, Jr. Accommodating God in the Temples of Mammon: The phenomenon of building chapels within the shopping malls of Metro Manila
11.30-12.00 Mary McCampbell // Loving the City (Not the World?): Three Contemporary Approaches to Urban Christianity
12.00-14.00 Lunch
→ Migration and religious practice in the (sub)urban realm
Chair: Karin Klenke
14.00-14.30 Eleni Tseligka and Georgios Trantas // Home is where the Church is: Greek migrant communities and their spatial reestablishment in the German urban environment within the context of Greek Orthodoxy.
14.30-15.00 Thorsten Wettich // Yazidi funerals in Lower Saxonian cities as an expression of urban religiosity
15.00-15.30 Claire Dwyer // Encountering the divine in W7 and off Highway 88: suburban miracles and stories of the 'everyday enchantment' of suburbia
15.30-16.00 Coffee Break
16.00-17.00 Keynote Sabina Magliocco // Animal spirits and the urban landscape
17.00-17.15 Coffee Break

Friday, 11. April
Historische Sternwarte / Historical Observatory, Geismar Landstr. 11
→ Creating religious coherence and identity in the city II
Chair: Victoria Hegner
9.00-9.30 Jamelyn Palattao // Contemporary responses of urban Protestants to the challenge of secularism in Iligan City, Philippines
9.30-10.00 Riem Spielhaus // Urban representation, visibility and institutionalization of Islam in three German cities
10.00-10.30 Coffee Break
Chair: Sabina Magliocco
10.30-11.00 Anna Niedźwiedź // The Pope and "his city": transformation of urban space of Kraków to a "lived shrine" of John Paul II
11.00-11.30 Shamin Golrokh // Contribution of urban space and religious event to make collective meaning
11.30-13.30 Lunch
→ Creating religious coherence and identity in the city
Chair: Victoria Hegner
15.15-17.45 Eva Dick and Alexander Kenneth Nagel
Urban diversity governance: The interplay of religious and state representatives in local interfaith networks
17.45-18.15 Anna Strhan // Aliens and strangers? The struggle for coherence in the everyday urban lives of Evangelicals
18.15-18.45 Tricia C. Bruce // Building space, place, and collective identity through personal parishes
20.00 Dinner

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Religion in Urban Spaces

Urban spaces have always functioned as cradles and laboratories for religious movements and spiritualities. The conference Religion in Urban Spaces will therefore explore the intense and complex interplay between the (post)modern city and religion, bringing the city to the fore in religious research. Both renowned and young scholars from all over the world will present their latest research and bring into discussion the ways the experience of the urban – the cityscape with its pluralist culture – inscribes itself in religious practices, and vice versa: how religions appropriate and transform (the meanings of) the urban.

The term ‘religion’ refers here to a broad analytical concept that comprises traditional institutional religions – such as Christianity, Judaism and the Islam – as well as new or alternative religiosities like the New Age Dance Church, the St. John Coltrane Church and Neo-Paganism. The spectrum of city cultures, which come into focus, is wide ranging and highly globalized. It involves Teheran, Erlangen, London, Berlin and Istanbul, as well as Göttingen, Manila, San Francisco and Yaounde. The conference timely goal is to strengthen the category of the urban context within research on religious developments since it appears to be the (post)modern cities that decisively shape the meaning of religion for society as a whole.