



The Early Modern Section of the Research Group Polycentricity and Plurality of Premodern Christianities (POLY)

Frankfurt Lecture on Pathways through Early Modern Christianities

Tuesday 18 May 2021
6-8 pm CET, Zoom

Jean-Pascal Gay (Louvain): “Publicity in French Catholicism”

Recent scholarship on intra-Catholic controversies in the early modern period has turned from intellectual history towards social and cultural approaches. Yet while the Habermasian notion of *Öffentlichkeit* fails to capture the specificity of early modern religious controversies, finding a new analytical framework for understanding the nature of publicity remains difficult. In this talk, building on the work of Michel de Certeau and Christian Jouhaud, I will argue that we can better explain the shifting sands of Catholic controversy by treating publication as action. This approach promises to reveal more clearly the processes of *politicization* (even *ideologization*) that shaped early modern Catholic confessional cultures—while also connecting cultural and religious histories. Illuminating the ways in which particular regimes of publicity formed and were formed, in turn, by a range of ecclesial communities, treating publication as action offers scholars new ways of understanding Catholic plurality over time and space.

Registration for the online-event at:
pluralchristianities@em.uni-frankfurt.de