

## Authors

**Dolores Zoé Bertschinger**, M.A., is a doctoral candidate in the Study of Religion at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (Germany). In her PhD project she studies traditional Tibetan wall paintings in contemporary Tibetan societies as religious, historical and social practices. Her research interests focus on visibility, transculturality, feminism, and religion. Travelling to Asian countries and engaging in various projects with migrants in Switzerland made her realize the difficulties and immediate relevance of a struggle for Europe as a culturally open project.

**Carla Danani**, Dr., is a professor of ethics and the philosophy of dwelling at the University of Macerata (Italy). In her research, she focuses on the meaning places have for human beings. She considers places not merely as contexts in which existence occurs, but also attends to the contents of them, and tries to highlight the features through which they perform on different scales. Being aware that the world is the home of humans but that living is always local, she is interested in the ontological weave that all identities are composed of, specifically the European one and its distinctive traits.

**Verena Marie Eberhardt**, M.A., is writing her doctoral thesis in the study of religion at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (Germany). Her research focuses on children's media and religious diversity. While working on the project »Religion in Representations of Europe«, she was astonished to discover how diverse and fluid concepts of Europe are.

**Natalie Fritz**, Dr. sc. rel., is a scholar of religion, media, and culture. She currently works at the Catholic Media Centre in Zurich (Switzerland) as a journalist for film, media, and religion, and is the coordinator of the academic online publication *Journal for Religion, Film and Media*. She teaches media ethics at the Bern University of Applied Sciences and at the University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons (both Switzerland). With a special interest in cooking and cultivation, she is surprised time and time again by how everyday practices such as food habits influence the construction of nation-

al identity, in terms of a specific society as well as in terms of the European and global community.

**Anna-Katharina Höpflinger**, PD Dr. sc. rel., teaches and researches in the study of religion at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (Germany). After completing her dissertation on the dragon slayer motif in antiquity, she has developed different research projects focusing on the body, clothing, gender, burial culture, and Heavy Metal. In the course of working on her article on the European Song Contest, she discovered that the concept of Europe can be filled with very different interpretations at the same time. Imagining Europe is therefore a question of perspective and context.

**Ann Jeffers**, Dr., is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (UK). She lectured for many years at Heythrop College, University of London where she was Senior Lecturer in Hebrew Bible and Second Temple Judaism and Director of Research. Her research interests are varied with a focus on Bible reception in the visual arts and literature, gender, ecology and hermeneutics. She has lived in Africa in the past and now lives in post-Brexit UK. Her varied experience leads her to reflect on the benefits of being both an outsider and an insider to much of the debates on identity in Europe.

**Stefanie Knauss**, Dr. theol., is a professor of theology at Villanova University (USA). Her research focuses on the study of film, visual culture, gender, embodiment and sexuality from the perspective of theology and religious studies. As a German living in the USA, she has come to a new appreciation of Europe as a shared cultural and political reference point whose value lies precisely in the diversity of its traditions, past and present.

**Marie-Therese Mäder**, PD Dr., is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow (EU Horizon 2020) at the University of Macerata (Italy), lecturer at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (Germany), senior lecturer at the Centre for Religion, Economy and Politics at the University of Zurich (Switzerland), and at the Universities of Applied Science of the Grisons and Bern (both Switzerland) where she teaches media ethics. Her research focuses on media, religion, philosophy, and ethics. Europe represents not only a geographical space but also a political idea that is expressed in everyday practic-

es of inclusion and exclusion. For more information see <https://marie-therese-maeder.com>.

**Natasha O’Hear** (DPhil, Oxon) is an Honorary Lecturer at the Institute for Theology, the Imagination and the Arts at the University of St Andrews in Scotland. Her research is in the field of visual reception history with a particular focus on the Apocalypse or book of Revelation and other »visionary« biblical texts, such as Ezekiel and Acts 9. Although Natasha is British, she is married to a Frenchman and loves to visit France and speak French. In this post-Brexit era, she relishes the opportunity to take part in projects such as this one, which facilitate meaningful exchanges of ideas, from a range of academic disciplines, on the ever-changing European cultural identity.

**Alexander Darius Ornella**, Dr. theol., is a Senior Lecturer in religion at the University of Hull (UK). His research focuses on a religious studies approach to visual and material culture, technology, and sports. As an Austrian living in post-Brexit UK, he has become interested in the ideological narratives and myths of nationhood and sovereignty with borders as one of their key ingredients. He enjoys the frictionless travel across borders within the Schengen Zone and finds the ambivalence between visibility and invisibility and materiality and immateriality a continued source of fascination. More information about his work can be found at <https://ornella.info>.

**Daria Pezzoli-Olgiati**, Dr., is a professor for the study and the history of religion at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (Germany). In her research she focuses on theories of religion and particularly on the concepts of visuality and media, image and film, gender and space, which provide the basis for explorations into the European history of religion and contemporary society. Born in the Italian part of Switzerland she grew up in a multilingual environment. Working as an academic in different European countries, she often crosses national and cultural borders, wondering about the richness of a diverse continent. For more information see [www.pezzoli-olgiati.ch](http://www.pezzoli-olgiati.ch).

**Sean Michael Ryan**, Dr., is an Associate Fellow in theology at the School of Advanced Study, University of London (UK). His research focuses on echoes of Jewish and early Christian hymns, prayers and worship in the New

Testament. His exegetical research is enriched by engaging with the reception history of these texts by patristic and medieval interpreters, notably the Anglo-Saxon polymath Bede. Having a dual, London-Irish identity, he is sensitive to the contested nature of European identity at the island margins of this continent, and the divisive impact it continues to have on contemporary British politics and Anglo-Irish relations, post-referendum.

**Alberto Saviello**, Dr., is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Institute for Art History at the University of Bern (Switzerland) and a lecturer at the Goethe University Frankfurt (Germany) in the Department of Religious Studies. Much of his research is dedicated to the role of visual media and artefacts in religious negotiation and translation processes. Having grown up in Germany, he has lived and worked in Italy for many years. At a time when people have to think and act globally, a diverse, pluralistic and united Europe seems to him both a wish and a duty.

**Baldassare Scolari**, Dr., is a scholar in the research fields of media studies, religious studies and political philosophy. He teaches media ethics at the University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons and theories and methods in media research at the Bern Academy of the Arts (both Switzerland). His research focuses on religion and politics, religion and visibility, media ethics, philosophy of language, political theory, media theory, hermeneutics, semiotics and narratology. He thinks that Europe has a historical and moral duty to once again become the project of an inclusive, emancipating, free and just community in which, until not very long ago, many still believed.

**Paola von Wyss-Giacosa**, Dr., has been a lecturer, researcher and guest curator at the Ethnographic Museum, University of Zurich (Switzerland), since 1997. Her research interests include the early modern discourse on religion and idolatry, and the history of ethnographic collections. She is a member of the editorial board of CROMOHS – Cyber Review of Modern Historiography, and the editor of the Visual Reflections series in the COST Action People in Motion: Entangled Histories of Displacement across the Mediterranean, 2019–2023. She sees Europe as a space of circulation of people, objects and ideas as well as of colonial power.