



*Call for Papers*  
**Pious radicals? Strong religion and politics in  
modern Europe**

**Universität Siegen, Germany**  
14–15 March 2019

**Conference Theme**

Religion has always been partly linked with radicalness. Over the last few centuries, Christian groups in various parts of Europe have repeatedly emerged, attempting to closely follow the Holy Scriptures – mostly inconspicuously and without any impact on their fellow citizens, yet occasionally also through violence. Some of these groups are radical both in matters of faith as well as in political matters. Discussions about fundamentalism or the violent potential of religion are strongly linked to said social groups, attempting to carry out their principles, defend them and propagate them. These actions lead time and again to an aggressive attitude against other religions.

The conference aims to focus on religious and political developments in Europe particularly during the last decades up to the present, and strives to highlight connections between *piety* and (political) *radicalness*.

The organizers would like to invite papers that address this topic in various ways. Individual contributions can focus on either a general aspect of the main theme or any of its subthemes. They should develop internal or external perspectives on traditional (religious) groups in Europe, both from a historical viewpoint as well as when examining contemporary culture. Papers can deal with issues such as populism, conservatism, fundamentalism or nationalism in relation to religion. Socio-economic and cultural backgrounds of the examined groups and individuals may also be addressed. Contributions could analyze whether the strongly religious views precede political attitudes or vice versa. Within the main theme, contributors could refer to the role of pious citizens as policy initiators and as recipients of political decisions; as well as examine how religious groups in Europe are or will be involved in the aforementioned political decisions.

Potential questions:

- How do strong religious groups legitimate and perform their political attitudes and practices? What issues do they address in order to criticize current politics and to push alternative agendas?
- Is there a connection between strong religiosity, e.g. in the so called ‘pietistic’ or ‘evangelical’ groups, and right-wing populism?

- What observations can be made regarding medial and aesthetical practices of connecting strong religion and politics?
- What differences can be identified between the political positions of strong religious groups in Europe using a comparative view?

### Keynotes

Dr. Gert Pickel, Professor of Church- and Religious Sociology at University of Leipzig, Germany  
Dr. Gerrit Voerman, Professor of Political History and Political Parties in the Netherlands at University of Groningen, the Netherlands

### Abstracts

Proposals for papers of maximum 20 min length must be submitted no later than 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Please include your name, title and institutional affiliation, title of paper and an abstract with a length of max. 300 words. The abstract should include the main question of the paper, methods used, and the relation to the conference theme. Please also indicate whether your presentation will require any special technical facilities.

### Important Dates

30 September 2018	Deadline for abstract submission
31 October 2018	Notification of acceptance
30 January 2019	Deadline for registration and payment of conference fee

### Organizers

The conference is an activity of the European Bible Belt project, funded by the Dutch research council NWO and directed by Professor Fred van Lieburg, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam. It will be co-hosted by the Department of Protestant Theology, University of Siegen.

### Contact

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