

International Workshop:

“Hallowed Efforts? Work and Religion in Europe and beyond, c. 1450–c. 1850”

Mainz, April 10 & 11, 2025

April 10: Diversity and Hierarchy in Work Regimes

Welcome and introductions (1:30 p.m.)

Panel 1: Theological Debates about the Work of Merchants and Wage Laborers (2 p.m.)

- Giovanni Patriarca (Dicastery for Culture and Education, Vatican City), *Holy Numbers, Blessed Measures and Sacred Money? An Unexpected Correlation between Moral Issues and Commercial Mathematics*
- Monica Martinat (Lumière University Lyon 2), *Work and Wages in Seventeenth-Century Scholastic Thought*

Coffee break (3:30 p.m.)

Panel 2: Slave Labor and Religious Thought – Global Perspectives (4 p.m.)

- Anne-Charlotte Martineau (French National Center for Scientific Research/CNRS, Paris), *Juridico-theological Justifications of Slavery and Forced Labor in the Spanish and Portuguese Empires, c. 1550–1600*
- Madhu (Miranda House, University of Delhi), *Colonialism, Caste, and “Customary” Labor in India*
- Aaron Pride (Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania), *God’s Work: Militant Millennial Movements in Medieval Europe and in Nineteenth-Century America*

Conference dinner (7 p.m.)

April 11: Industriousness and Idleness

Panel 3: Revisiting the “Work Ethic” Part I – The Role of Religious Reformism (8:30 a.m.)

- Corine Maitte (Gustave Eiffel University, Marne-la-Vallée), *Religious Holidays and Working Hours: What Impact?*
- Stanisław Witecki (Jagiellonian University, Kraków), *Catholicism, Enlightenment and Questions of Labor: Ideas and Reforms*

Coffee break (10 a.m.)

Panel 4: Revisiting the “Work Ethic” Part II – Case Studies of German-Speaking Lands (10:30 a.m.)

- Teresa Petrik (Institute of Rural History, St. Pölten), *Work as Penance, Idleness as Sin: Exploring the Religious Character of Punitive Labor in Early Modern Austria*
- Kilian Harrer (Leibniz Institute of European History, Mainz), *The Bee’s Greatest Pleasure: Physico-theology and Ideals of Work in Eighteenth-Century Lutheran Germany*

Florian Kühnel (Leibniz Institute of European History, Mainz), *Concluding Reflections* (12:15 p.m.)

Final Discussion (12:30 p.m.)