

# CIHEC Annual General Meeting & Conference

-- International Commission of Historians of Religion --

## **Total Devotion: Extreme Beliefs Among Christians from Past to Present**

Amsterdam, June 30-July 1, 2025

**Conference Venue:** Vrije Universiteit, De Boelelaan 1105, Amsterdam

*The purpose of this conference is to study the links between Christian beliefs, practices and identities, and tendencies of religious, social or political radicalisation. Several labels and concepts are currently used to indicate diverging developments, such as fanaticism, fundamentalism, extremism, terrorism, conspiracy thinking, and eschatological or prophetic populism. However, theoretical reflection in humanities and social sciences needs to be based on specific examples from more or less recent history, in order to understand interactions of conceptual, methodological and moral factors while investigating movements of radicalism in the Christian past. By taking the religious thoughts, narratives and actions of individuals, groups and people seriously, historical research may help to evaluate the resilience of religious networks, churches and institutions in the modern world. After the conference, a publication comprised of selected papers from this conference will be submitted to Brill's Studies in Church History and Religious Culture.*

<b>Sunday, 29 June - Arrivals and Optional Historical Walking Tour</b>		
1:30-3:30 pm	Historical walking tour of Amsterdam's city centre focused on religious history in the city with art historian and religious heritage specialist Dr. Nina Schroeder-van 't Schip (email <a href="mailto:ninahschroeder@hotmail.com">ninahschroeder@hotmail.com</a> to confirm your place on the tour).	<b>Meeting Point:</b> Spui 12, 1012 XA Amsterdam (In front of the American Book Center)
<b>Monday, 30 June - Conference Day 1</b>		
9:30	<b>Welcome, Registration &amp; Coffee</b>	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam Room: HG-0C29 Aurora
10:00	<b>Opening Address</b> Prof. Dr. Fred van Lieburg (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) & Prof. Dr. Jadranka Neralic (University of Zagreb, President CIHEC)	
10:30	<b>"In memoriam Yves Krumenacker (1957-2024)"</b> Dr. Caroline Galland (Université Paris Nanterre)	

	<p><b>“In memoriam Cosimo Damiano Fonseca (1932-2025)”</b>  Dr. Pierantonio Piatti (Secretary of the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences, Secretary CIHEC)</p>	
11:00	<p><b>Session I - Conceptual &amp; Contemporary Explorations of Religious Extremism</b></p> <p><i>Prof. Dr. David D’Avray</i>, Member of the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences, “The Concept of Religious Extremism”</p> <p><i>Regina van de Wall</i>, MA, Researcher in Religion and Politics, “The Political Messiah”</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>	
12:00	<b>Lunch (Provided on site)</b>	
13:00	<p><b>Session II - Extreme Beliefs &amp; Total Devotion in Early Modern Europe</b></p> <p><i>Prof. Dr. Antal Molnár</i>, Member of the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences, “Religious Fundamentalism, Religious War and Religious Peace in Early Modern Europe: The Historical Experience of Confessional Conflicts”</p> <p><i>Prof. Dr. Anders Jarlert</i>, Lund University, “Lay Prophetism Encounters Lutheran Orthodoxy in Western Sweden in the 1690s: A Case of Total Devotion”</p> <p><i>Dr. Maria Luísa Resende</i>, University of Lisbon, “Erasmii errores: Biblical Philology in Early Modern Portugal”</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>	
2:30	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
3:00	<b>Departure for Allard Pierson (metro 52 from Zuid metro stop to Rokin metro stop)</b>	
3:30	<p><b>Rare Book Tour at Allard Pierson</b>  <i>A tour of rare books and unique religious heritage objects from the Kerkelijke Collecties (Church Collections) of the Allard Pierson. Allard Pierson is a museum which houses the special collections and rare book library of the University of Amsterdam.</i></p> <p>Tour leaders: Gwendolyn Verbraak (Curator of the kerkelijke collecties, Allard Pierson) &amp; Dr. Nina Schroeder-van ’t Schip (Historian &amp; Heritage Interpreter, Amsterdam Arts &amp; Heritage)</p>	<p><i>Allard Pierson</i>  Oude Turfmarkt 127-129, 1012 GC Amsterdam</p>

5:00	<b>Boat Tour of Amsterdam's Canals</b>  Tour leader: Jeff Fountain (Director, Schuman Centre for European Studies)	<i>Rokin Boat Docks</i> (directly outside the doors of Allard Pierson)
6:30	<b>Conference Banquet</b>  <i>Our conference banquet will take place inside a beautifully preserved 17th-century hidden Mennonite church in Amsterdam's city centre.</i>	<i>Singelkerk</i> Singel 452, 1017 AW Amsterdam
<b>July 1 – Conference Day 2</b>		
10:00	<b>Arrival and Coffee</b>	<i>Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam</i> Room: HG-3C03 HG-Agora 3
10:30	<b>Session IV – Case Studies from the 19th &amp; 20th Century</b>  <i>Prof Dr. Yudha Thianto, Calvin Theological Seminary, “The Metrical Psalms or Javanese Tembang?: The Conflicts between the Community of Shadrach and the Dutch Missionaries in Nineteenth - Century Java</i>  <i>Prof. Dr. Eileen Groth Lyon, The State University of New York at Fredonia, “Choosing to face the lions’: The Bible Students of Ravensbrück”</i>  <i>Dr. Peter Morée, Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University in Prague, “Go with the flow? Or against the current? Theological strategies in times of political radicality”</i>  <i>Discussion</i>	
12:00	<b>Lunch (on site)</b>	
1:00	<b>Keynote Address: "Modernising Protestantism"</b> Dr. Joke Spaans (University of Utrecht)	
2:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
2:30	<b>CIHEC Bureau Session</b> Moderated by CIHEC President, Prof. Dr. Jadranka Neralic	
4:30	<b>Closing Comments and <i>Borrel</i></b>	<i>Bar Boule</i> De Boelelaan 1111, 1081 HV Amsterdam