



EMoDiR Newsletter n. 54 (June 2026)

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I. Newsletter Team Updates

Dear readers, a gentle reminder that the next Newsletter is scheduled for September 2026. If you have a book, a CFP or an event that you would like to advertise, please let us know by the end of August at the following address: newsletter@emodir.net.

Wishing you all a relaxing and restorative summer,
Martina and Francesco

II. News from EMOdiR

EMoDiR CFP at the 2027 Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, Philadelphia (March 11-13, 2027)

We are now preparing for the upcoming RSA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia (March 11–13, 2027), and plan to host a series of panels which explore the theme of boundary marking and transgression. The early modern can be defined as a time of increased boundary-crossing and trespassing across physical, social, and religious lines. The period has been characterized as a time of refugee crisis, migration, and the redefinition of social categories and the limits of the possible in regard to personal and group identity. This year, EMOdiR is especially interested in contributions that both define and expand our views of boundary-crossing and transgression, from geographical and metaphorical perspectives (including imagined spaces and utopias).

Prospective paper topics may include but are not limited to:

- Religious minorities, with particular attention to their ability to survive, adapt, and at times flourish across shifting social, cultural and political landscapes;
- Dissident and radical groups, and their strategies of negotiation, integration, dissimulation, and separation within and across confessional boundaries;
- Mobility in its various forms – forced, voluntary, seasonal, or symbolic – and its role in shaping minority experiences and identities;

- Social and religious non-conformity as a mode of transgression that may occur independently of physical displacement;
- Differences in opportunities for mobility that social norms surrounding gender placed on early modern individuals and groups;
- The formation and evolution of confessional diasporas, including patterns of circulation, connection, and fragmentation;
- State, ecclesiastical, and local authorities' responses to minority mobility and transgression (e.g. regulation, repression, accommodation);
- Borderlands, liminal spaces, and zones of contact as sites of interaction, conflict, and creative adaptation;
- Metaphorical and imagined geographies (such as utopias, exile narratives, or spiritual topographies) as frameworks for articulating transgression and belonging.

Please send a short CV (limit to 150 words), including current affiliation, Ph.D. completion date (past or expected) and a presentation title (maximum 15 words). Please also include a 150-word abstract and keywords, to the session organizers Martina Mampieri (martina.mampieri@gmail.com) and Frank Lacopo (flacopo@semo.edu) by June 30, 2026. Please detail any A/V requirements that you expect to have. Acceptance decisions will be made by July 15, 2026. All presenters, once accepted, must register for the 2027 Renaissance Society of America Conference and must be members of the RSA and EMoDiR or apply for membership.

EMoDiR Workshop “Indifference: Religious Boundaries in Question, 1650-1750”, Goethe-University Frankfurt, Normative Orders (EG 01), Frankfurt 28-29 May 2026.

Thursday, 28 May 2026

14:00 – 15:00 - *Introduction*

Xenia von Tippelskirch (Goethe-University Frankfurt)

Francesco Quatrini (University of Florence)

Andreas Häckermann (Goethe-University Frankfurt)

Section 1 - Religious Praxis of Indifference

Chair: Michael Leeman (Goethe-University Frankfurt)

15:00 – 15:45

“Tolerance”, not “Indifference”. The Collegiants’ Sermons between Religion and Politics

Francesco Quatrini (University of Florence)

15:45 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 16:45

Spatial Dimensions of Confessional Indifference: The Perceptions of Mennonites in Albiheim and Krefeld (c. 1700–1750)

Simon Franzen (UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø)

16:45 – 17:30

Believing in God, Believing in Demons: Zones of Religious Continuity and Indifference in Early Modern Venice

Federico Barbierato (University of Verona)

17:30 – 17:45 Coffee Break

17:45 – 18:00 Keynote-Introduction by Xenia von Tippelskirch

18:00 – 19:30 *Keynote Lecture*

De Religione Cinganorum, or: On the Supposed Indifference of “Gypsies” Towards any Religion

Jean-Pierre Cavaillé (EHESS Toulouse)

Friday, 29 May 2026

Section 2 - Indifference in Knowledge Production

Chair: Nicole Reinhardt (Leibniz Institute of European History Mainz)

09:30 – 10:15

Religions of the World: Grotius and Bayle

Girolamo Imbruglia (University of Naples L'Orientale)

10:15 – 11:00

Johann Jakob Scheuchzer and the Boundaries of Epistemic Indifference

Karl Johann Scharpf (Humboldt-University Berlin)

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee Break

Chair: Alexander Schunka (Free University Berlin)

11:15 – 12:00

Pictorial Dialectics of Indifference: Compilation as a Scholarly Stance in Picart's Corpus of Illustrations for the Cérémonies et Coutumes

Paola von Wyss-Giacosa (Independent Researcher, Zurich)

12:00 – 12:45

Indifference in the Mirror: Jean-Frédéric Bernard's Handling of Islam

Andreas Häckermann (Goethe-University Frankfurt)

12:45 – 14:15 - Lunch (Campus Dining Hall)

Section 3 - Boundaries and the Dialectics of Indifference

Chair: Xenia von Tippelskirch (Goethe-University Frankfurt)

14:15 – 15:00

Shifting Boundaries. The Impact of Comparative Religion in the Dutch Republic 1650–1750

Jo Spaans (Independent Researcher, Utrecht)

15:00 – 15:45

Indifference as a Boundary Marker: The Controversy about Johann Franz Budde's Defense of the Kabbalah in the Early 18th Century

Nora Blume (Martin-Luther-University Halle)

15:45 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 16:45

Blurring Confessional Differences. Irenical Writing in 18th-Century Berlin

Andreas Pietsch (University of Münster)

16:45 – 17:00 Final Break

17:00 – 18:00 Final Discussion

Chair: Sophie Houdard (Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris)

III. Recent Publications by EMoDiR Members

Federico Barbierato, *Évangélistes et gazetiers. Libertinage, incroyance et livres interdits dans la Venise des XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles*, Paris, Classiques Garnier, 2025.

<https://classiques-garnier.com/evangelistes-et-gazetiers-libertinage-incroyance-et-livres-interdits-dans-la-venise-des-xviiie-et-xviiiie-siecles.html>

Federico Barbierato, «*Cento anime*». *Libertinismo, Venezia e il Sant'Uffizio nel processo contro i fratelli Spiera (1627-1631)*, Milan, Unicopli, 2026.

<https://www.edizioniunicopli.it/prodotto/cento-anime/>

Irene Bueno, Vincenzo Lavenia, and Riccardo Parmeggiani (eds.), *Scrutinizing the Devil's Plot: Magic, Witchcraft, and Inquisition (14th-20th Centuries)*, Rome, Viella, 2026.

<https://www.viella.it/libro/9791257012021>

Serena Di Nepi, *Il ghetto di Roma. Storia di una comunità ebraica*, Rome, Carocci, 2026.

https://www.carocci.it/prodotto/il-ghetto-di-roma?srsIid=AfmBOopFZZ8cTmOb8E_TH-20-VFsTGQIBR2D8M5em3MfnuqKbwkD94pz

Lucinda Martin (ed.), *Religious Translation in the Early Modern Global World*, Milton Park-New York, Routledge, 2026.

<https://www.routledge.com/Religious-Translation-in-the-Early-Modern-Global-World/Martin/p/book/9781032256061>

Silke Muylaert, Francesco Quatrini, Nina Schroeder-van 't Schip, *Religion and Freedom of Expression in the Early Modern Period. Practices and Ideas in Post-Reformation Europe*, Leiden, Brill, 2026.

Maria-Cristina Pitassi, *Bayle et la Bible, ou l'histoire d'un désenchantement*, Paris, Honoré Champion, 2026.

<https://www.honorechampion.com/fr/editions-honore-champion/13472-book-08536491-9782745364913.html>

IV. Recent Books in the Field

Elena Bonora (ed.), *The Roman Church and Multiconfessional Europe in the Early Modern Period*, Rome, Viella, 2026.

<https://www.viella.it/libro/9791257011468>

José Luis Caño Ortigosa and María Laura Salinas (eds.), *Jesuitas, Franciscanos y predicadores en el imperio español*, Huelva, Universidad de Huelva, 2025.

<https://www.uhu.es/publicaciones/?q=libros&code=1359>

Francesco Failla, *Bonzi, diavoli e miracoli. Storie e imprese dei gesuiti in Cina*, Rome, Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura, 2024.

<https://www.storiaeletteratura.it/catalogo/bonzi-diavoli-e-miracoli/20990>

Paolo Fontana, *Il governo delle devozioni. Culto e penitenza nella Genova d'età moderna*, Roma, Carocci, 2026.

<https://www.carocci.it/prodotto/il-governo-delle-devozioni?srsId=AfmBOopZP-haysaSq8hEVSSst4KuGyouWXIkLNDLV4HkenPCYM3rejCS4>

Serge Gruzinski, *The Language of the Conquerors: When Amerindians Spoke Latin in Sixteenth-Century Mexico*, trans. Nancy Erber, Newark, Polity Press, 2026.

https://www.politybooks.com/bookdetail?book_slug=the-language-of-the-conquerors-when-amerindians-spoke-latin-in-sixteenth-century-mexico--9781509565221

Kilian Harrer, *Devout and Defiant: How Pilgrims Shaped the Franco-German Borderlands in the Age of Revolutions*, Charlottesville, University of Virginia Press, 2025.

<https://www.upress.virginia.edu/title/10138/>

Giulia Lovison, *La legge e il rogo. Fra' Modesto Scrofeo e la caccia alle streghe di Sondrio*, Rome, Carocci, 2025.

<https://www.carocci.it/prodotto/la-legge-e-il-rogo>

Adrien Mangili (ed.), *Athéismes magiques. Enquête sur un impensé de l'histoire intellectuelle (XVIe-XVIIe siècle)*, Geneva, Droz, 2026.

<https://www.droz.org/france/product/9782600067287>

Patrick Seamus McGhee (ed.), *Rethinking Atheism in the Early Modern World*, Cham, Palgrave Macmillan, 2026.

<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-032-12011-3>

Silvia Notarfonso, *Vivevano alla christiana ma malamente Comunità cattoliche, ibridazioni religiose e pluralità confessionale nei Balcani ottomani (secc. XVII-XVIII)*, Rome, Viella, 2026.

<https://www.viella.it/libro/9791257011499>

Marinos Sariyannis, *Ottomans and the Supernatural: Nature and the Limits of Knowledge in the Early Modern Empire*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2026.

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/ottomans-and-the-supernatural-9780198954774?cc=fr&lang=en&>

Andrew Spicer, *War, Revolt and Sacred Space: Cambrai and the Southern Netherlands, 1566–c.1621*, Leiden, Brill, 2026.

<https://brill.com/display/title/24351?srsIid=AfmBOoqTe6-tX5z82isFxrtr56PpnL1ydy0UCxx2nwbCBnd5R3qi3Uk9>

Natale Vacalebri, *God's Arsenal: The Libraries of the Society of Jesus in the Early Modern Age (1540-1773)*, Leiden, Brill, 2026.

<https://brill.com/display/title/73081>

Maria Vasiljević (ed.), *Identification of Orthodox Christians in Ottoman Southeastern Europe (c. 1450-c. 1750)*, Belgrade, Institute for Balkan Studies/Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, 2026.

https://dais.sanu.ac.rs/bitstream/id/75984/MV_Identifications.pdf

Eva Yampolsky, Andrea Carlino, Serge Margel and Anaïs Bourgeat (eds.), *Simulation et expertise. Les possessions démoniaques en Europe entre médecine et religion*, Paris, Classiques Garnier, 2025.

<https://classiques-garnier.com/simulation-et-expertise-les-possessions-demoniaques-en-europe-entre-medecine-et-religion.html>

Guochao (Jason) Zhao, *Reformed Covenantal Eudaimonism: Wilhelms à Brakel (1635-1711) on Highest Good, Virtue, and Law*, Göttingen, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2026.

<https://www.vandenhoeck-ruprecht-verlage.com/themen-entdecken/theologie-und-religion/kirchengeschichte/60321/reformed-covenantal-eudaimonism?srsIid=AfmBOOpd1ymm1sxeLBN-r4vN0GQkXDbiNxQ9fWbTIHBHjljyKx6-zgyb>

V. Future Events

25-31 May

XXII Festival internazionale èStoria "Religioni", Gorizia and Nova Gorica, Italy.

<https://www.estoria.it/programma/>

28-30 May

International Conference "Mystik und Reformation im helvetischen Kontext", Bischöfliches Schloss, Chur, Switzerland.

<https://thchur.ch/veranstaltungen/mystik-und-reformation-im-helvetischen-kontextinternationale-tagung-in-kooperation-mit-der-universitaet-zuerich/>

4-5 June

International Conference "Rethinking Sacred Images as the Book of the Illiterate: An Early Modern, Global and Auditory Perspective", Academia Belgica, Rome.

<https://modernum.hypotheses.org/13751>

12 June

Conference "The Jews, the Arts and the Mediterranean (1450-1750)," Palazzo Alberti, Florence, Italy.

<https://www.medic.org/cfp-the-jews-the-arts-and-the-mediterranean-1450-1750/>

12 June

Symposium "Religious Ethics and Modernity: Weber's Religious Argument in his Protestant Ethics and the Spirit of Capitalism", Holland College, KU Leuven, Belgium.

<https://www.kuleuven.be/lectio/events/symposium-religious-ethics-and-modernity-webers-religious-argument-in-his-protestant-ethics-and-the-spirit-of-capitalism>

17-18 June

3e Colloque International "Héraldique et papauté", Centre Saint-Louis, Rome, Italy.

<https://calenda.org/1393294>

29 June-1 July

5th Triennial Early Modern British and Irish Catholicism Conference (EMBIC V), The University of Notre Dame's London Global Gateway, London, UK.

<https://royalhistsoc.org/calendar/5th-triennial-early-modern-british-and-irish-catholicism-conference-embic-v-conference/>

1-2 July

Catholic Record Society 28th Annual Conference, The University of Notre Dame's London Global Gateway, London, UK (and online).

<https://royalhistsoc.org/calendar/catholic-record-society-28th-annual-conference-1-2-july-london-online-conference/>

13-15 July

Ecclesiastical History Society Summer Conference 2026 "The Church and Race", Royal Holloway, University of London, United Kingdom.

<https://ecclesiasticalhistorysociety.com/26summer/>

9-14 August

15th International Congress for Luther Research "Veni Creator Spiritus. Vertrauen und Zukunft / Trust and Future", Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark.

<https://conferences.au.dk/luthercongress2026>

VI. Scholarships, Fellowships, and Prizes

5 June

Bourses Regard, Institut d'histoire de la Réformation, Geneva, Switzerland.

<https://calenda.org/1396543>

14 June

Erasmus Collection Fellowship 2027, Rotterdam Public Library, The Netherlands.

<https://www.eur.nl/en/esphil/erasmus-collection-fellowship>

15 June

The Medici Archive Project Fellowships, Florence, Italy.

<https://www.medicis.org/scholarship/fellowships/>

1 July

SIHS Article Prize in Medieval and Early Modern Italian History (2025).

<https://networks.h-net.org/group/announcements/20149834/call-submissions-sihs-article-prize-medieval-and-early-modern-italian>

3 July

KADOC Fellowships “Religion, Culture and Society” 2026, KU Leuven, Belgium.

https://kadoc.kuleuven.be/english/3_research/31_ourresearch/fellows/fellows_2026

31 December

CERM 2026 Prize for the best doctoral dissertation on topics related to minority communities, University of Insubria, Italy.

<https://www.lasisem.it/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/CERM-2026-Prize-PHD-dissertation-announcement.pdf>

VII. CFPs

31 May

“Discourses and Practices around Jesus in the Early Modern and Modern Period”, CISSR (Italian Centre for Advanced Studies on Religions) 11th Annual Meeting on Christian Origins, Bertinoro, Italy (1-3 October 2026).

<https://cissr.net/call-for-papers/>

31 May

Workshop “La trace des dieux : empreintes surnaturelles dans le christianisme, l’islam et le bouddhisme (Moyen Âge – époque contemporaine),” Neuchâtel, Switzerland (22-23 October 2026).

<https://calenda.org/1388089>

31 May

Atelier doctoral “Sexualité et déviances. Perspectives historiques. Époques modernes et contemporaines,” École française de Rome, Italy (28 September-2 October 2026).

https://candidatures.efrome.it/sexualite_et_deviances_perspectives_historiques_epoques_modernes_et_contemporaines

1 June

International Conference "Grotius and Toleration", University of Zürich, Switzerland (17-18 June 2027).

<https://grotiana.eu/call-for-papers-grotius-and-toleration/>

1 June

Renaissance Conference of Southern California (RCSC) 68th Annual Conference "Making the Renaissance Political Body", California State University, Fullerton, USA (26 September 2026).

<https://rcsconline.org/annual-conference-2/2022-conference-registration/>

5 June

Newberry Seminar on Religion and Culture in the Americas, 2026-2027, The Newberry Library, Chicago, USA.

<https://networks.h-net.org/group/announcements/20151899/call-proposals-newberry-seminar-religion-and-culture-americas-2026>

12 June

Special issue of Patterns of Prejudice on "The Wandering Jew and Other Myths," guest-edited with Elisabeth Becker-Topkara.

<https://www.eurojewishstudies.org/calls-for-papers/a-call-for-papers-the-wandering-jew-and-other-myths-a-special-issue-of-patterns-of-prejudice-deadline-for-papers-12th-june-2026/>

14 June

Conference "Bridges Across the Continent: Jewish Worlds Between Venice and Amsterdam," Universität Potsdam, Germany (24-26 August 2026).

<https://www.eurojewishstudies.org/homepage-announcements/cfp-bridges-across-the-continent-jewish-worlds-between-venice-and-amsterdam-submission-deadline-14th-june-2026/>

15 June

Call for Members: Minority Religious Heritage Working Group, MIRETAGE Consortium.

<https://www.frh-europe.org/miretage-project-call-for-members-for-the-minority-religious-heritage-working-group/>

15 June

International conference "Così lontani, così vicini. Italia, Mediterraneo e Africa fra XIV e XX secolo," Museo Nazionale Romano, Rome, Italy (19-21 October 2026).

<https://www.lasisem.it/2026/03/07/cfp-osi-lontani-cosi-vicini-italia-mediterraneo-e-africa-fra-xiv-e-xx-secolo/>

30 June

Summer school "Tolleranza e libertà religiosa nell'Italia e nell'Europa moderna e contemporanea," Società di Studi Valdesi, Torre Pellice, Italy (1-3 September 2026).

<https://www.lasisem.it/2026/04/18/societa-di-studi-valdesi-scuola-estiva-2026/>

30 June

Call for articles on "Emancipation in Early Modern England," editors Louis André and John Delsinne.

<https://calenda.org/1358238>

1 July

Early Career Researchers Seminar "Connections: Mobility and Community in the Early Modern World", University of Copenhagen, Denmark (21-23 October 2027).

<https://saxoinstitute.ku.dk/research/history/radical-pietism-in-northern-europe/events/2026/connections-mobility-and-community-in-the-early-modern-world/>

15 July

International Workshop "Tuscany and the Iberian Empire: Migration and Knowledge Transmission in the Early Modern Period," Palazzo Alberti, Florence, Italy (30 October 2026).

<https://www.medicis.org/cfp-tuscany-and-the-iberian-empires-migration-and-knowledge-transmission-in-the-early-modern-period-30-october-2026-florence/>

1 August

Research Group "Joy, Pleasure, and Enjoyment in Judaism."

<https://networks.h-net.org/group/announcements/20151564/call-papers-research-group-joy-pleasure-and-enjoyment-judaism>

1 October

International Workshop "What Makes a Diaspora? Middle Eastern Minorities, the Americas, and Jewish Studies in Conversation," University of Cologne, Germany (24-25 May 2027).

<https://networks.h-net.org/group/announcements/20151638/cfp-what-makes-diaspora-middle-eastern-minorities-americas-and-jewish>

18 October

Call for contributions at the 13th Congress AISU (Associazione italiana di storia urbana), "The Wounded City. Urban spaces as sites of conflict, life, and memory/La città ferita. Gli spazi urbani come luogo di conflitto, vita, memorie", Genoa, Italy (7-10 September 2027).

<https://aisuinternational.org/genova-2027-home/>

1 November

Colloquium “Täufer-Kolloquium zu 500 Jahre Schleithemer Bekenntnis”, Liestal, Switzerland, (1-2 July 2027).

<https://www.mennonitica.ch/>

EMoDiR's activities can be followed at:

Academia <https://independent.academia.edu/EMoDiRResearchGroup>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/emodir/?fref=ts>

Twitter account @_EMoDiR_

Website <https://emodir.hypotheses.org/>

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