

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Information

Date of Birth | August 1983
Marital Status | Married

Education

May 2020 | **University of Bern**, Switzerland
Habilitation, *venia docendi* in the Scientific Study of Religion
(*Religionswissenschaft*)

Feb. 2014 –
Nov. 2016 | **University of Bern**, Switzerland
Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Higher School Education

Aug. 2007 –
Nov. 2011 | **University of Freiburg**, Switzerland
Ph.D., Scientific Study of Religion (*insigni cum laude*)

Oct. 2002 –
July 2007 | **University of Freiburg**, Switzerland
M.A., Scientific Study of Religion (major), Contemporary History, Social
Anthropology (minors)
M.A. thesis on the public regulation of the Swiss religious field
(*summa cum laude*)

Professional Experience

Sep. 2017 – | University of Bern, Switzerland
Assistant professor, Institute for the science of religion (100%)

Oct. 2014 –
Aug. 2017 | University of Freiburg, Switzerland
Senior research fellow, Chair for the scientific study of religion (50%)

Feb. 2013 –
Aug. 2017 | University of Bern, Switzerland
Postdoc assistant, Institute for the science of religion (50%)

Sep. 2013 –
Jan. 2014 | University of Zurich, Switzerland
Invited lecturer, Chair for the scientific study of religion.

Sep. 2012 –
Dec 2012 | University of Freiburg, Switzerland
Postdoc research assistant, Chair for the scientific study of religion.

Oct. 2010 –
May 2012 | University of Bayreuth, Germany
Scientific collaborator, Chair for the scientific study of religion II.

Aug. 2007 –
May 2010 | University of Freiburg, Switzerland
Research assistant, Chair for the scientific study of religion.

Honors and Awards

- 2020 **Recognition of Excellence in Teaching** (*Anerkennung hervorragender Leistungen in der Lehre*) for the course (*Vorlesung*) “The Religious Change of the Sixties and Seventies. Global and Local Perspectives” (*Der religiöse Wandel der 1960er und 1970er-Jahre: lokale und globale Perspektiven*) awarded by the University of Bern.
- 2017 **Certificate of Excellence in Teaching** (*Urkunde für ausgezeichnete Lehre*) for the seminar “Introduction to the Science of Religion II” (*Einführung in die Religionswissenschaft II*) awarded by the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Bern.
- 2012 **Fritz Stolz Prize** awarded by the Swiss Society for the Study of Religion for the Ph.D. dissertation *L’enseignement religieux de l’Etat et des communautés religieuses. Une étude sur la présence publique des religions en Romandie et au Tessin.*

Research Grants and External Funding

When not otherwise specified, primary or equally responsible for the application

- 2018 Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF). Research Project, *The Legacy of the 1960s and 1970s: Religious and Scientific Entanglements*. Main applicant. 2 PhD positions (100%), 2018–2021. CHF 350,500.
Foundation Burgergemeinde Bern. English proofreading for the special issue, *The Dynamics of Religion, Media, and Community*. CHF 1,000
- 2017 Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF). Conference, *The Dynamics of Religion, Media, and Community* (with Oliver Krüger). CHF 3,700
- 2016 Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF). Contribution to the book, *La religion à l’école*. CHF 10,000
Swiss Society for the Study of Religion. Conference, *The Dynamics of Religion, Media, and Community* (with Oliver Krüger). CHF 1,000
- 2015 University of Freiburg (CH) Faculty Research Grant. Contribution to the book, *La religion à l’école*. CHF 900
Swiss Society for the Study of Religion. Contribution to the book, *La religion à l’école*. CHF 1,000
- 2014 Swiss Sociological Association. Conference, *Form und Formen religiöser Vergemeinschaftung* (“Religion and Society” Research Committee). CHF 3,500
Swiss Society for the Study of Religion. Conference, *Form und Formen religiöser Vergemeinschaftung* (“Religion and Society” Research Committee). CHF 1,000
Bern University Research Foundation. English proofreading for the special issue, *A Matter of Perspective?* (with Till Mostowlansky). CHF 2,500
Burgergemeinde Foundation Bern. English proofreading for the special issue, *A Matter of Perspective?* (with Till Mostowlansky). CHF 2,500
University of Bern Collaborators’ Association. Workshop, *A Matter of Perspective?* (with Till Mostowlansky). CHF 3,500
Swiss Society for the Study of Religion. Workshop, *A Matter of Perspective?* (with Till Mostowlansky). CHF 800.-
Swiss Society for the Study of Religion. Contribution to the book, *Etat des lieux des politiques de l’enseignement religieux en Suisse latine*. CHF 2,000
Swiss Sociological Association. Conference, *Femmes et islams. Voir, lire, dire et vivre l’islam au féminin. Regards croisés sur la Suisse* (“Religion and Society”

	Research Committee). CHF 1,000
2013	Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF), <i>Die Dynamik von Mediennutzung und religiöser Gemeinschaftsbildung</i> . Co-author as research assistant (University of Freiburg, CH). Main applicant: Prof. Dr. Oliver Krüger, University of Freiburg (CH). 1 PhD (100%) and 1 Postdoc (50%) position, 2014–2017. CHF 375,647 Swiss Society for the Study of Religion. Workshop for Ph.D. candidates, <i>Am Anfang war das Zeichen</i> (with Ricarda Stegmann). CHF 2,500 Swiss Sociological Association. Conference <i>L'événement en religion</i> ("Religion and Society" Research Committee). CHF 700
2012	University of Fribourg (CH) Faculty Research Grant. Contribution to the edited volume, <i>Frieden als Beruf</i> (with Petra Bleisch Bouzar). CHF 1,500 Swiss Society for the Study of Religion. Contribution to the edited volume, <i>Frieden als Beruf</i> (with Petra Bleisch Bouzar). CHF 2,000

Research Focus

Global religious communities in late modernity
Qualitative empirical research
Sociological theory of religion
Religion and media
History of science and religion
History and sociology of Christian groups (Jehovah's Witnesses, Latter-day Saints, Evangelicals)
Religion in the public sphere

Supervision

Ph.D. Thesis	Michel, Simon (2018 – ongoing), <i>The dynamics of religion and the social sciences</i> , University of Bern Wytttenbach, Christina (2018 – ongoing), <i>Emerging religiosity, emerging assessments</i> , University of Bern
MA Thesis	Siegenthaler, Gabriela (ongoing), <i>Qi-Gong zwischen Religion und Medizin</i> , University of Bern Brügger, Annina (ongoing), <i>Religion im Wahlkampf 2019 auf Social Media</i> , University of Bern Meyer, Sophie (ongoing), <i>Religion + Wissenschaft = Religionswissenschaft?</i> University of Bern Dellenbusch, Verena (ongoing), <i>Der Interreligiöse Dialog zwischen Juden und Christen</i> . University of Bern Robbiani, Martina (2017), <i>La formation continue sur les religions pour les enseignants La régulation de la pluralité religieuse à l'école</i> , second supervisor, University of Fribourg
BA Thesis	Tauern, Ionia (2019), <i>Reggae und Rastafari: Eine religionswissenschaftliche Untersuchung</i> , University of Bern Liechti, Elena (2019), <i>Die Audiovisuellen Dateien des Islamischen Zentralrats Schweiz</i> , University of Bern Wyler, Michelle (2019) <i>Wie instrumentalisiert die 'United Nations Organisation' Religionen und religiöse Akteure für den Erhalt von Frieden</i> , University of Bern

Siegenthaler, Gabriela (2016), *Religion in der Öffentlichkeit. Am Fallbeispiel des Buddhismus im Haus der Religionen*, University of Bern

Participation to
PhD Defense
Committees

(As committee chair) Martin Ackermann, *Göttliche Mutter der unsterblichen Glückseligkeit*”. Eine netzwerkanalytische Studie zu Charismatisierungsprozessen um *Mātā Amritānandamayī Devī*, University of Bern, Februar 21, 2020.

(As committee chair) Mara Arizaga, *Can We Say Prayers in Our Own Language? The Transmission of Tibetan Bon Religious Practices to the West*, University of Bern, October 4, 2019.

(As committee chair) Nadine Plachta, *Himalayan Borderland Communities: Identity, Belonging, and Place among the Tsumpas*, University of Bern, October 2, 2018.

(As committee chair) Flavio Geissshuesler, *Crisis and Critique in the History of Religion: Ernesto de Martino (1908–1965) in Italy and Beyond*, University of Bern, September 27, 2018.

(As committee chair) Piotr Sobkowiak, *The Religion of the Shamans. Discursive formations and social reality in Mongolia and Transbaikalia*. University of Bern, March 2, 2018.

Teaching

Primary or equally responsible for course design, teaching, and grading

2020	University of Bern. BA/MA Seminar : <i>Asian Ritual Practices in the Mirror of Ritual Theories</i> (co-taught in German) University of Bern. BA Seminar : <i>Religion in Context: Contemporary Research Questions in the Scientific Study of Religion</i> (taught in German)
2019	University of Bern. BA/MA Course (Vorlesung) : <i>The Religious Transformation of the 1960s and 1970s: Global and Local Perspectives</i> (taught in German) University of Bern. BA/MA Seminar : <i>New Religious Movements Between Asia and the West</i> (taught in German) University of Bern. MA Course : <i>Religion in the Contemporary World</i> (special class for last-semester MA students, taught in German). University of Bern, BA/MA/PhD Seminar : <i>Qualitative Empirical Research on Religion: An Introduction to “Grounded Theory”</i> (taught in German) Masaryk University, Brno (CZ), BA/MA Course (Erasmus teaching exchange program): <i>Constructing Religious Community</i> (taught in English) Invited lecture on “Working with the Software Atlas.ti: An Introduction” in the course <i>Méthodes et recherches qualitatives en sciences sociales</i> ” of Prof. Janine Dahinden and Dr. Anna Neubauer, Institute for the study of social processes, University of Neuchâtel, April 3 (taught in French)
2018	Universities of Fribourg and Bern. BA/MA Seminar : <i>Translocal Religion: Contacts, Conflicts, and Entanglements</i> (co-taught in German) University of Bern. BA/MA Seminar : <i>Religion and Emotion. Theoretical and Empirical Reflections</i> (co-taught in German) Universities of Basel and Bern. BA/MA Seminar : <i>Multiple Religious Identities: Turning an Academic Question into an International Conference</i> (co-taught in English) University of Bern. MA Seminar : <i>Introduction to the Empirical Research on</i>

- Religion: The Use of Media in the Jewish Community of Bern* (taught in German)
University of Bern. **BA/MA Seminar: Religion, Space, and Place** (taught in German)
- 2017 University of Bern. **BA/MA Course (Vorlesung): The Dynamics of a Modern Religious Community. History and Sociology of Jehovah's Witnesses** (taught in German)
University of Bern. **BA/MA Seminar: The category "Belief" in the Study of Religion** (co-taught in German)
University of Bern. **BA Seminar: Introduction to the Scientific Study of Religion II** (taught in German)
Invited lecture on "Religion in the Swiss Public Sphere: Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Debates" in the course *Religion et espace public* of Prof. Dr. François Gauthier, Institute for the Study of Religion, University of Fribourg, November 29 (taught in French)
Invited lecture on "Health, Purity, and Danger: Jehovah's Witnesses and the Question of Blood" in the course *Religion und Medizin* of Prof. Dr. Dorothea Lüddeckens, Institute for the Study of Religion, University of Zurich, November 23 (taught in German)
Invited lecture on "The Media of Jehovah's Witnesses" in the seminar *Neue religiöse Gemeinschaften: Die Zeugen Jehovas* of Prof. Dr. Dorothea Lüddeckens, Institute for the Study of Religion, University of Zurich, November 14 (taught in German)
- 2016 University of Bern. **BA/MA/PhD Seminar: Qualitative Empirical Research on Religion: An Introduction to "Grounded Theory"** (taught in German)
University of Fribourg. **BA/MA Seminar: Empirical Research Workshop: Media Use in Religious Communities** (co-taught in German)
- 2015 University of Bern. **BA/MA Seminar: "He who knows only one, knows none." Comparative Approaches in the Study of Religion** (co-taught in German and English)
University of Bern. **BA/MA Seminar: Religion and Performativity: Language and Action in Religious Contexts** (co-taught in German)
University of Bern. **BA Seminar: Introduction to the Scientific Study of Religion II** (taught in German)
Invited lecture on "Religion in the Public Sphere: The Example of Swiss Public Schools" (taught in German) in the seminar *Europäische Religionspolitiken im Zeitalter der Pluralisierung* of Prof. Dr. Frank Peter, Institut für Islamwissenschaft, University of Bern, April 16
- 2014 University of Bern. **BA/MA Seminar: "Going Global." The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as an Example of a Successful Community in the Context of Globalization** (taught in German)
University of Bern. **MA Seminar: From the Native's Point of View? Emic and Etic Categories in the Scientific Study of Religion** (co-taught in German)
University of Bern. **BA Seminar: Religious and Utopian Communities Compared** (co-taught in German)
Invited lecture on "Religion and Public Space: The Case of Switzerland" (taught in French) in the course *Religion et espace public* of Prof. Dr. François Gauthier, Institute for the Study of Religion, University of Fribourg, November 26
- 2013 University of Zurich. **BA Seminar: A Science-of-Religion Perspective on Values and Norms** (taught in German)
University of Bern. **MA Seminar: The Religious Community is Dead. Long Live the Religious Community! Theories of Religious Communalization and the Global Study of Religion** (taught in German)
- 2012 University of Freiburg (CH). **BA Seminar: Religion and Social Bond: The Durkheimian Sociology of Religion** (taught in French)
- 2011 University of Bayreuth. **BA/MA Seminar: A Science-of-Religion Perspective on Religion and Values** (co-taught in German)

- 2009 University of Freiburg (CH). **BA Seminar: A Study-of-Religion Perspective on Atheism** (taught in French)
- 2008 University of Freiburg (CH). **BA Seminar: Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods** (co-taught in German and French)

Organization of Conferences, Workshops, and Panels

Primary or equally responsible for organization and moderation if not otherwise specified

- 2019 Panel, *Surveying the 1960s: Religious and Scientific Entanglements*. Annual conference of the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR), Tartu, June 25–29. Organization and moderation.
International Workshop, *Constructing and Contesting Community*, Bern, Center for Global Studies, May 9–10. Organization and moderation, with Thomas Claviez and Christian Büschges.
- 2018 International Workshop, *The Legacy of the 1960s and 1970s: Kickoff Workshop*. Münchenwiler Castle (Bern) November 9-10. Organization and moderation.
International Conference. Annual conference of the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR), *Multiple Religious Identities: Individuals, Communities, Traditions*. Member of the Program Committee and member of the Organization Committee. University of Bern, June 17–21.
Panel (double session), *Norms and normativity in the study of religion*s, European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR), University of Bern, June 17–21. Organization and moderation.
Conference series, *Contesting and Constructing Community*, Bern, Center for Global Studies, March 9, April 23, Mai 14. Organization and moderation, with Thomas Claviez and Christian Büschges.
- 2017 Panel & Roundtable, “*À travers du Röstigraben. Strategische Fragen des Mittelbaus*.” Annual Conference of the Swiss Society for the Study of Religion. University of Fribourg, November 10–11. Organization and moderation, with Anja Kirsch.
Public conference and debate, *Wer spricht für den Islam in der Schweiz? Im Spannungsfeld von Alltag und Ansprüchen*, Part of the conference series “La Suisse n’existe pas” promoted by the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences, Bern, October 23. Organization and moderation, with Hanjörg Schmid.
International Workshop, *The Dynamics of Religion, Media, and Community*. University of Fribourg, September 29–30. Organization, with Oliver Krüger.
Panel, *Religiöse Zeitschriften als Produzenten von Zugehörigkeit*, Annual Conference of the German Society for the Study of Religion (DVRW), Marburg, September 13–16. Organization, with Anja-Maria Bassimir.
Panel, *Mehr Licht am Ende des Tunnels: Medien als Metaphern und die Metapher als Medium*, Annual Conference of the German Society for the Study of Religion (DVRW), Marburg, September 13–16. Organization with Jens Schlieter und Moritz Klenk.
Panel, *Medien und Gemeinschaft: methodologische und empirische Perspektiven*, Annual Conference of the German Society for the Study of Religion (DVRW), Marburg, September 13–16. Organization and moderation.
Panel, *Religious communities: Between public participation and internal tension* (double-session panel). Annual conference of the International Society for the Sociology of Religion, Lausanne, July 4–8. Organization and moderation, with Rafael Walther (“Religion and Society” Research Committee)

- 2015 Panel, *The (de)construction of group solidarity in religious communities*. Annual conference of the Swiss Sociological Association, Zurich, June 21–23. Organization, with Rafael Walthert (“Religion and Society” Research Committee).
- 2015 Panel, *Media, religious communities, and society: adaptation and transformation*. 21st IAHR-Conference, Erfurt, August 23–29. Organization and moderation.
- Panel, *Religion between deregulation and new institutions*. National Conference of the Swiss Sociological Association, Lausanne, June 4. Organization and moderation, with Rafael Walthert (“Religion and Society” Research Committee).
- International Conference, *Form und Formen religiöser Gemeinschaft*. Zurich, May 8–9. Organization and moderation, with Rafael Walthert Zürich and Moritz Klenk.
- 2014 International Workshop, *A Matter of Perspective: Disentangling the Emic/Etic Debate in the Scientific Study of Religion*. Bern, May 9–10. Organization and moderation, with Till Mostowlansky
- 2013 Workshop for Ph.D. candidates, *Am Anfang war das Zeichen. Der Beitrag von Sprachtheorien zur religionswissenschaftlichen Theoriebildung*. Freiburg, November 1. Organization and moderation, with Ricarda Stegmann.
- Panel, *Religion und soziale Kohäsion: soziale Diskurse und strukturelle Ungleichheiten*. National Conference of the Swiss Sociological Association, Bern, June 26–28. Organization and moderation, with Mallory Schneuwly Purdie (“Religion and Society“ Research Committee).
- 2012 International Conference, *L'événement en religion: ruptures historiques, constructions biographiques et mobilisations collectives*. Lausanne, October 17–19. Financial support through the “Religion and Society” Research Committee.
- 2011 Panel, *Religionen und Religionsgemeinschaften in öffentlicher Kritik*. Joint conference of the German, Austrian and Swiss Sociological Societies, September 29–October 1. Organization and moderation, with Rafael Walthert (“Religion and Society” Research Committee).
- 2010 International conference, *Society, the State, and Religious Education Politics*. Freiburg (CH), June 25–26. Organization and moderation, with Ansgar Jödicke.
- 2009 Panel, *La religion en pratique: identités et pratiques religieuses en mutation*. National Conference of the Swiss Sociological Association, Geneva, September 8–9. Organization and moderation, with Mallory Schneuwly Purdie (“Religion and Society” Research Committee).

Membership and Positions

- Member
- Swiss Society for the Study of Religion (SGS/SSSR)
 - German Society for the Study of Religion (DVRW)
 - Swiss Sociological Association (SGS/SSS)
 - International Society for the Sociology of Religion (ISSR/SISR)
 - Swiss Society for the Didactics of the Science of Religion
- Positions
- Board member of the Swiss Society for the Study of Religion (since November 2011)
 - Coordinator of the research committee “Religion and Society”, Swiss Sociological Association (since September 2008)
 - Swiss correspondent for the *Institut Européen de Sciences des Religions*, EPHE, Paris
 - Reviewers’ board of the journal *Zeitschrift für Religionskunde* (since 2014).

Languages

Italian	Native speaker
English	Fluent
German	Fluent
French	Fluent
Spanish	Intermediate knowledge
Swedish	Basic knowledge
Latin	Intermediate knowledge
Sanskrit	4 semesters introductory course

Special Skills

Very good knowledge of computer-assisted analysis of qualitative data (atlas.ti); good knowledge of computer-assisted analysis of quantitative data (SPSS); working knowledge of HTML/CSS and of Internet-management software

Reviewer Activities

Research institutions: Austrian Academy of Sciences (AAS) | Austrian Science Fund (FWF) | Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) | Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) | Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF)

Peer-reviewed journals: *Religion* | *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* | *Social Compass* | *Entangled Religions* | *Asdiwal* | *Zeitschrift für Religionskunde* | *Scuola Democratica* | *Studi e Materiali di Storia delle Religioni*

Applications

2012 Postdoctoral assistant in the History of religion, Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Lausanne: *secondo loco*
Postdoc assistant for empirical research on religion, Faculty of Theology, University of Bern: shortlisted