



The Early Modern Section of the Research Group Polycentricity and Plurality of Premodern Christianities (POLY)

Frankfurt Lecture on Pathways through Early Modern Christianities

Tuesday 22 June 2021
10–12 am CET, Zoom

Ines G. Županov (Paris/New Delhi):
“Accommodation – historicity, teleology,
expansion – in Indian Christianities”

Accommodation is one of the oldest concepts employed in the context of religious encounters. In recent historiography, it has been discussed as hermeneutic, as rhetorical and cultural/missionary reflection, and as praxis. In Christianity, accommodation is both symptom and result of cultural, social, and political diversity. Accordingly, it has been subject to internal disputes that even led to the redrawing of denominational boundaries. In this lecture, I will focus on the ways in which early modern Catholic missionaries (especially Jesuit missionaries in Asia) responded to a plethora of *particular* non-Christian religious practices with the *universalizing* drive of accommodation as a proselytizing strategy. In the process, they historicized the religious facts they encountered and contained them within Christian teleology as well as their expansionary political imaginations. I will argue that that this universalizing missionary use of accommodation produced fertile ground for the emergence of plural forms of Christianity.

Registration for the online-event at:
pluralchristianities@em.uni-frankfurt.de