

# Collaborative Research Centre 923

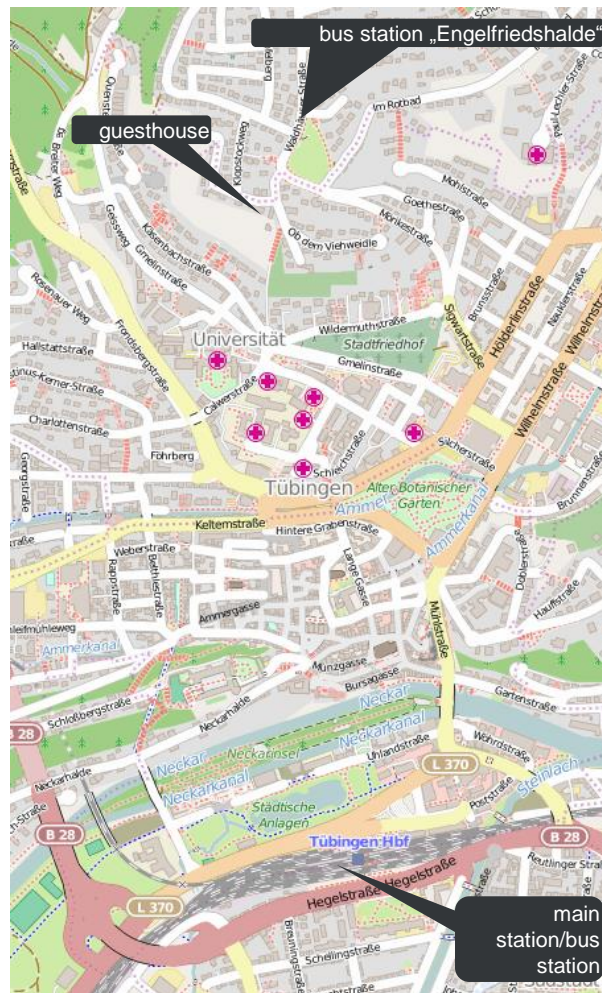
The Arab Spring, the financial crisis, and the nuclear catastrophe in Fukushima have all left significant marks on international politics, economies, societies, and cultures. Extreme situations like upheavals, revolutions, and disasters affect everyday life. Such circumstances make us aware of how fragile and contingent the foundations of our life and actions are. Extreme situations can also lead to rapid change in social perception and behavior patterns.

Working with the above mentioned threat scenarios, as well as others, the projects of CRC 923 investigate the manner in which various social orders (which can structure social groups or entire societies) change, especially when facing threats to their very existence.

The Centre's research focuses on Europe from Antiquity to contemporary history. Additional projects analyse African, North and Latin American, Chinese and Australian examples of threatened social orders.

The CRC's main interdisciplinary project areas—Violent Protest, Disasters, Dissolution of social Orders, and Competing social Orders— as well as the Ancillary Project Group “Cultural Dynamics” seek to achieve four long-term research goals:

1. Historizing the perception and interpretation of current crisis diagnostics
2. Analysing the mechanisms of rapid social changes
3. Redefining spacial and temporal categories in the social sciences and the humanities
4. Reflecting on the fundamentals of the participating disciplines in the era of globalization



## Venue:

Guesthouse of the University of Tübingen  
Lessingweg 3  
72072 Tübingen

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## CRC 923

**Threatened Order – Societies under Stress**

# Christian Prophecies as a Reflex to Competing Concepts of Order (ca. 1500-1800)

9.-10. April 2015, Tübingen

Picture: Pamphlet “Kurtzer summarischer [...] Bericht [...]”,  
s.l. 1648. A 209 Bü 1462a, Nr. 1.  
HStA Stuttgart (detail).



# Christian Prophecies

Numerous cases of early modern prophecies are strongly bound in certain research traditions, e. g. national and religious contexts, or the interpretation as religious or social deviation. For this conference, main discussion topics are concrete case studies of early modern prophecies from a broad range of cultural, political, social, and religious backgrounds. Thus, we will be able to compare a wider and more diverse range of these case studies and specific aspects of the prophecies. Prophecy is in this context defined as a discussed “divine” revelation to an individual which is linked with concrete instructions and which is addressed to a certain parish, the church as a whole, the Christendom, or mankind.

Prophecies are more than textual phenomena or rhetorical camouflage. They can rather be seen as a possibility to understand concepts of social order: Whereas one group of individuals could accept the present social order as a divinely ordained system, another group could perceive the divine will to change this very order and propose an alternative, new social order. The competition of diverging concepts of order made it necessary for each group to justify their own analysis of the status quo as the “correct” perception of the current order on earth and of the normative and divine conception of order. In these situations, implicit assumptions and unreflected practices were expressed, reflected, and actualized on a performative level.

Potential prophecies were, however, examined by specific institutions or individuals. In formal proceedings it was discussed whether a case was based on a divine revelation or not. Thus, in a way, ‘real’ prophecies were generated by a process of examination.

In the analysis and contextualization of each prophecy case study, the following main aspects should be discussed:

To which concepts of order does the prophecy refer?  
Which institutions or authorities examined the prophets and prophetesses?

Which arguments are raised in debates on a concrete prophecy case?

# Program

**Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> 2015**

14.00-14.15

SUSANNE KOFLER, FABIAN FECHNER (Tübingen):  
Introduction

## **Section 1: Revival and Transnational Entanglement of Prophetic Themes**

Chair: Renate Dürr (Tübingen)

14.15-15.15

EDUARDO FERNÁNDEZ GUERRERO (Madrid):  
A New Revelation for a New Church: The Apocalypse  
Nova and the Power of Prophecy

15.15-16.15

REBECCA CARNEVALI (London):  
Pseudo-Joachimite and anti-Turkish prophecies in late  
16th century Italy: the “Discorso della futura et sperata  
vittoria contra il Turco” by Giovan Battista Nazari (1570)  
and its two illustrated editions

16.15-16.30

Coffee break

## **Section 2: Insider Views of Prophetic Movements**

Chair: Christoph Auffarth (Bremen)

16.30-17.30

LIONEL LABORIE (London):  
Cessationism and the Struggle for Authority in the  
Huguenot Diaspora

17.30-18.30

FABIAN FECHNER (Tübingen):  
Dynamics and “Memoria” in the Peruvian Prophecy of  
the Dominican Francisco de la Cruz (1570)

19.00

Conference Dinner

**Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> 2015**

## **Section 3: The Prophetic Profile: Generating Evidence through Experts**

Chair: Felicitas Schmieder (Hagen)

9.30-10.30

SUSANNE KOFLER (Tübingen):  
Figuration of a Prophet –  
Conflicts about Revelation in Lutheranism  
during the Confessional Period

10.30-11.30

MATTHIAS GLOËL (Talca, Chile):  
Manuel Bacorro Francês and his “Anacephaleoses da  
Monarquia Luzitana”: Portuguese messianism in the  
17th century

11.30-12.30

GÖRGE HASSELHOFF (Dortmund):  
The minister as prophet:  
Zwingli and Bullinger create a job description

after the conference:  
Lunch and (optional) City Tour