

Simple Believers:
The Layering of Knowledge in Religious Communities
from Late Antiquity to Modern Times
A Conversation

Organized by

F. Montinaro, T. Jürgasch & T. Benfey

Schloß Hohentübingen, Wednesday, July 16, 2025

9:00–9:15 Greetings by the Organizers & the CRCS Board

9:15–10:15 **Panel One (Chair: H. Zellentin)**

J. Tannous (Princeton), *Introducing the Simple Believer*

M. Schüßler (Tübingen), *Who Is Simple, Who Believes? The Liquidation of Catholic Belonging and Believing*

10:15–10:45 *Coffee Break*

10:45–11:45 **Panel Two (Chair: D. Burkhardt Janssen)**

S. Metz (Tübingen) & **T. Jürgasch** (Tübingen), *Simple Believers and Where to Find Them – Patristic Perspectives*

11:45–12:45 **Panel Three (Chair: L. Lehmhaus)**

T. Benfey (Tübingen), *Writing Systems, Literacy, and Religious Communication in Late Antique Iran*

F. Montinaro (Tübingen), *Was Byzantine Pilgrimage a Thing for the Simple?*

12:45–13:45 *Lunch Break*

13:45–14:45 **Panel Four (Chair: R. Goyal & M. Shaddel)**

N. Schmid (Tübingen), *Early Islamic Storytelling between Aesthetics and Ethics: The Qur'anic Joseph as a Model Believer*

H. Ibrahim (Tübingen), *Simple Believers in Christian Arabic Literature: The Cases of Ḥanūn ibn al-Ṣalt and 'Afīf ibn al-Mu'ammal*

14:45–15:15 *Coffee Break*

15:15–16:15 **Panel Five (Chair: S. Siemianowski)**

C. Olson (Bucknell), *Evaluating Belief in Early Modern Morocco*

A. Holzem (Tübingen), *The Workaday Mass and the Hen for the Priest—The Complexity of 'Simple Believers' Religious Practice*

16:15–17:00 General Discussion