



UNIVERSITÄT
BERN
Historisches Institut
Abteilung für Neuere Geschichte



Making Saints in a Glocal Religion: Practices of Holiness in Early Modern Catholicism

International Conference
Rome, 20 – 22 October 2021



Early modern Catholicism was a religion at once deeply rooted in local contexts and fiercely committed to universal reach in the wake of its overseas expansion. This conference sheds light on this creative tension by looking at the cult of saints. Devotion to men and women who had died in the odor of sanctity often started as local affairs but turned global as Catholics at the grassroots sought to inscribe their cults into the belief system of an emerging world religion. Centering the complex interplay between patterns of localization and universalization, this conference looks at the translocal networks, decision-making processes, and the quest for symbolic predominance at the heart of early modern saint-making in order to tell a new story of Catholicism as the world's first "glocal" religion.

Conference venue

Istituto Svizzero di Roma
Via Liguria, 20
I-00187 Roma
www.istitutosvizzero.it

Contact and Registration

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Organizers

Birgit Emich | Frankfurt am Main
Daniel Sidler | Basel
Samuel Weber | Bern
Christian Windler | Bern

Workshop jointly organized by the German Historical Institute in Rome, Istituto Svizzero di Roma, Lehrstuhl für Geschichte der Frühen Neuzeit des Historischen Seminars der Universität Frankfurt and Abteilung für Neuere Geschichte des Historischen Instituts der Universität Bern.

Promoted by



Fig.: Saint Rose of Lima (1586–1617), Cuzco School, mid 18th century, The Walters Art Museum.

Wednesday, 20 October, 15.00 – 19.00

Istituto Svizzero di Roma

15.00 Joëlle Comé | Director of the Istituto Svizzero di Roma
Martin Baumeister | Director of the German Historical Institute in Rome
Welcome

Birgit Emich | Frankfurt am Main, Daniel Sidler | Basel,
Samuel Weber | Bern, Christian Windler | Bern
Welcome and Introduction

I - Localization and Universalization

Chair: Birgit Emich | Frankfurt am Main

Simon Ditchfield
Exemplary Lives in the Particularisation
of the Universal (and Universalisation of the
Particular)

16.15 Coffee Break

16.45 Erin Rowe
Nubian Princess to Carmelite Nun:
The Global Journey of Santa Efigenia

Nadine Amsler
Sainthood Sinified: Jesuit Hagiography
and Christian Piety in Early Modern China

Comment: Vincenzo Lavenia

Thursday, 21 October, 9.00 – 18.30

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II - Holiness as Symbolic Capital

Chair: Daniel Sidler | Basel

Liesbeth Corens
Margins and Marginalia: English Catholics' Preparations
for Canonisation Processes

Cécile Vincent-Cassy
Saint John of God, a Saint for the Monarchy? Juxtaposing
Saints' Cults in the Spanish World in the
Seventeenth Century

10.15 Coffee Break

10.45 Markus Friedrich
Constructing a Saint's Life between Rome
and the Provinces. Jesuit Hagiographical
Literature on Petrus Canisius

Samuel Weber
The Promises and Pitfalls of a Family Saint:
The Borromeo Family and the Canonization of
Carlo (c. 1590–1620)

Comment: Christian Windler | Bern

III - Roman and Local Procedures

Chair: Christian Windler | Bern

14.30 Birgit Emich
Holy Family? The Role of Kinship Relations in the
Canonization Procedure

Maria Teresa Fattori
The Juridical-Bureaucratic Roman Machine for Making
Saints: Procedures and Instances in
Benedict XIV's De Servorum Dei

15.40 Coffee Break

16.10 Marie-Elizabeth Ducreux
How Local was a Local Saint? How Global was a Regional
Saint? Contrasted Cases of Recognitio Cultus from a
(Large) Central European Space in Early Modern Times

Daniel Sidler
The Making of Local "Saints" in Early Modern Switzerland

Comment: Barbara Stollberg-Rilinger

Friday, 22 October, 9.30 – 17.30

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IV - Networks

Chair: Samuel Weber | Bern

Christophe Duhamelle
Roman Saints All Over Europe. Catacomb Martyrs:
Materiality and Networks

Philipp Zwysig
From the Alps to Rome: Cult and Miracles of
S. Aloysius (Luigi) Gonzaga in Valtellina in the
Context of his Canonization

10.40 Coffee Break

11.10 Andreea Badea
On the Road to Sanctity? The Construction of María
de Ágreda as a Franciscan Saint
between Missionary Zeal and Scholarly Debates

13.45 Jodi Bilinkoff
Fathers, Friars, Sons, and Saint-Makers:
John of the Cross and His Earliest Discipulos

Jonathan Greenwood
Ignatius of Loyola between the Americas
and Europe: Transatlantic Networks of Miracles,
News, and Devotional Objects (online)

Comment: Eva Brugger

16.00 Coffee Break

16.30 Final discussion

