Lucas-Preis

Edited by the Evangelisch-theologische Fakultät of the Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen

The acceptance speeches made by the laureates of the Dr. Leopold Lucas Prize are published in this series. This prize is awarded each year by the Faculty of Protestant Theology at the University of Tübingen for outstanding scholarly achievements as well as for contributions to the furthering of relations between the cultures and the promotion of tolerance and humanity.

The previous laureates include Dieter Henrich, Eduard Lohse, René Girard, Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi, Michael Theunissen, Richard von Weizsäcker, Michael Walzer, Paul Ricoeur, Karl Rahner and Karl Popper.

The acceptance speeches are published regularly in two languages (German and English). The presentation speeches are also included.

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Zagajewski, Adam

Die Poesie hängt die weiße Flagge aus

Hrsg. v. Jürgen Kampmann. Übers. v. Jessica van ’t Westeinde

»True poetry cannot exist without encountering the mind.« According to Adam Zagajewski, these encounters lend poetry colour with questions, enthusiasms, and doubts, and are its essence. In this his ceremonial address at the awarding of the 2016 Lucas Prize, he describes what he understands poetry to be and what he requires of it. Poetry should not turn from the everyday, for the real and concrete are what nourishes it. Adam Zagajewski does not regard poetry as an answer, but rather as a pause between events in the world that cannot be grasped. Zagajewski's works are shaped by philosophical and theological aspects and build bridges of encountering and understanding between East and West Europe and the North American continent.

Neuwirth, Angelika

Wie entsteht eine Schrift in der Forschung und in der Geschichte?

Die Hebräische Bibel und der Koran

Hrsg. v. Jürgen Kampmann
Übers. v. Paul Silas Peterson

What is the relationship between the Qur'an, and therefore Islam, and the biblical tradition? Is the Qur'an part of the Mediterranean culture that was formative for later Europe, or is its message dominated by its own, pre-monotheistic heroic, even combative, Arabian culture? Historically and semantically, the Qur'an is – not differently to the Mishna or the New Testament – part of the biblical tradition. Our perception of the Qur'an is however governed by scholarly constructs established by schools which are split over the issue of the Qur'an's participation in the Jewish-Christian hermeneutics. It is only by substituting the literal reading which is prevailing today by a typological reading that the Qur'an can be recognized in its scriptural dimension, i.e. as a new exegetical reading of the Hebrew Bible based on late antique hermeneutics. Angelika Neuwirth turns to these questions with criteria already proven in neighbouring philologies, such as typological interpretation and the antinomy of attraction and repulsion. Her consideration takes into account, for the first time, the fact of the Qur'an's oral composition and thus the simultaneous emergence of text and belief community.

Schäfer, Peter

Anziehung und Abstoßung

Juden und Christen in den ersten Jahrhunderten ihrer Begegnung

Hrsg. v. Jürgen Kampmann
Übers. v. Paul Silas Peterson
The question as to the relationship between Judaism and Christianity in the first centuries has long been answered, as a matter of course, with the explanation that a permanent boundary was drawn between the two at some point in the first or second century. The claim that such a demarcation of the two religions was established so early on has subsequently undergone critical revision because sources do actually indicate that this process took place over a much longer period of time. Indeed, the process has been shaped by the mutual refueling of arguments to such an extent that one has to speak of “the birth of Christianity from the spirit of Judaism” as much as of “the birth of Judaism from the spirit of Christianity.” Peter Schäfer shows in this gripping analysis of the written traditions and interpretations of the patriarch Enoch and the archangel Metatron just how attraction and repulsion between Judaism and Christianity took shape in the formative early centuries.

**Agamben, Giorgio**

**Leviathans Rätsel**

*Lucas-Preis 2013*

Hrsg. Friedrich Hermanni. Übers. v. Paul S. Peterson

In the course of history, Giorgio Agamben sees an increasing tendency to create legal vacuums and to reduce human beings to their “bare lives.” This sovereign abrogation of law is an exceptional state in which the sovereign first has to invent the new law purely arbitrarily. The result is that the newly founded legal community is based on the exclusion of those people who do not belong to it and thus do not have legal protection.

**Benhabib, Seyla**

**Gleichheit und Differenz**

*Die Würde des Menschen und die Souveränitätsansprüche der Völker im Spiegel der politischen Moderne*

Hrsg. v. Volker Drehsen. Übers. v. Stefan Eich u. Paul S. Peterson

Are cosmopolitan ideals just wishful thinking today? Seyla Benhabib takes a historical and conceptual perspective in her approach to the paradoxes of equality and difference in the philosophy of the modern Western world. Proceeding from autobiographical reflections, she presents episodes in the cultural and political experiences of German-speaking Jews and their answers to the dilemmas of equality and difference, self-determination and assimilation. Reflections by Leopold Lucas, Moritz Goldstein, Hans Kelsen, Leo Strauss and Hannah Arendt help her to examine the paradoxical political experience in the modern nation state in view of the hybridity of cultural identities and achievements. Benhabib’s central concepts here are “hospitality” as a reference to our own foreignness and problematic diversity, the jurisgenerative power of cosmopolitan norms and the idea of democratic iterations as processes of shaping politics through the law.
Margalit, Avishai

Apostasie

Hrsg. v. Volker Drehsen
Übers. v. Shivaun Heath u. Clemens Bethge

Volume 2011
ISBN 9783161523243
hardscover 24,00 €

Why betrayal? It seems today that the idea of betrayal has lost its grip. After all, infidelity as a breach of sexual monogamy is relegated nowadays, in liberal countries, to the private sphere of personal relations. Apostasy is rendered, in liberal societies, not as an act of betrayal, but rather a basic human right. Avishai Margalits concern with apostasy is not a concern with theology, namely with God but with philosophical anthropology, namely with human beings. He believes that the main challenge to anyone who believes in the project of ethics, and in the importance and viability of the notion of betrayal, is to disentangle the notion of betrayal from its feudal underpinnings. In his concept of a decent society, Margalit succeeds in incorporating into any political pragmatism an indispensable ethical and moral dimension which is constitutionally and consistently orientated to the basic principle of human dignity.

Berger, Peter L.

Dialog zwischen religiösen Traditionen in einem Zeitalter der Relativität


Volume 2010
2011. 124 pages.
ISBN 9783161507922
hardscover 24,00 €

Modernity does not necessarily lead to a decline of religion, but to the loss of its taken-for-granted character. Modernity has in fact changed the social and psychological environment of religion. Conversation between adherents of different religious traditions has become an inevitability, not a luxury. In the present text Peter L. Berger seeks to spell out the conditions for such conversation to be both completely open and yet faithful to the core of a tradition. He proposes a basis for useful dialogic engagement among different religious traditions.

Armstrong, Karen

Plädoyer für Gott


Volume 2009
ISBN 9783161503054
hardscover 24,00 €

In the modern period, the conception of religion in the West changed and became problematic. Theology is not providing us with explanations but inviting us to penetrate the transcendence that we call God and is beyond our understanding; our doctrines are not providing us with information about the divine but are essentially programmes for action, calling in particular for kenosis (self-emptying) and compassion (the ability to experience the other and dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world). Unless the mythoi of religion are translated into ritual or ethical compassionate action, they remain incomprehensible and opaque. Today we tend to read our scriptures with a literalism that is without parallel in the history of religion and this has made faith problematic for many; in the past, for example, nobody understood the first chapter of Genesis as a literal account of the origins of life.
Henrich, Dieter

Endlichkeit und Sammlung des Lebens

Übers. v. Shivaun Heath, hrsg. v. Friedrich Schweitzer

This study addresses the basic situation of the human being, who as such is capable of rational cognition, but who necessarily leads his life in the knowledge of himself. It explains what a recollection of this life means when all hope of another life has lost its certainty, as is the case in modern times. The result of this situation is an antithesis between an experience of unconditional meaning in finite and ephemeral life, and a nihilistic experience which can be realized in a demonstration of the irrelevance of life, a practice which was institutionalized in the extermination camps of the SS. These, however, were not able to hinder their victims on the path towards the recollection of their lives. For such a recollection is incommensurably superior to the motives of the nihilistic action. The author deals with the philosophical implications of such a recollection, and shows the reasons for the weaknesses of commemorative culture in Germany. An English translation is printed on facing pages.

Lohse, Eduard

Das Vaterunser

im Licht seiner jüdischen Voraussetzungen

Hrsg. v. Friedrich Schweitzer

Übers. v. Shivaun Heath

Eduard Lohse was awarded the Leopold Lucas Prize in 2007. The Prize was given to him in appreciation of his scholarly achievements in the entire field of New Testament exegesis and theology and in particular of his contribution to making Jewish sources accessible and including them in the understanding of early Christianity, of his pioneering efforts to establish a new relationship between Israel and Christendom after the Shoah as well of his commitment to the entire Protestant church in Germany, as a member of the church governing body, and to the dialogue between Christians and Jews. In this lecture, he deals intentionally with the question of the remaining common legacy in the relationship between Jews and Christians. An exact comparison of the Lord's Prayer with its Jewish origins shows considerable similarities, but also the particular style of the Lord's Prayer. This book contains the German and the English version of his talk.

Yerushalmi, Yosef H.

Israel, der unerwartete Staat

Messianismus, Sektierertum und die zionistische Revolution

Hrsg. v. Eilert Herms

Übers. v. Shivaun Heath u. Anja Pachel
This year's Leopold-Lucas-Prize was awarded to Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi. He has produced fundamental research on the history of the Jewish Diaspora and has shed additional light on the relationship between Freudian psychoanalysis and Jewish history in his revolutionary work. He has studied the conditions under which Jews and other cultures can live together constructively in non-Jewish societies. His insights into the significance of collective memory and the writing of critical history for the identity of cultures have proven to be groundbreaking. In his lecture he attempts to clarify the historical meaning of modern Zionism and the State of Israel, both currently subject to raging controversy and much confusion among Jews and non-Jews alike. While Zionism drew some elements from prior Jewish messianism, it was essentially a revolt against the messianic tradition, at least in the form it had assumed. Moreover, nothing in Jewish (or Christian and Muslim tradition) had anticipated a sovereign Jewish state such as now exists, in the midst of history and before the end of time. The problem of understanding Zionism and Israel cannot be approached in political terms alone, nor within the conventional context of modern nationalism. It requires a deep and sophisticated awareness of the messianic heritages which, religious or secularized, continue to influence opinions, whether pro or contra.

Gilbert, Martin

Geistliche als Retter – auch eine Lehre aus dem Holocaust

Lucas-Preis 2003
Hrsg. v. Eilert Herms
Übers. v. Alexandra Riebe

This year's Leopold Lucas Price was awarded to the London historian Sir Martin Gilbert in honor of the contribution he has made in chronicling the history of the Jewish people and in contributing to the rapprochement between Israel and its neighbors. In the talk he gave at the presentation of the award, he describes the efforts made by individual Christian clergymen in the struggle against anti-Semitism and, in looking at their biographies, he calls for a change in the portrayal of the Holocaust in history – a change from the dominant impression of the boundless triumph of evil and destruction to the recognition of the freedom and the will of human beings to do good. The text of his talk is given in German and English in this volume.

Zimmermann, Moshe

Die deutschen Juden in der Geschichte der Shoah: Keine Exklave!

Lucas-Preis 2002
Hrsg. v. Eilert Herms
Übers. v. Alexandra Riebe

Published in German and English on opposite pages, this is the speech given by Moshe Zimmermann when he was awarded the Leopold Lucas Prize 2002 for his contribution to the research into the history and the culture of German Jews. In the speech given upon the presentation of the award, he called upon historians to give an impartial portrayal of the extraordinary history of the success achieved by German Jews or else the real Shoah would be followed by a Shoah of remembrance. In this, he sees the parallels to the problem of a peaceful coexistence of Israelis and Palestinians, each of them in their own state.
The widespread argument, that there was an essential continuity between Christian and Nazi antisemitism, is to deny. The argument ignores the specific point of Hitler's mixture of the doctrines of pestilential racialism and inverted manichaeism, which was practically the way of intended, complete physical eradication of every Jew. It is this unconstrained, ideologically driven imperative that every Jew be murdered, that distinguishes the Holocaust from all prior antisemitism.
Krockow, Christian von

Wahrheit und Versöhnung
Über polnisch-deutsche Erfahrungen. Lucas-Preis 1994
Hrsg. v. Eberhard Jüngel

Leben lernen

Gedenken an Bruno Bettelheim
Hrsg. v. Joachim Mehlhausen

Lowenthal, Ernst G.

Die historische Lücke
Betrachtungen zur neueren deutsch-jüdischen Historiographie