

**International conference “Body and Clerical Order in the Middle Ages:
Body and Communication”
(Dresden, 25 to 27 November 2026)**

Organised in cooperation between:

Ruhr University Bochum, Department of History
TUD Dresden University of Technology, Research Center for Comparative History of
Religious Orders (FOVOG-Dresden)
University of Zagreb, Faculty of Croatian Studies

Organising team:

Daniela Bianca Hoffmann (Dresden), Marko Jerković (Zagreb), Lucija Krešić Nacevski
(Zagreb), Jan Lemmer (Bochum), Matthias Weber (Bochum)

Venue:

TUD Dresden University of Technology
Research Center for Comparative History of Religious Orders (FOVOG-Dresden)
Budapester Str. 34b
01069 Dresden

Wednesday, 25 November 2026

9:00 Welcome

Section I: The Disciplined Body

Moderation: Matthias Weber (Bochum)

9:15–10:00 Nicolangelo D'Acunto (Milano): The Ascetic and Penitential Dimension of Clerics between Interiority and Exteriority (9th–14th Centuries)

10:00–10:45 Mirko Breitenstein (Dresden): Disciplined Bodies, Purified Souls: Monastic Ideals and Corporeality in Caesarius of Heisterbach

10:45–11:15 Coffee break

11:15–12:00 Marko Jerković (Zagreb): Disciplinary Norms and the Dominican Body. An Anthropology of Corporal Functionality

12:00–12:45 Josip Vučković (Zadar): The Body as a Site of Corruption and Spirituality in a Croatian Vernacular Confession Guide for Nuns

12:45–14:45 Lunch

14:45–15:30 Kai Hnida (Cologne): Symbolic Communication through Living and Dead Bodies – Public Punishment in Late Medieval Strasbourg

Section II: Outward Appearance and Clothes

Moderation: Matthias Weber (Bochum)

15:30–16:15 Lucija Krešić Nacevski (Zagreb): On the Physical Descriptions of Martyrs in the Oldest Latin Hagiographies

16:15–16:45 Coffee break

16:45–17:30 Jörg Sonntag (Bielefeld): Religious Hair in the Context of High Medieval Canon Law: A Systematic Approach

Dinner

Thursday, 26 November 2026

Section II: Outward Appearance and Clothes (Continuation)

Moderation: Sandra Groß (Dresden)

- 9:00–9:45 Meta Niederkorn-Bruck (Vienna): Clothing, Colour and Corporality? – Theological Frames for the Interpretation of Dante’s Purgatorio
- 9:45–10:30 Jan Lemmer (Bochum): „Nec placere presentibus, nec posteris placitum“. The Protest of Rainald of Dassel against Bernard’s Ban on the Wearing of Fur
- 10:30–11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00–11:45 Daniela Bianca Hoffmann (Dresden): Making a Monk-Bishop – Thomas Becket and his Three-Layered Clothes
- 11:45–12:30 Vera Henkelmann (Dresden): Jewelry of Ecclesiastical Dignitaries in the Middle Ages: Between Representation and Interiority
- 12:30–14:30 Lunch

Section III: Sick and Poor Bodies

Moderation: Marko Jerković (Zagreb)

- 14:30–15:15 Gerhard Lubich (Bochum): Sick Saints, Ailing Bishops and Ill Monarchs. Medical Findings Compared
- 15:15–16:00 Enrico Frosio (Brescia): The Body of the Ailing Brother: Conceptualisations, Practices, Communication
- 16:00–16:30 Coffee break
- 16:30–17:15 Sabine Schmolinsky (Erfurt): The Poor and the Needy: Bodies in Franciscan Communication
- Dinner

Friday, 27 November 2026

Section IV: Holy and Unholy Bodies

Moderation: Mirko Breitenstein (Dresden)

9:00–9:45 Mija Oter Gorenčič (Ljubljana): Analysis of Body Language as a Way to Understand Hidden Meanings – the Example of Judas Iscariot

9:45–10:30 Željka Metesi Deronjić (Zagreb): Seeing the Sacred: Sensory Perception in the Croatian Version of *Planctus Mariae*

10:30–11:00 Coffee break

11:00–11:45 Manuel Kamenzin (Würzburg): The Murdered Body: Medieval and Modern Discourses on the Remains of Engelbert I of Cologne

11:45–12:30 Lisa-Marie Richter (Dresden): Of Calves' Heads and Devil's Claws: The Deconstruction of the Ascetic Body in Sixteenth-Century Polemical Prints

12:30–13:00 Final Discussion