

The logo consists of the letters 'SNI' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The 'S' and 'N' are connected, and the 'I' is a simple vertical bar.

Sigmund  
Neumann  
Institute

# **Annual Report 2016**

**Sigmund Neumann Institute for the  
Research on Freedom and Democracy**

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# I. Scientific Conferences & Conventions

## The 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Western Social Science Association (WSSA)

RENO, NV, USA | 13-16 APRIL 2016

Gerhard Besier and Katarzyna Stokłosa participated in the international conference with their presentation on *'How to deal with refugees?'*.



*Fig. 1* From left to right: Marijan Crnjak (University of Zagreb), Marta Zorko (University of Zagreb), Sergio Peña (El Colegio de la Frontera Norte), Paul Fryer (University of Eastern Finland), Katarzyna Stokłosa (University of Southern Denmark), Gerhard Besier (Sigmund Neumann Institute).

## BRIT 2016: 15th Border Regions in Transition Conference

HAMBURG, GERMANY / SØNDERBORG, DENMARK | 17-20 MAY 2016

Gerhard Besier and Katarzyna Stokłosa participated in the international conference with the presentation on *'Twin Towns in Eastern Europe'*.



*Fig. II From left to right: Prof. Dr. Gerhard Besier (Sigmund Neumann Institute), Chloe Wells (University of Eastern Finland), Katarzyna Stokłosa (University of Southern Denmark), Dr. Jarosław Jańczak (University of Poznań / European University Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder).*

## **Borders, Walls and Violence: Costs and Alternatives to Border Fencing**

MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC, CANADA | 2-3 JUNE 2016



Gerhard Besier and Katarzyna Stokłosa participated in the international conference with their presentation on 'Alternatives to Border Walls'.

*Fig. III Prof. Dr. Gerhard Besier (Sigmund Neumann Institute) and Prof. Dr. Katarzyna Stokłosa (University of Southern Denmark).*

## Faith and the First World War

GLASGOW, GREAT BRITAIN | 21-22 JULY 2016

Gerhard Besier and Katarzyna Stokłosa participated in the international conference with their presentations on the topics '*Harmonizing conflicting demands and emotions: Christian believers during WWI*' (Prof. Besier) and '*Catholicism and patriotism in Eastern European Countries during WWI: the example of Poland*' (Prof. Stokłosa).



Fig. IV Dr. Jennifer Novotny (University of Glasgow) and Prof. Dr. Katarzyna Stokłosa (University of Southern Denmark).



Fig. V: Prof. Dr. Gerhard Besier (Sigmund Neumann Institute).

## Borderless Worlds - for Whom?

OULU, FINLAND | 7-8 SEPTEMBER 2016

From 7th to 8th September, Gerhard Besier and Katarzyna Stokłosa participated in the conference: *Borderless worlds - for whom? Ethics, moralities and (in)justice in migration and tourism* at the University of Oulu (Finland) and gave a presentation on: '*How to deal with cultural and religious borders? Problems with integration process*'.



Fig. VI From left to right: Prof. Cristina Giudice (Albertina Academy of Fine Arts), Prof. Dr. Katarzyna Stokłosa (University of Southern Denmark) and Prof. Dr. Gerhard Besier (Sigmund Neumann Institute).

## The Collapse of Memory – Memory of Collapse

LUND, SWEDEN | 20-22 SEPTEMBER 2016

Gerhard Besier and Katarzyna Stokłosa participated in the conference *The Collapse of Memory – Memory of Collapse* with their presentation on the topic ‘*The EU’s Handling of Recent Crises*’.



Fig. VII From left to right: Dr. Uta Bretschneider (Institut für Sächsische Geschichte und Volkskunde, Dresden), Prof. Dr. Katarzyna Stokłosa (University of Southern Denmark), Prof. Dr. Barbara Törnquist-Plewa (University Lund), Prof. Dr. Gerhard Besier (Sigmund Neumann Institute), Mattias Nowak (University Lund), Dr. Zuzanna Bogumił (Maria Grzegorzewska University, Warsaw), Dr. Magdalena Żmijkowska and Magdalena Kołodziejka (University of Warmia and Mazury, Olsztyn).



## Interpreting European Crisis

JOENSUU, FINLAND | 28-29 SEPTEMBER 2016

Gerhard Besier and Katarzyna Stokłosa participated in the *Bomocult Conference* with their presentation on the topic '*European crises and their consequences for the European neighborhood policy*'.

## 40th Anniversary Conference of the Danish Society for European Studies

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK | 6-7 OCTOBER 2016

Gerhard Besier and Katarzyna Stokłosa participated in the *40th Anniversary Conference of the Danish Society for European Studies* with their presentation on the topic '*The EU's Handling of Recent Crises*'.



Fig. VIII Prof. Dr. Katarzyna Stokłosa (University of Southern Denmark) and Prof. Dr. Gerhard Besier (Sigmund Neumann Institute) discuss with international scholars at the University of Copenhagen.

## Ecumenical Cooperation and World Politics

HELSINKI, FINLAND | 26-28 OCTOBER 2016

Gerhard Besier and Katarzyna Stokłosa participated in the *CCH / KZG Conference on Ecumenical cooperation and world politics*. Prof. Besier gave a presentation on the topic '*The World Council of Churches: Theological, Political and Societal Ambiguities*'.



*Fig. IX Meeting of the KZG Board.*



*Fig. X Katarzyna Stokłosa as panel chair*



## II. Book Presentations

### Jehovas Zeugen in Europa. Geschichte und Gegenwart, Band II

COLOGNE, GERMANY | MARCH 7, 2016



Fig. XI From top to bottom: Max Wörnhard (Bern), Prof. Katarzyna Stokłosa (Sønderborg), Prof. Gerhard Besier (Dresden), Wolfram Slupina (Selters).

The presentation got a press coverage by the newspaper *Blick Aktuell*, in their 10/2016 issue (in German).



Fig. XII Press coverage of the book presentation in Blick Aktuell, Die Heimatzeitung Wachtberg, Issue 10/16.

FRANKFURT, GERMANY | APRIL 11, 2016

FREIBURG, GERMANY | NOVEMBER 21, 2016

Fig. XIII Upper picture from front to back: Prof. Gerhard Besier (Dresden), Prof. Katarzyna Stokłosa (Sønderborg), Wolfram Slupina (Selters).



### III. Other Presentations & Lectures

#### Lectures at the University of Eastern Finland

JOENSUU, FINLAND | FEBRUARY, 2016

In February 2016, Gerhard Besier and Katarzyna Stokłosa spent one week at the University of Eastern Finland in Joensuu in line with Erasmus plus. They gave some lectures on *'Europe, borders, prejudices and stereotypes'*.



Fig. XIV Katarzyna Stokłosa (University of Southern Denmark) and Gerhard Besier (Sigmund Neumann Institute) with students at the University of Eastern Finland in Joensuu.

#### Lecture of Katarzyna Stokłosa in Flensburg

FLENSBURG, GERMANY | MARCH 16, 2016

Katarzyna Stokłosa (University of Southern Denmark) gave a presentation in Flensborghus on *'Future of the German-Polish relations under the new Polish government'*.



Fig. XV Lecture of Katarzyna Stokłosa (University of Southern Denmark) at Flensborghus.



## IV. Book Releases

### Jehovah's Witnesses in Europe: Past and Present, Volume 1 Part 1/1 and 1/2

The English version of *Jehovah's Witnesses in Europe. Past and Present, Volume 1, Part 1/1 and 1/2* by Katarzyna Stokłosa and Gerhard Besier has been published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing in January 2016.

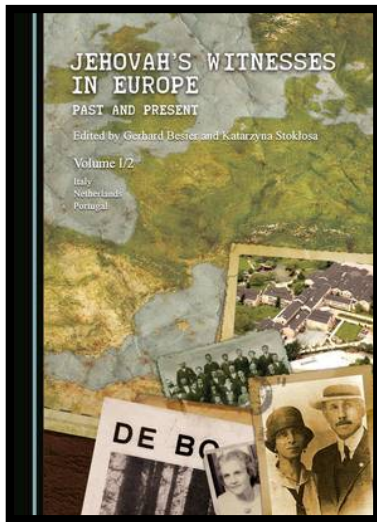


Fig. XVI Gerhard Besier and Katarzyna Stokłosa (Eds.), *Jehovah's Witnesses in Europe. Past and Present, Volume, 1 Part 1/1 and 1/2*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing 2016.

### Intimately Associated for Many Years

The two-part book *Intimately Associated for Many Years* by Gerhard Besier has been published by Cambridge Scholar publishing in January 2016.

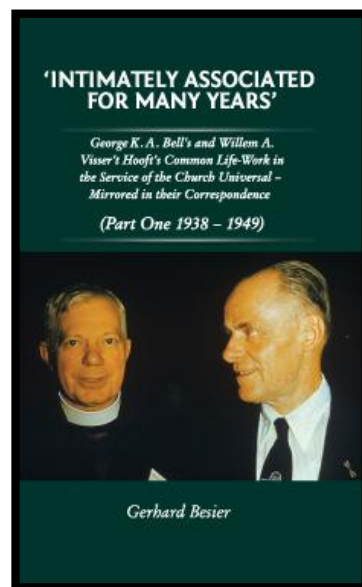
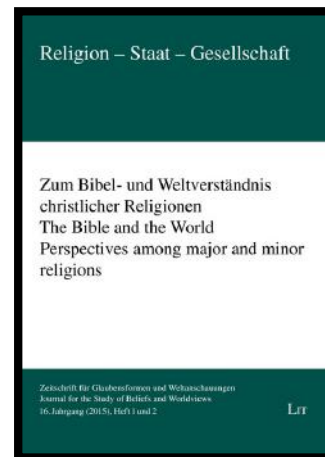


Fig. XVII Gerhard Besier, *Intimately Associated for Many Years*, Cambridge Scholar Publishing 2016.

## The Bible and the World. Perspectives among major and minor religions

The journal *Zum Bibel- und Weltverständnis christlicher Religionen. The Bible and the World. Perspectives among major and minor religions* (Series: Religion - Staat - Gesellschaft. Zeitschrift für Glaubensformen und Weltanschauungen / Journal for the Study of Beliefs and Worldviews, Issue 2015/1 and 2) has been published by LIT-Verlag in January 2016.

Fig. XVIII Zum Bibel- und Weltverständnis christlicher Religionen. The Bible and the World. Perspectives among major and minor religions (Series: Religion - Staat - Gesellschaft. Zeitschrift für Glaubensformen und Weltanschauungen / Journal for the Study of Beliefs and Worldviews (Issue 2015/1 and 2).



## Neighbourhood Perceptions of the Ukraine Crisis

The latest publication edited by Gerhard Besier and Katarzyna Stokłosa, *Neighbourhood Perceptions of the Ukraine Crisis: From the Soviet Union into Eurasia?*, has been published by Routledge in November 2016.

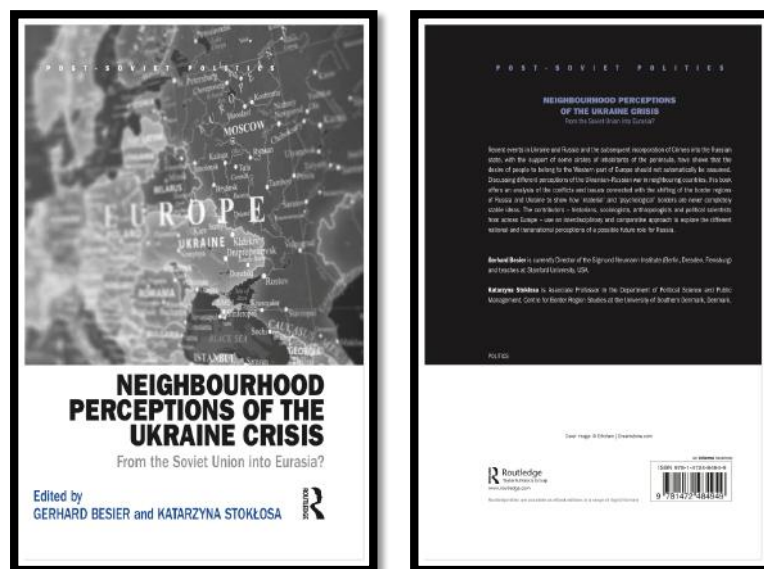


Fig. XIX Gerhard Besier & Katarzyna Stokłosa, *Neighbourhood Perceptions of the Ukraine Crisis: From the Soviet Union into Eurasia?*, Routledge Post-Soviet Politics Series, November 2016.



## **V. Essays**

### **Gerhard Besier**

- Die Faszination literarisch oder filmisch verarbeiteter Rechtsfälle aus anthropologisch-psychologischer Perspektive in: Franziska Stürmer/Patrick Meier (Eds.), *Recht Populär. Populärkulturelle Rechtsdarstellungen in aktuellen Texten und Medien*, Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2016, 216-234.
- Jehovah's Witnesses in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) – 1949-1989, in *Acta Comparanda, Subsidia III: The Jehovah's Witnesses in scholarly perspective: What is new in the scientific study of the movement?*, Antwerpen 2016, 131-150.
- The encyclical "Mit brennender Sorge": Reception in Germany, Voices from Outside and Diplomats' Endeavors, in Fabrice Bouthillon & Marie Levant (Eds.), *Un pape contre le nazisme? L'encyclique Mit brennender Sorge (14 mars 1937)*, Brest: Editions Dialogues, 2016, 131-260.
- Expanding Religious Borders? The New Influence of Some Old State Churches: The Russian Orthodoxy' in idem/Katarzyna Stokłosa (Eds.), *Neighbourhood Perceptions of the Ukraine Crisis: From the Soviet Union into Eurasia?* London-New York: Routledge, 2017, 223-242.
- The impact of the Decree on Ecumenism on church relations in Germany, in *KZG/CCH 29* (2016), forthcoming.

### **Katarzyna Stokłosa**

- Jehovah's Witnesses During Franco's Dictatorship, in: Gerhard Besier/Katarzyna Stokłosa (Eds.), *Jehovah's Witnesses in Europe. Past and Present, Volume I/1*, Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars 2016, 319-352.
- Il processo di abbattimento e di ripristino delle frontiere in Europa, in: *Nazioni e Regioni. Studi e ricerche sulla comunità immaginata* 7/2016, 99-107.
- Ukraine and Russia in Crisis – A Polish View, in: Gerhard Besier/Katarzyna Stokłosa (Eds.), *Neighbourhood Perceptions of the Ukraine Crisis. From the Soviet Union into Eurasia?* London and New York: Routledge 2017, 171-184.