



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Sigmund Neumann Institute for the
Research on Freedom and Democracy

SNI | Sigmund
Neumann
Institute

CONTENTS

I. SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES & CONVENTIONS 3

Legally Blind: Law, Ethics and the Third Reich
The Workshop at PH Luzern
International Workshop ' Rethinking the (post)Soviet'
International Conference: Catholicisme, Racismes et Totalitarismes
Contradictions Envisioning European Futures
Paz na Guerra
Ein neues Klima

II. BOOK PRESENTATIONS 6

'Jehovas Zeugen in Europa – Geschichte und Gegenwart,' Band II

III. OTHER PRESENTATIONS & LECTURES 7

A Lecture by Jesko Schmoller
A Lecture by Søren Schmidt Nielsen
A Lecture by Franziska Metzger

IV. BOOK RELEASES 8

Gerhard Besier: *Intimately Associated for Many Years*

V. PUBLICATIONS 8

I. SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES & CONVENTIONS

Legally Blind: Law, Ethics and the Third Reich

Boston College, Boston, MA (USA) | 10–11 March 2015

Prof. Gerhard Besier participated at the conference with his view on the ‘*Persecution of Jehovah’s Witnesses in the Third Reich and After*’.

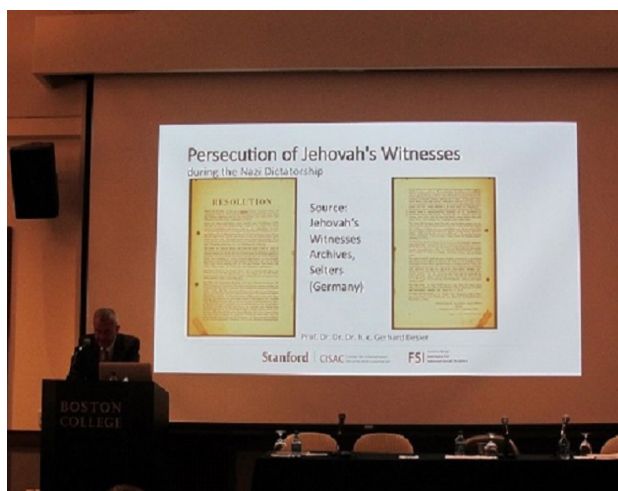


FIG. 1–1 Prof. Dr. Dr. Dr. h.c. Gerhard Besier



FIG. 1–2 From left to right: Susan A. Michalczyk, Gerhard Besier, Christopher Probst, Kevin P. Spicer, James Pellechia.

The Workshop at PH Luzern

Luzern, Switzerland | 22 May 2015

Prof. Gerhard Besier and Prof. Katarzyna Stokłosa participated with their view on ‘*Nationalmythen und ihre Instrumentalisierung durch autokratische Systeme: Deutsche und polnische Perspektiven*’ in the workshop organized between the Sigmund Neumann Institute and Pädagogische Hochschule Luzern.

FIG. 1–3 The excerpt from the presentation—Jan Matejko: Die Schlacht bei Grunwald (1875)



International Workshop 'Rethinking the (post)Soviet: Cultural Semiotics of Borders in Russia and Europe'

Kazan, Russia | 25–26 May 2015



Prof. Gerhard Besier and Prof. Katarzyna Stokłosa joined the conference with their approach to the '*Process of Bordering and De-Bordering in Eastern and Central-Eastern Europe*' (Prof. Stokłosa) and to the '*Mental Borders create limited minds. How to overcome prejudices, stereotypes and concepts of an 'enemy' in the second decade of the 21st century*' (Prof. Besier).

FIG. 1–4 From left to right: Matteo Benussi (Kazan Federal University), Jurij Murašov (University of Konstanz), Andrey Makarychev (University of Tartu), Gerhard Besier (SNI Dresden / Stanford University), Alexandra Yatsyk (Kazan Federal University), Jesko Schmoller (Perm State University), Katarzyna Stokłosa (University of Southern Denmark).

International Conference: Catholicisme, Racismes et Totalitarismes—L'Encyclique mit Brennender Sorge

Brest, France | 4–6 June 2015



Prof. Gerhard Besier joined the conference with his research on '*The reception in Germany, in Kirchenkampf and in Nazism.*'

FIG. 1–5 From left to right: Michel Fourcade (Université de Montpellier), Lucia Ceci (Università di Roma Tor Vergata), Alberto Melloni (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia), Gerhard Besier (Dresden/Stanford).

Contradictions Envisioning European Futures: 22nd International Conference of Europeanists

Paris, France | 8–10 July 2015



Prof. Gerhard Besier and Prof. Katarzyna Stokłosa joined the conference with their research on the '*Expanding Religious Borders? The New Influence of Some Old State Churches*' (Prof. Besier) and on the '*Ukraine and Russia in Crisis*' (Prof. Stokłosa).

FIG. 1–6 From left to right: Gerhard Besier (Dresden), Agnieszka Smelkowska (Berkeley), Jussi Laine (Joensuu), Katarzyna Stokłosa (Sønderborg), Ganna Gerasymenko.

Paz na Guerra

Lisbon, Portugal | 19 November 2015



Prof. Dr. Besier and Prof. Stokłosa took part in the international conference at the University of Lisbon with '*Nordic Myths: countries that stand for neutrality, peace and social welfare: The case of Sweden*' (Prof. Besier) and '*Nordic Myths: countries that stand for neutrality, peace and social welfare: The case of Denmark*' (Prof. Stokłosa).

FIG. 1–7 From left to right: Prof. Dr. Katarzyna Stokłosa (University of Southern Denmark), Prof. Dr. Gerhard Besier (Sigmund Neumann Institute), Prof. Dr. Reto Monico (Université de Genève), Prof. Dr. Teresa Nunes (Universidade de Lisboa).

Ein neues Klima - Rezeptionsgeschichte des Zweiten Vatikanischen Konzils in Ost- und Mitteleuropa

Oldenburg | 3–4 December 2015

Prof. Dr. Besier and Prof. Dr. Stokłosa participated in the international conference on the historical perceptions of the Second Vatican Council in Eastern and Central Europe with '*Das Zweite Vatikanische Konzil und das deutsch-polnische Verhältnis*' (Prof. Stokłosa) and '*Die Auswirkung des Ökumenismusdekrets auf die kirchlichen Beziehungen in Deutschland*' (Prof. Besier).



FIG. 1–8 Prof. Dr. Gerhard Besier during the conversation with Prof. Dr. Hans Hermann Henrix (University Salzburg) and Prof. Dr. Katarzyna Stokłosa during the lecture.

II. BOOK PRESENTATIONS

'Jehovas Zeugen in Europa – Geschichte und Gegenwart,' Band II **Kassel | 29 June 2015**



FIG. 1–9 On the left: Prof. Lorenz Reibling (Boston), Max Wörnhard (Bern), Prof. Gerhard Besier (Dresden), and Wolfram Slupina (Selters).

'Jehovas Zeugen in Europa – Geschichte und Gegenwart,' Band II **Dresden | 12 October 2015**

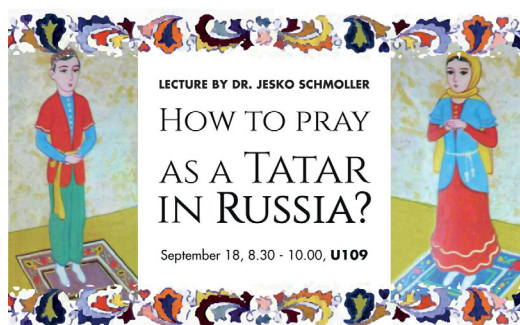


FIG. 1–10 On the left: Mr. Wolfram Slupina (Selters), on the right: Prof. Gerhard Besier during signing.

III. OTHER PRESENTATIONS & LECTURES

A Lecture by Jesko Schmoller

University of Southern Denmark | 18 September 2015



Dr. Jesko Schmoller (European University St. Petersburg / Perm State University, Russia) accepted the invitation of Sigmund Neumann Institute and gave a lecture about the research he is currently conducting - *the practice of Islam and its contribution to the creation of Tatar space*.



FIG. 1–11

Top left:
A preview of the poster for the lecture.
Bottom left and right:
Dr. Jesko Schmoller during his lecture.

A Lecture by Søren Schmidt Nielsen

University of Southern Denmark | 7 October 2015

Sigmund Neumann Institute invited Søren Schmidt Nielsen to give a lecture on the topic: *From Conflict to Cooperation: Denmark-Germany*. The lecture took place in Alsion, Sønderborg.



FIG. 1–12 Søren Schmidt Nielsen during his lecture in Sønderborg.

A Lecture by Franziska Metzger

Europa Universitat Flensburg | 1 December 2015

Prof. Dr. Franziska Metzger (Pädagogische Hochschule Luzern, Switzerland) has given a lecture at the Europa Universitat Flensburg on the topic of *Memories of the Nation: Mythicisation of Narratives in the 19th and 20th Centuries*.



FIG. 1–13 Franziska Metzger.

IV. BOOK RELEASES

Gerhard Besier

Intimately Associated for Many Years, Parts One and Two

George K. A. Bell's and Willem A. Visser 't Hooft's Common Life-Work in the Service of the Church Universal – Mirrored in their Correspondence

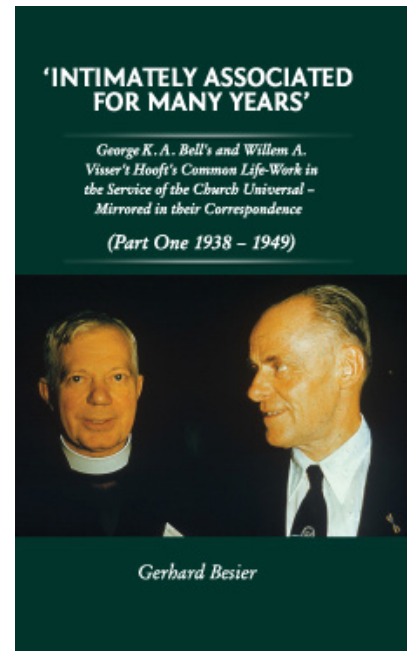
Cambridge Scholars Publishing: Newcastle upon Tyne | September 2015

The Anglican Bishop George Kennedy Allan Bell (Chichester) and the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, Willem A. Visser 't Hooft (Geneva), exchanged hundreds of letters between 1938 and 1958.

The correspondence, reproduced and commented here, mirrors the efforts made across the ecumenical movement to unite the Christian churches and also to come to terms with an age of international crisis and conflict. In these first decades of the World Council it was widely felt that the Church could make a noteworthy contribution to the mitigation of political tensions all over the world.

That's why Bell and Visser't Hooft talked not only to bishops and the clergy but also to the prime ministers and presidents of many countries. They raised their voices in memoranda and published their public letters in important newspapers.

This was the World Council's most successful period.



V. PUBLICATIONS

Prof. Dr. Dr. Dr. h.c. Gerhard Besier

Edited books

- (with Katarzyna Stokłosa)
Jehovas Zeugen in Europa – Geschichte und Gegenwart. Band 2: Baltikum, Großbritannien, Irland, Rumänien, Skandinavien, UdSSR/GUS [Jehovah's Witnesses in Europe. Past and Present. Volume 2: Baltic Countries, Great Britain, Ireland, Romania, Scandinavian Countries, USSR/CIS], Berlin-Münster: LIT.

Articles

- (with Katarzyna Stokłosa)
'Polen und Ruthenen im habsburgischen Galizien während der ersten Hälfte des 19. Jahrhunderts,' in Anna Hanus and Ruth Büttner (Eds.), *Galizien als Kultur- und Gedächtnislandschaft im kultur- und sprachwissenschaftlichen Diskurs*, Berlin: LIT, 2015, 19–38.

- ‘The Great War and Religion in Comparative Perspective. Why the Christian culture of war prevailed over religiously-motivated pacifism in 1914,’ in *KZG/CCH* 28 (2015), 21–62.
- ‘Jehovas Zeugen in Großbritannien und Irland,’ in Gerhard Besier and Katarzyna Stokłosa (Eds.): *Jehovas Zeugen in Europa – Geschichte und Gegenwart. Band 2: Baltikum, Großbritannien, Irland, Rumänien, Skandinavien, UdSSR/GUS* [Jehovah’s Witnesses in Europe. Past and Present. Volume 2: Baltic Countries, Great Britain, Ireland, Romania, Scandinavian Countries, USSR/CIS], Berlin-Münster: LIT, pp. 177–252.
- ‘Persecution of Jehovah’s Witnesses before, during and after the “Third Reich,”’ in Erik Berggren and Maria Eckerdal (Eds.), *Ecclesiologica & alia: Studia in honorem Sven-Erik Brodd*, Skellefteå: Artos & Norma Bokförlag, 2015, 359–375.
- ‘West German and East German Cultures of Remembrance after the End of the Second World War. A Psycho-Historical Perspective of the Ideological Border as a Cause of Different Memorial Processes,’ in Charlotte Gaitanides and Gerd Grözinger (Eds.), *Diversity in Europe*, Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2015, 203–219.

Monographs

- (with Katarzyna Stokłosa)
Jehovas Zeugen in Europa – Geschichte und Gegenwart. Band 2: Baltikum, Großbritannien, Irland, Rumänien, Skandinavien, UdSSR/GUS [Jehovah’s Witnesses in Europe. Past and Present. Volume 2: Baltic Countries, Great Britain, Ireland, Romania, Scandinavian Countries, USSR/CIS], Berlin-Münster: LIT.

Prof. Dr. Katarzyna Stokłosa

Edited books

- (with Gerhard Besier)
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- ‘Die letzte Fluchtwelle aus der DDR im Jahr 1989. Aus den Berichten der westdeutschen Botschaften in Budapest, Prag und Warschau,’ in *Zeitschrift für Ostmitteleuropa-Forschung* 64 (2015) 1, 40–80.
- ‘Border Regions as Laboratories of European Integration,’ in Elżbieta Opłowska and Jochen Roose (Eds.), *Microcosm of European Integration. The German-Polish Border Regions in Transformation*, Baden-Baden: Nomos, 16–31.

- 'Escape Routes to Freedom: Via Budapest, Prague and Warsaw to the Federal Republic of Germany,' in Charlotte Gaitanides and Gerd Grözinger (Eds.), *Diversity in Europe*, Baden-Baden: Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, 189–202.
- 'Editorial,' in *Religion – Staat – Gesellschaft. Seit fünfzehn Jahren 21. Jahrhundert. Umbrüche in Gesellschaften und Religionen angesichts neuer politischer und kultureller Herausforderungen* [Religion – State – Society. Upheavals in societies and religions in the light of political and cultural challenges] 15 (2014) 1–2, 9–32.
- 'Wars and Myths – the Polish case,' in *KZG/CCH* 28 (2015) 1, 106–112.
- 'Deutschsein heute: individuelle Teilhabechancen in vergleichender Perspektive,' in *KZG/CCH* 28 (2015) 1, 146–156.



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Sigmund Neumann Institute for the Research on Freedom and Democracy, e.V.
SIGMUND-NEUMANN-INSTITUTE FÜR FREIHEITS- UND DEMOKRATIEFORSCHUNG, E.V.

Ludwig Richter Straße, 01326 Dresden
Arndtstraße 34, 24943 Flensburg

institut@sigmund-neumann-institut.de