



Annual Report 2019

Sigmund Neumann Institute for the
Research on Freedom and Democracy

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I. Scientific Conferences and Conventions

Association for Borderlands Studies 3rd World Conference 2019

SAN DIEGO, CA, USA | 24-27 APRIL 2019

Gerhard Besier and Katarzyna Stokłosa gave talks during the first session “Cross-Border Regional Cooperation in Comparative Perspectives”, about “So Close And Yet So Far? Experiences from Polish Russian and Ukrainian Russian Border Regions” and “Conflicts and Cooperation in European Border Regions”.



Fig. I. From left to right: Kenneth Knoblock (CSUSB) Gerhard Besier (Sigmund Neumann Institute, Berlin/Dresden/Flensburg), Katarzyna Stokłosa (University of Southern Denmark), Fabienne Leloup (University of Louvain) and Martin Klatt (University of Southern Denmark).



Fig. II. Gerhard Besier and Katarzyna Stokłosa during their talks.

Life-line or Collaboration? Active contacts with churches in totalitarian societies

LUND, SWEDEN | 25-26 SEPTEMBER 2019

Gerhard Besier participated in the KZG/CCH Conference “Life-line or Collaboration? Active contacts with churches in totalitarian societies” at Lund University in Sweden. He gave a presentation on the topic “Holding the line: How Christian churches kept contacts and remained meaningful in totalitarian states. An anthropological perspective”.

“Castle Talks” on Cross-Border Cooperation

STRASBOURG, FRANCE | 18-19 NOVEMBER 2019

Gerhard Besier and Katarzyna Stokłosa participated in the “Castle Talks” on Cross-Border Cooperation – Crisis of peace? The scars of history: reconciliation in border regions in Strasbourg. They were keynote speakers on the topic “Conflicts and needs for reconciliation”.



Fig. III. From left to right: William Lasser (Clemson University), Fabienne Leloup (Université catholique de Louvain), Katarzyna Stokłosa (University of Southern Denmark), Elisabetta Nadalutti (University of Grenoble), Yousra Sandabad (Université de Strasbourg).

Limitations of religious freedom by privileged state religions

STRASBOURG, FRANCE | 20-21 NOVEMBER 2019

Gerhard Besier participated in a panel during the conference “Limitations of religious freedom by privileged state religions”. He gave a presentation on the topic “Religious Freedom Depends on the Understanding of Religion”.



Fig.
IV.

Gerhard Besier and Katarzyna Stokłosa during their talks.

Europa der Grenzen – Neue Perspektiven auf Grenzen im Kalten Krieg

BOLZANO, ITALY | 29-30 NOVEMBER 2019

Gerhard Besier and Katarzyna Stokłosa participated in panels during “Europa der Grenzen – Neue Perspektiven auf Grenzen im Kalten Krieg”. They gave presentations on the topics “Die deutsch-deutsche Grenze als Systemgrenze” and “Leben am Eisernen Vorhang. Beispiele aus Osteuropa”.



Fig. V. From left to right: Professor Karlo Ruzicic-Kessler (Free University of Bozen), and Katarzyna Stokłosa.



Fig. VI. Gerhard Besier during his presentation

II. Book Presentations

Jehovas Zeugen in Europa – Geschichte und Gegenwart, Vol. III

LEIPZIG, GERMANY | 21 MARCH 2019

OTTOBRUNN, GERMANY | 6 MAY 2019

BASEL, SWITZERLAND | 28 OCTOBER 2019

FRIBOURG, SWITZERLAND | 7 NOVEMBER 2019

In 2019, Gerhard Besier and Katarzyna Stokłosa presented the last volume of their trilogy “Jehovas Zeugen in Europa – Geschichte und Gegenwart” at Leipzig book fair, in the Wolf-Ferrari-Haus in Ottobrunn, the Kultur- und Sportzentrum in Basel-Münchenstein, and at the University of Fribourg.





Fig. VII. Gerhard Besier with Veit Hopf at the Leipzig book fair.

Fig. VIII. From left to right: Uwe Langhals, Katarzyna Stokłosa, Max Wörnhard, Christoph Wilker and Veit Hopf, at the Leipzig book fair.





Figure IX. From left to right: Professor Oliver Krüger (University of Fribourg), Professor Andrea Rota (University of Bern) and Professor Gerhard Besier, presenting the book at the University of Fribourg.

III. Other Presentations and Lectures

Lectures at the University of Eastern Finland

JOENSUU, FINLAND | MAY 2019

In May 2019, Gerhard Besier and Katarzyna Stokłosa spent a week at the University of Eastern Finland in Joensuu in line with Erasmus plus.



Fig. X. Gerhard Besier and Katarzyna Stokłosa with students at the University of Eastern Finland in Joensuu. They gave lectures on “Russian Orthodox Church” and “Border Region Studies”.

Discussion: Das erste Loch im »Eisernen Vorhang« - Ungarn 1989 und die Frage europäischer Grenzen

BERLIN, GERMANY | 20 AUGUST 2019

On August 2019, Katarzyna Stokłosa participated in a discussion about the relevance of European borders in the past and today.



Fig. XI. From left to right: Katarzyna Stokłosa, Ulrike Timm, Katrin Linke and Ines Geipel.

Discussion: De/Re-Constructing European borders in times of crisis – voices of researchers and practitioners

WROCLAW, POLAND | 13 SEPTEMBER 2019

On September 13, Katarzyna Stokłosa participated in a discussion on the topic “De/Re-Constructing European borders in times of crisis – voices of researchers and practitioners” in the course of the XVII Polish Sociological Congress in Wrocław.



Fig. XII. From left to right: Elżbieta Opiłowska (University of Wrocław), Katarzyna Stokłosa (University of Southern Denmark), Andreas Hoff (Zittau/Görlitz University of Applied Sciences), Leszek Buller (Center of European Projects/Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, Warszawa) Dariusz Wojakowski (AGH University of Science and Technology, Kraków).

IV. Book Releases

The latest book edited by Gerhard Besier and Katarzyna Stokłosa, *1917 and the Consequences*, has been published by Routledge Publishing.

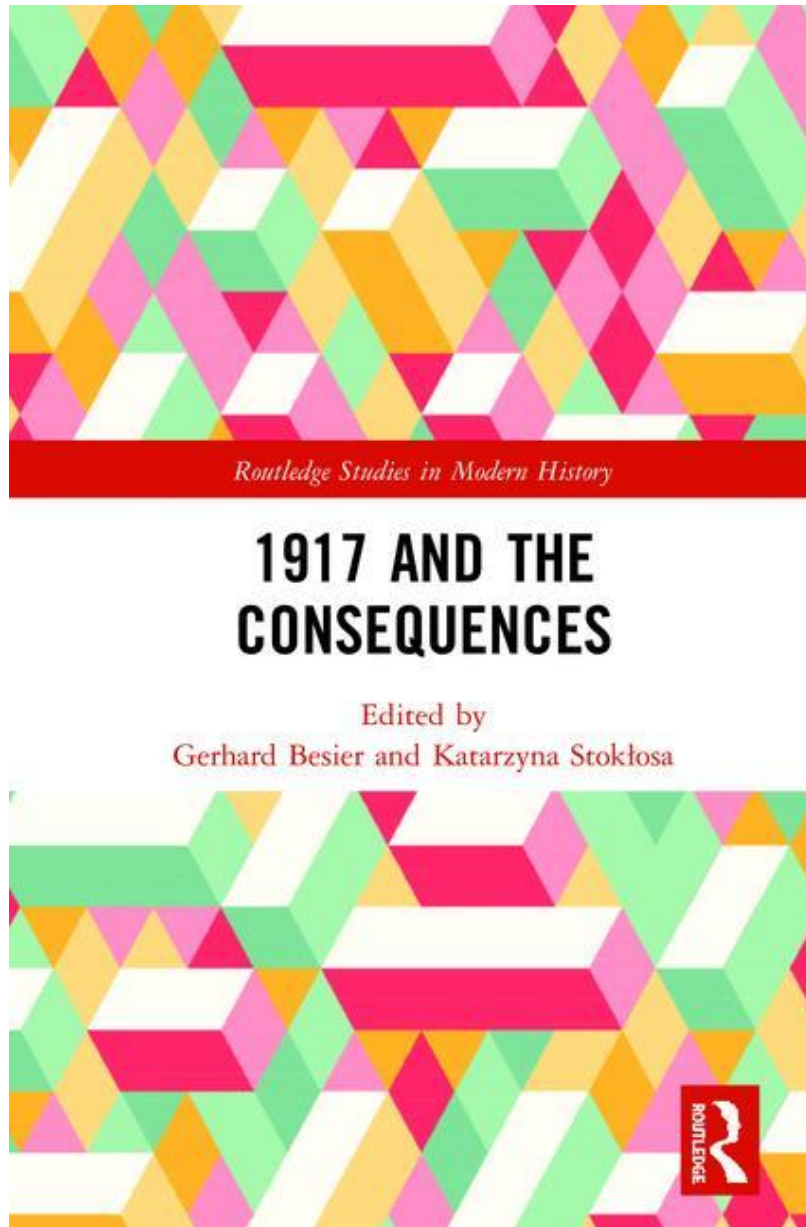


Fig. XIII. Gerhard Besier and Katarzyna Stokłosa, eds., *1917 and the Consequences*, Routledge: Abingdon, 2020. (ISBN 978-0-367-18615-9).

The book *Borders and Memories. Conflicts and Co-operation in European Border Regions*, edited by Katarzyna Stokłosa, has been published by LIT Verlag, Berlin-Münster-Wien-Zürich-London.

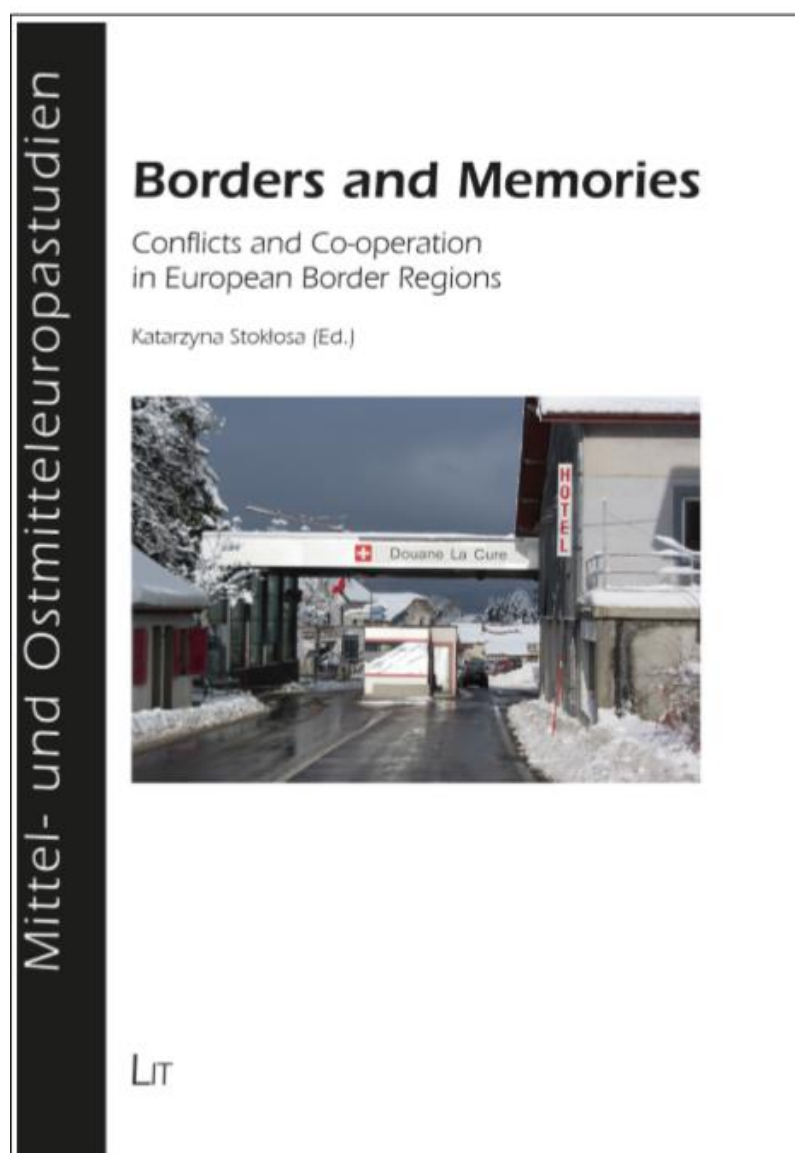


Fig. XIV. Katarzyna Stokłosa, ed., *Borders and Memories. Conflicts and Co-operation in European Border Regions*, LIT Verlag: Wien/Zürich, 2019. (ISBN: 9783643910943).

Gerhard Besier contributed to the Journal for the Study of Beliefs and Worldviews with his article about “The Co-operation Between Church and State in Germany”. The journal was published by LIT Verlag, Berlin-Münster-Wien-Zürich-London.

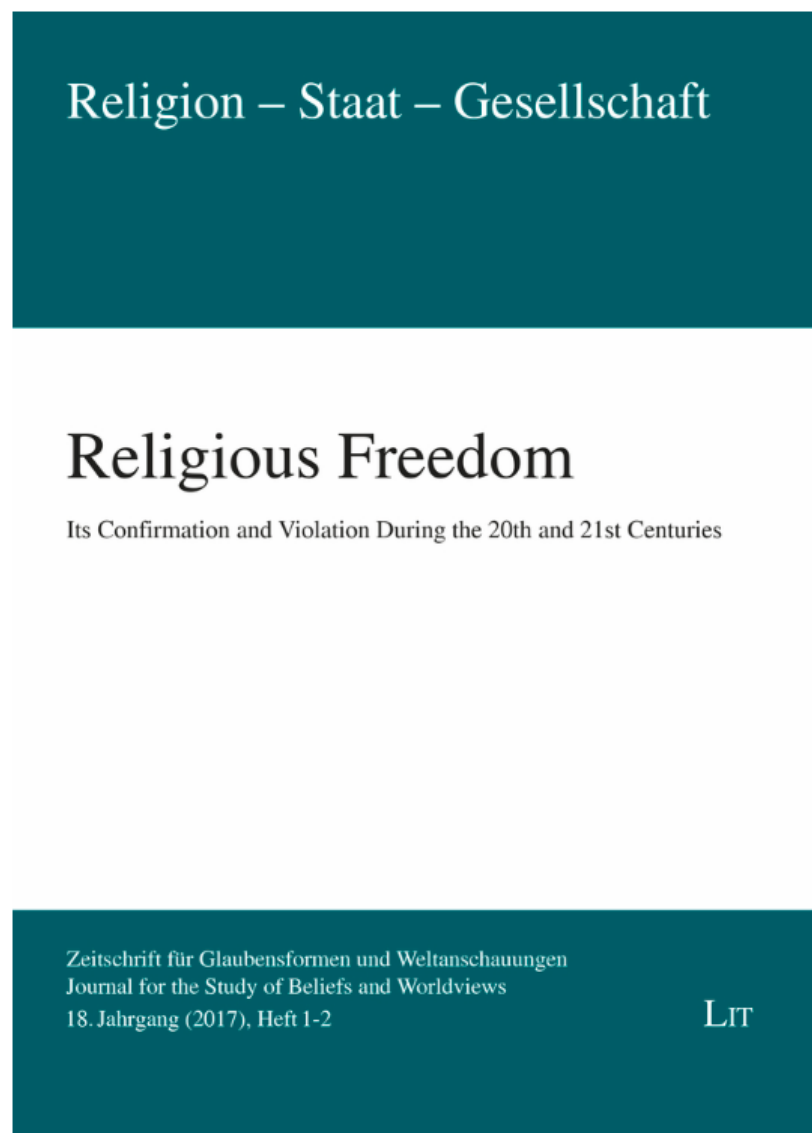


Fig. XV. Religious Freedom – Its Confirmation and Violation During the 20th and 21st Centuries, LIT Verlag, Berlin-Münster-Wien-Zürich-London, 2017.

V. Essays

Gerhard Besier

1. 'Crossing and Crosses: Borders, Educations and Religions in Northern Europe', in: *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, vol. 34(2), pp. 321-322, 2019 (with Katarzyna Stokłosa).
2. 'Master Narratives – Emotions, Memories, Transcendence, Environment and the Body: The Example of Kalevala', in: *Ausdehnung der Zeit. Die Gestaltung von Erinnerungsräumen in Geschichte, Literatur und Kunst*, Metzger, F. and D. Daphinoff (eds.), pp. 187-207, Wien-Köln-Weimar: Böhlau, 2019.
3. "'So close and yet so far?" – Experiences from the Polish-Russian and the Ukrainian-Russian border regions', in: *Borders and Memories: Conflicts and Co-operation in European Border Regions*, Stokłosa, K. (ed.), pp. 109-116, Wien: LIT, 2019.
4. 'The Co-operation between Church and State in Germany', in: *Religion-Staat-Gesellschaft. Journal for the Study of Beliefs and Worldviews: Religious Freedom. Its Confirmation and Violation During the 20th and 21st Centuries*, issue 2017/1 and 2, LIT Verlag: Berlin-Münster-Wien-Zürich-London, 2017.
5. 'The intervention of the German Empire in the Finnish Civil War 1917/18: from revolutionary state to kingdom', in: *1917 and the Consequences*, Stokłosa, K. and Gerhard Besier (eds.), pp. 47-79, Abingdon and New York: Routledge, 2020.

Katarzyna Stokłosa

1. 'Borders, objects of historical studies: Case-studies from the Upper Rhine and Catalan Region in the West and from Central and Eastern Europe', in: *Transdisciplinary Discourses on Cross-Border Cooperation in Europe*, Beck, I. J. (ed.), pp. 173-210, Bruxelles: Peter Lang. EUROLICO, 2019 (with Birte Wassenberg and Martine Camiade).
2. Review of 'Borderscaping: Imaginations and Practices of Border Making', in: *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, vol. 34(4), Brambilla, Chiara, J. Laine, W.J. Scott and G. Bocchi (eds.), pp. 635-636, 2019.

3. Review of 'Crossing and Crosses: Borders, Educations and Religions in Northern Europe', in: *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, vol. 34(2), Berglund, Jenny, Thomas Lundén, and P. Strandbrink (eds.), pp. 321-322, 2019 (with Gerhard Besier).
4. Review of 'Grenzen, Räumliche und soziale Trennlinien im Zeitenlauf: by Andrea Komlosy, Wien, Promedia, 2018, 247 S, € 19,90, ISBN 978-3-85371-434-8', in: *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, vol. 34(5), pp. 829-830, 2019.
5. Introduction of '1917 and the Consequences', Stokłosa, Katarzyna, and Gerhard Besier (eds.), pp. 1-5, Routledge: Abingdon and New York, 2020.
6. 'On Borders and Memories: Introduction', in: *Borders and Memories: Conflicts and Co-operation in European Border Regions*, Stokłosa, K. (ed.), pp. XV-XIX, Wien-Zürich: LIT Verlag. *Mittel- und Ostmitteleuropastudien*, vol. 13, 2019.
7. Review of 'Paweł Machcewicz: 'Der umkämpfte Krieg: Das Museum des Zweiten Weltkrieges in Danzig. Entstehung und Streit'', in: *Zeitschrift für Ostmitteleuropa-Forschung*, vol. 68(1), pp. 145-146, 2019.
8. 'The intervention of the German Empire in the Finnish Civil War 1917/18: from revolutionary state to kingdom', in: *1917 and the Consequences*, Stokłosa, K. and Gerhard Besier (eds.), pp. 47-49, Abingdon and New York: Routledge, 2020.
9. 'Tras el imperio: el sueño polaco de volver a ser una gran potencia', in: *Dinámica de las fronteras en periodos de conflicto: El Imperio español (1640-1815)*, Jiménez, M. Á. M., Cancho, M. R., Núñez, I. T. and Rubio, R. S. (eds.), pp. 109-119, Cáceres: Universidad de Extremadura, 2019.