



THE RELIGION AND DIVERSITY PROJECT/RELIGION ET DIVERSITÉ



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**Research Statement**

'Conservative Revolutionaries': Protestant and Catholic Churches in Germany after Radical Political Change in the 1990s. During the forty years of division, the Protestant and Catholic churches in Germany were the only organisations to retain strong ties and common structures: they embodied continuity in a country marked by discontinuity. As such, the churches were both expected to undergo smooth and rapid institutional consolidation and undertake an active role in the public realm of the new eastern German states in the 1990s. Yet critical voices were heard over the West German system of church-state relations and the public role it confers on religious organisations, and critics often expressed the idea that despite all their difficulties, something precious was lost in the collapse of the German Democratic Republic. Against this backdrop, I delineated the conflicting conceptions of the Protestant and Catholic churches' public role and paid special attention to the "East German model."

The Police Officer and the Sociologist: Investigating Diversity within the Police Forces in Germany. In this book project I investigate the way *diversity* is dealt with in the civil service in Germany, a country often described as hostile to difference. I do so from the standpoint of police officers who contribute through their work in recruiting, counseling, and educating to bringing about change *within* the organization. I outline four ideal types of "carriers of diversity" (an empathetic, a principled, an opportunist one as well as a specialist). While lending the book its structure, each portrait is also linked to a central theme—a Christian heritage, a particular shade of liberalism, opportunism, and new social movements—that grounds the types' motives in a cultural and historical context. Put together, the four ideal types depict the treatment of difference in the police forces and, in turn, in Germany.

Today's Relevance of Max Weber's Sociology. All my research projects are thought in dialogue with the sociology of Max Weber. Besides the aforementioned projects and occasional pieces on aspects of the sociologist's work, I use his approach to highlight particular figures or social relations. Together with fellow sociologists and theologians, I have been working on projects entitled "Borders crossers" (*Passeurs de frontières*) and "Enigmatic charisma" (*Le charisme toujours énigmatique*).