The results will be published on the open access data-base Religion and Urbanity online (<a href="https://doi.org/10.1515/urbrel">https://doi.org/10.1515/urbrel</a>). For this, we aim to foster projects of co-authorship evolving from the workshop. Participants are expected to pre-circulate their contribution (max. 3 pages, draft versions are accepted) by May 2nd.

## **Organisers**

Emiliano Rubens Urciuoli, Susanne Rau University of Erfurt

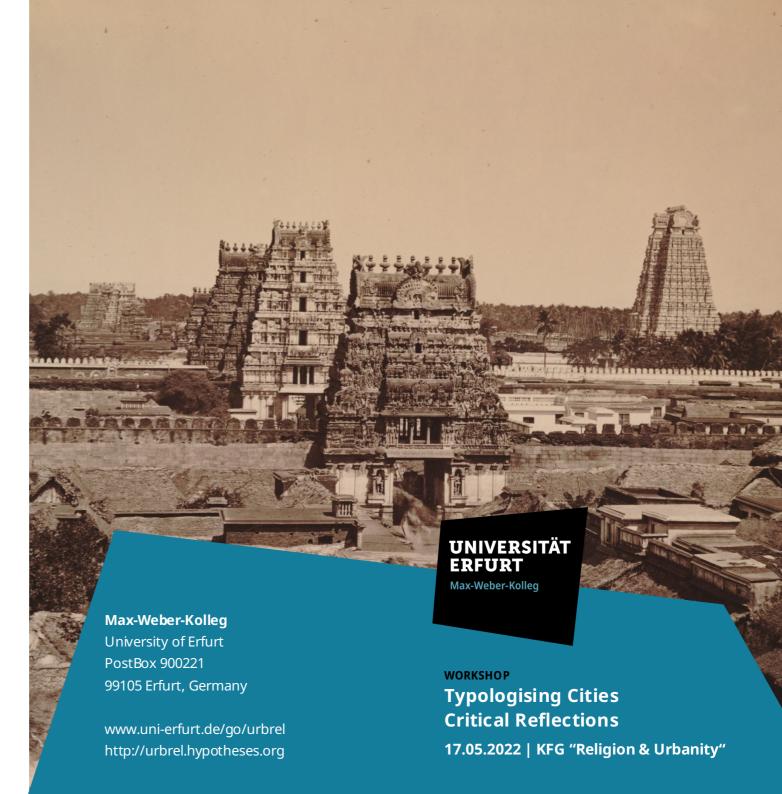
**To register for participation**, please contact Emiliano Rubens Urciouli | emiliano.urciuoli@unierfurt.de

The conference is part of the DFG-funded Humanities Centre for Advanced Studies "Religion and Urbanity: Reciprocal Formations" (FOR 2779), based at the Max Weber Centre for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies of the University of Erfurt, Germany. The group analyses the mutual formation of urbanity and religion from antiquity to the present. It focuses on specific case studies, like Mediterranean or Indian cities of the ancient world, early modern political and religious centres or modern Indian or European towns, and introduces more wide-ranging theoretical investigations. Its speakers are Susanne Rau and Jörg Rüpke.

# See here for our open access platform Religion and Urbanity Online:

www.degruyter.com/view/db/urbrel





# **Typologising Cities. Critical Reflections**

Instead of referring to the general term 'city' - notoriously difficult to define - historians often speak of certain types of cities, highlighting either a key functional aspect or a visible feature of these more or less dense settlements: 'agrotown', 'merchant dty', 'port dty', 'court city', 'working-class city', 'mining city', 'consumer/ producer city', to name but a few. To emphasise certain religious functions, the terms 'bishop town', 'cathedral town', 'monastic town', or, in the Indian context, 'sacred city' or 'temple town' have been introduced to the literature. Historians and historical enquiries, of course, are not the only source of typologies of cities. Over the last century, city planners, bureaucrats, and social scientists have contributed to the expansion and differentiation of city taxonomies. Some of the most popular categories also used outside academia – like 'smart city' or 'garden city' – are not historical coinages.

The workshop seeks to reconstruct where typologisation in urban history came from and what it was intended to achieve, either in a historiographical manner or in terms of the history of scholarship. One starting point is certainly Max Weber's 1921 essay on the city and his (sociological) method of forming ideal types. In European urban historiography, Weber's approach (including a first attempt at urban typification) was widely received and further developed, especially in the *Institut für vergleichende Städtegeschichte* in Münster and in the European project of historic town atlases (HTA).

During the workshop we want to trace these stages and to follow the question what we gain and what we lose when we assign certain cities to a category based on a supposed main characteristic or function. Also, are city types applicable only in their respective regional context? What would be the European equivalent of an Indian 'temple town'? Which alternative terms can we use for engaging comparatively with cities?

## **Programme**

## **Tuesday, 17 May 2022**

09.00-09.10 | Opening & Welcome

09:10-09.30 | Susanne Rau (Erfurt)

"Typologising Cities—A Weberian Start"

09.30-09.50 | Martin Christ (Erfurt)

"Kings and Cities: Typologies of Royal Cities

in Europe, c. 1400-1700"

10.00-10.20 | Sara Keller

"Kings and Cities: Typologies of Royal Cities in South Asia,

c. 1400-1700"

10.30-12.30 | Discussion Round 1

### 12.30-14.00 Lunch Break

## 14.00-14.20 | Judit Majorossy (Vienna)

"Medieval Urbanity and Urban Typology from an East-Central European Perspective"

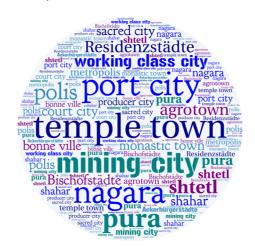
14.20-14.50 | Jörg Oberste (Regensburg)

"Metropolises. A Special Type in the History of Cities "

## 15.00-15.20 | Mara Albrecht (Erfurt)

"Typologies of Cities in the Middle East and Beyond. Religion and Urbanity as Criteria for Categorising Cities?"

15.30-17.30 | Discussion Round 2



#### **Contributors**

**Susanne Rau** is spokesperson of the Humanities Centre for Advanced Studies "Religion and Urbanity". She works on early modern Calicut, Lyon and Hamburg.

**Judit Majorossy** is a visiting Fellow with "Religion and Urbanity" in the summer term of 2022. She works on Medieval Bratislava.

Jörg Oberste is spokesperson of the Graduate school "Metropolity in premodern times" (GRK 2337). He works on municipal registers, hermits and monasteries in German-speaking Medieval metropolises.

**Sara Keller** is a post-doctoral researcher with the "Religion and Urbanity" group. She works on architecture and space in Medieval Indian cities.

**Mara Albrecht** is a post-doctoral researcher at Erfurt University. She specialises in the modern history of the Middle East, esp. of British Mandate Palestine, its imperial entanglements, and of Lebanon.

**Martin Christ** is a post-doctoral researcher with the "Religion and Urbanity" group. He works on the dead and burials in early modern London and Munich.

**Emiliano Rubens Urciuoli** is a post-doctoral researcher with the "Religion and Urbanity" group. He works on early Christianity in cities of the Roman Empire'.