



**Workshop:**

**„Europe and the United States in Comparison –  
Explanations for their Religious Differences“**

Initiated by Prof. Dr. Pollack and Prof. Dr. Koenig

**Lichtenberg-Kolleg, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen  
4<sup>th</sup> till 5<sup>th</sup> of May**

Program

**Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**

**13:30 – 14:00** Registration

**14:00 – 14:30** DETLEF POLLACK AND MATTHIAS KOENIG  
Thematic Introduction

*The Secularization Paradigm*

**14:30 – 15:30** STEVE BRUCE  
“The Myth of American Exceptionalism”

**15:30 – 16:00** Coffee break

*Recent quantitative Studies*

**16:00 – 17:30** MARK CHAVES  
“The Decline of American Religion?”

DAVID VOAS  
“The writing on the wall? Religion, values and American exceptionalism”

Discussant: Matthias Koenig

*Keynote Lecture*

**18:30** PETER L. BERGER  
American Fundamentalists and European Atheists? Explaining the Religious Differences between America and Europe

## **Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**

### *Historical Studies*

- 9:00 – 11:00** HUGH MCLEOD  
"Religious Trajectories of the Transatlantic World – An Overview"
- PHIL GORSKI & SAM NELSON  
"Conditions of Belonging: Imperial De-Parochialization and the Euro-American Divergence"
- Discussant: Marian Burchardt
- 11:00 – 11:15** Coffee Break

### *Organizational Studies*

- 11:15 – 13:15** FRANZ HÖLLINGER  
"Cultural Determinants of Religious Sensibility – Comparing the USA and Europe"
- DETLEF POLLACK & GERGELY ROSTA  
"Religious vitality and social integration: A comparison of American and German Catholic parishes"
- Discussant: Christof Wolf
- 13:15 – 14:15** Lunch

### *American and European Exceptionalisms Revisited*

- 14:15 – 15:30** STEVE PFAFF  
The Religious Divide Revisited – Subjective Secularization, Images of God and American Exceptionalism
- 15:30 – 16:00** Conclusion