



CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF  
CHRISTIAN CULTURES  
**ANNUAL REPORT**



Turun yliopisto  
University of Turku





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CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF  
**CHRISTIAN CULTURES**

The Centre for the Study of Christian Cultures (CSCC) is a multi- and interdisciplinary research centre that focuses on the humanistic and social scientific study of diverse forms of Christianity in different parts of the world. The Centre is based at the School of History, Culture and Arts Studies at the University of Turku, Finland. It aims to support and develop research on Christian cultures at the University of Turku and in Finland at large, and foster international research collaboration in its field.

As a multidisciplinary research centre, the CSCC's members come from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds, including the study of religion, cultural history, archaeology, arts, linguistics, folklore studies, musicology, sociology, and theology. The focus of the centre's research field includes a wide range of approaches and research topics, examining both the past and present.

The themes and goals of the CSCC are aligned with the goals and themes of the University of Turku Strategy. Internationality, criticality, cooperation and interaction, and the ideas of free and open research are shared values. The centre's aims and activities are closely connected with one of the thematic research foci of the University of Turku, that of cultural memory and social change.

## History

Around 2013 two scholars of religion, Minna Opas and Anna Haapalainen, both of whose research was on Christianity, began to discuss the possibility of organising meetings focusing on the study of Christianity for researchers in different disciplines. These discussions led very quickly to the establishment of the monthly Study of Christianity Roundtable discussion meetings at the Sirkkala campus, University of Turku. The core group of participants included Marika Räsänen, who was to become the Vice-Director of the CSCC, and many of the current CSCC's board members.

A wider scholarly network was established quite quickly. Researchers from various Finnish universities (the University of Turku, Åbo Akademi University, the University of Helsinki, the University of Eastern Finland) joined the Roundtable's mailing list and participated in monthly meetings and other events. This considerable interest in questions concerning Christianities sent a plain message to the organisers: there was a need for such a discussion forum.

As the number of researchers in humanities and social sciences working on topics related to Christianity was increasing both at the University of Turku and nationally, the change from a roundtable format to a research centre was only logical. In January 2017 the Centre for the Study of Christian Cultures was established. Hosted by the School of History, Culture and Arts Studies at the University of Turku, the centre contributes to the advancement of the University of Turku's strategy, but also aims to develop research of Christian cultures more widely in Finland. During

its first year the centre has concentrated on creating operating procedures and practices and developing networks both nationally and internationally.

## CSCC Steering Group

Director: Minna Opas (Comparative Religion)

Vice-Director: Marika Räsänen (Cultural History)

## Steering Group members:

Anna Haapalainen (Secretary, Comparative Religion)

Kim Groop (Church History)

Meri Heinonen (Cultural History)

Irmeli Helin (German Language and Translation Studies)

Tuija Hovi (Comparative Religion)

Kaarina Koski (Folklore Studies)

Juha Ruohonen (Archaeology)

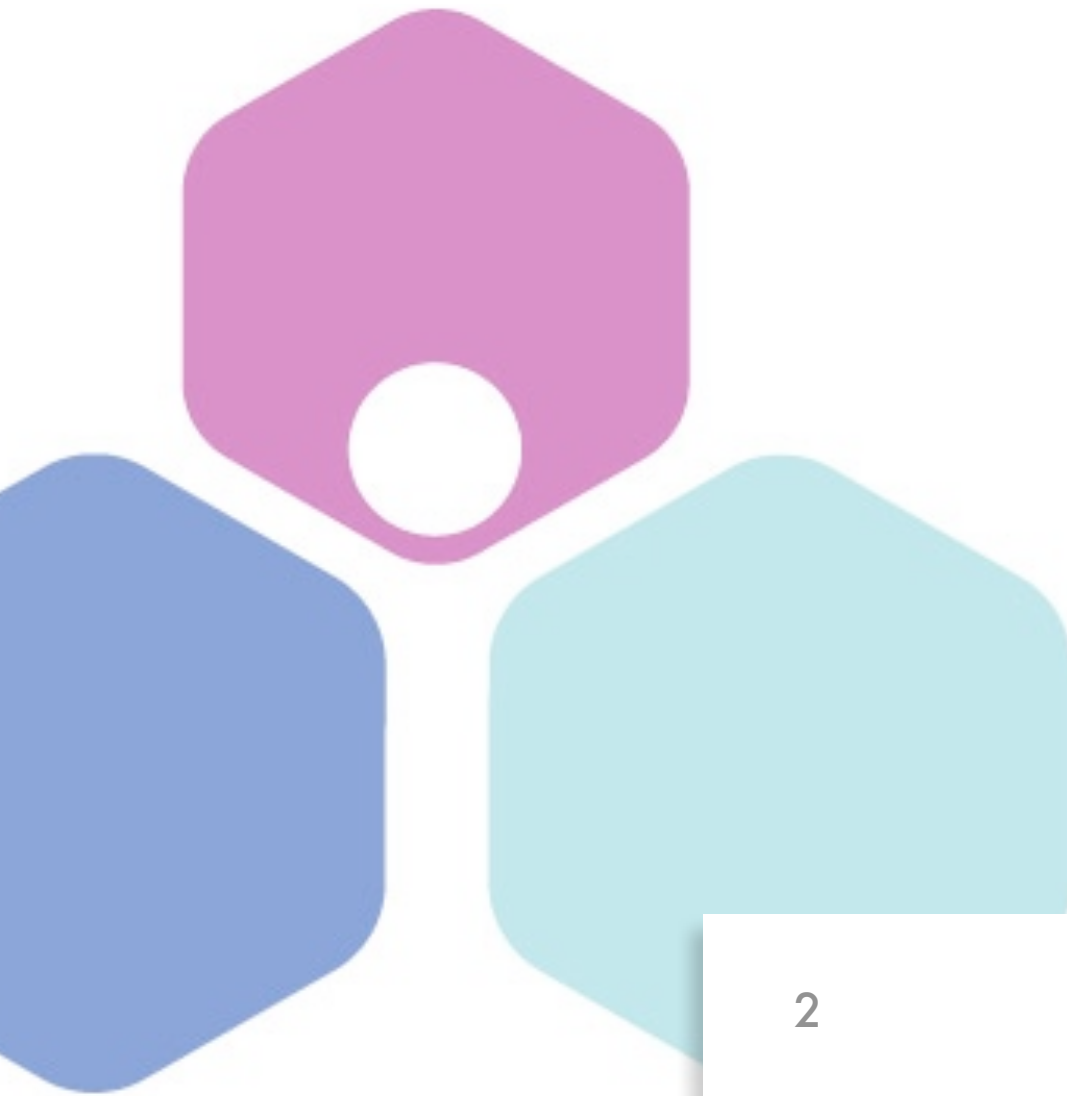
Ringa Takanen (Art History)

## Deputy members:

Jopi Harri (Musicology)

Tatiana Tiaynen-Qadir (Sociology)

We are also in the process of forming an international advisory board for the CSCC.



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## EVENTS ORGANISED IN 2017

## Conferences and one-day seminars

The CSCC organised several events during 2017. These conferences, workshops, one-day seminars, and book launches attracted wide audiences.

### Christian Cultures Past and Present

*Launching seminar of the Centre for the Study of Christian Cultures*

19 May 2017

12.00–16.00

Logomo (Köydenpunojankatu 14, 20100 Turku)



David Thurfell giving his keynote lecture. Photo: Anna Haapalainen

The half-day seminar “Christian Cultures Past and Present” was the research centre’s launch event. It took place at the Logomo cultural centre, coinciding with the Kirkkopäivät [Church Days] of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland. The programme consisted of keynote lectures and project and research presentations.

We had the pleasure of welcoming two distinguished scholars as keynote speakers: Professor Jussi-Pekka Taavitsainen (University of Turku); and Professor David Thurfjell (Södertörn Högskola, Stockholm).

### Schedule

12.00 Opening words

12.10 David Thurfjell (Södertörn Högskola, Stockholm): The Religious Ambiguities of Post-Christian Swedes: A Language-Historical Approach

12.50 Session I: Research presentations

14.00 Coffee

14.20 Jussi-Pekka Taavitsainen (University of Turku): Natural Sciences in Service of the Sacred: The Turku Cathedral Relic Collection Project

15.00 Session II: Research presentations

16.00 Closing of seminar

### Presentations

*Session I (English, 12.50–14.00)*

- Kati Mikkola: Popular Perspectives on Secularisation and Religiosity in Late 19th and Early 20th Century Finland
- Katja Ritari: Constructions of Conversion Narratives and the Formation of Christian Identities in Early Medieval Ireland
- Anna-Stina Häggglund: Birgittine Monasteries in the Baltic Sea Region During the 15th Century

- Stefan Schröder: Historicising the Crusades: Strategies of Historiographical Writing and Functions of the Past in the Late Middle Ages
- Rose-Marie Peake: The Idealised Magdalene and the Saintly Wound Licker: Unruly Sexual Bodies in Catholic Reformation France
- Julian Reid: Iconography and Iconoclasm in the Historical Development of Christianity
- Veli-Matti Salminen: Lutheranism in Finland: Belief, Societal Participation, and Tradition
- Laura Hanna Kokkonen: Religion in the Consumer Culture: Branding the Church
- Tuija Hovi: Neo-Pentecostal Impacts on the Christian Scene in Finland
- Teemu Mantsinen: Research on Apostasy, Leaving Religion
- Jere Kyyrö and Teemu Mantsinen: Finnish Eastern Orthodox Processions in Karelia
- Heidi Jokinen: What is violence? Enhancing Peaceful Coexistence in a Multicultural Society by Recognising Modes of Violence
- Nina Maskulin: Religion, Film, and Media: Teenagers, Religion, and the Reception of the Apocalyptic Film “2012”
- Jan Hellberg: Performed Meanings and Localisation in the Music Culture of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia
- aamupalveluksessa [Odes and Canons in Orthodox Morning Worship]
- Hanna-Riitta Toivanen-Kola: Albanian uusbyzanttilainen kirkkoarkkitehtuuri diktatuurin ajan jälkeen ja sen varhaiset lähtökohdat [Albanian Neo-Byzantine Church Architecture after the Period of Dictatorship and its Early Origins]
- Ringa Takanen: Laupeus ja inhimillisuus – Alttaritaulujen ikonografian murros ja yhteiskunnallinen muutos Suomessa vuosina 1869–1920 [The Turning Point in Altarpiece Iconography and Societal Change in Finland, 1869-1920]
- Anna Haapalainen: Institutionalised Religion and Change
- Kim Groop: Contested Church Spaces and Fragmented Memory Communities
- Minna Opas: Religious Imaginaries and Modernisation in Indigenous Amazonia
- Elina Vuola: Embodied Religion: Changing Meanings of Body and Gender in Contemporary Forms of Religious Identity in Finland
- Päivi Räisänen-Schröder and Sini Mikkola: Academic Blog: Reformaation rajapinnoilla – Crossing Reformation Boundaries
- Outi Lehtipuu: Nordic Network for the Study of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in the First Millennium
- Lotta Valve and Antti Laato: SRB: Raamatun tulkintahistorian tutkimuksen verkosto [SRB: Studies in the Reception History of the Bible]

*Session II (Finnish and English, 15.00–16.00)*

- Jopi Harri: ”Me veisaamme Herralle, sillä Hän on ylen korkea: hevoset ja miehet Hän mereen syöksi.” Oodit ja kanonit ortodoksisessa



- Poster by Pamela Slotte: Protestant Legacies in Nordic Law: Uses of the Past in the Construction of the Secularity of Law (ProNoLa)

Number of Participants: 38

### **CSCC Workshop at the Aboagora 2017 Symposium**

23 August 2017

Event: ABOAGORA 2017 – Becoming/Verðandi

14.00–15.30

Sibelius Museum, Turku



Little cherub following presentations at Aboagora. Photo: Anna Haapalainen

At the Aboagora 2017 Symposium the CSCC organised a workshop examining the relationship between Lutheran hymns and Finnishness through a combination of musical performances and scholarly presentations.

### ***Hearing Finnishness in Hymns***

How did Lutheran hymns construct Finnishness? What did Finnish people find valuable in hymns? In what sometimes surprising ways were hymns and Finnishness intertwined? This workshop sought to address these questions through a dialogue between music and research. Taking listeners on a journey through the centuries, the presenters examined the relationship between hymns and folk poetry in early modern Finland, the linkage of Finnish cultural heritage and hymns as revealed by a study of a single Lutheran hymn, and the significance of hymns in present day Finland. The workshop invited the audience to reflect on the possible roles of hymns in the constitution of Finnish identity.

### ***Workshop Programme***

14.00 Timo Alakotila and Senni Valtonen: selection of hymns

14.10 Opening words: Minna Opas

14.15 Kati Kallio: Hymns and Folk Poetry

14.35 Irmeli Helin: “Jumala ompe linnamme” (“A Mighty Fortress”): The Hymn as Finnish Cultural History

14.50 Veli-Matti Salminen: Hymns and Spiritual Music in Today’s Finnish Lutheranism

15.05 Timo Alakotila ja Senni Valtonen: Hymns and Folk Music and Selection of Hymns

15.20 Discussion

Number of Participants: presenters, 5; audience, ca. 40

## **Christianity and the Limits of Materiality Book Launch**

28 August 2017

14.30–15.30

Room: Tempo, Minerva Building, 2nd floor,  
Sirkkala Campus (Kaivokatu 12)

The book *Christianity and the Limits of Materiality* (Minna Opas & Anna Haapalainen, eds.) was published by Bloomsbury in June 2017. The book is the result of the conference with the same name organised by the CSCC's predecessor, the Study of Christianity Roundtable, at the University of Turku in 2014.



Christianity and the Limits of Materiality Book Launch. Photo: Minna Opas

### **Programme**

#### **Opening Words and Toast**

Minna Opas

#### **Authors present their chapters**

Anna Haapalainen

Sari Kuuva

Minna Opas

#### **Reader's Comment**

Tatiana Tiaynen-Qadir

Number of Participants: 20

## **Re-imagining the Christian Body**



### **Re-imagining the Christian Body**

Interdisciplinary Conference

University of Turku

2–3 November 2017

The conference *Re-imagining the Christian Body* was organised jointly by the Turku Institute for Advanced Studies (TIAS), the Centre for the Study of Christian Cultures (CSCC), and the Turku Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (TUCEMEMS).

The conference explored the ways in which the human body has been imagined and re-imagined in different Christian cultures at different times from late antiquity to the present. In Christianity the human body is often perceived as a privileged site not only for the God-Man relationship but also for the formation of, and relationships within and between, communities of believers. These perceptions emerge from and generate different imaginaries of the body. Imagination can be understood as a human faculty that in many ways plays a central part in

people's religious lives and experiences. The notion does not imply something false or untrue, but rather denotes the ways people constitute and perceive their lived world and their immanent and transcendent environments and relationships. Christian imaginaries of the body are therefore not static, but depend on the Christian culture in question and are subject to negotiation and change. They are also often central to religious schism and conflict, but shared imaginaries of the body also have the capacity to unite.

The conference focused on changes and alterations: how and why is the Christian body reimagined in different Christian cultures? What is the role of such imaginations of the body in religious practice, art, museums, and science, for example? What are the methods and technologies for imagining the body in these contexts? What ethical and other consequences do different imaginations and alterations of the body have for Christians and society at large?

Keynote speakers at the conference were:

**Bonnie Effros, Department of History, University of Florida**

<http://history.ufl.edu/directory/current-faculty/bonnie-effros/>

**Annelin Eriksen, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Bergen**

<http://www.uib.no/en/persons/Annelin.Eriksen>

The conference engaged 8 student assistants who worked at the reception desk and as workshop technical assistants, and looked after the event's social media content. By involving students in the organisation of academic events

the CSCC wishes to contribute to ensuring the continuation and high quality of research in humanities and social sciences at the University of Turku.

## **Panels**

*Thursday 2 November*

### **1a. Relics, Saints, and Imagination**

- Aki Arponen: The Relic and the Saint's Body – Do They Match?
- Georges Kazan: Piecing Together the Past: The Relics of St John the Baptist
- Sofia Lahti: Depicting Present and Absent Objects: Images of Reliquaries in the Medieval North

### **1b. Suffering Bodies**

- Jenni Kuuliala: The Infirm Saint and the Construction of Holiness
- Sini Mikkola: The Suffering Male Body in Martin Luther's Construction of the Christian Man
- Gábor Klaniczay: Stigmata – the Bodily Hermeneutics of Christ's Passion
- Igor Mikeshin: "My power is made perfect in weakness": Spatial Discipline for Addicted Bodies in the Russian Baptist Rehab

### **2a. Picturing the Christian Body**

- Oleksandr Okhrimenko: Man's Body in Medieval "Cosmography" from the National Library of Ukraine

- Teemu Immonen: The Prison of Flesh: Re-imagining the Christian Body in Romanesque Pictorial Hagiography
- Edward M. Schoolman: Re-imagining and Writing on the Bodies: Tombs and their Inscriptions in Early Medieval Italy
- Katja Fält: Hybrids, Monsters, and Other Creatures – Imaginary Bodies and Ambiguous Embodiment in Finnish Late Medieval Wall Paintings

## 2b. Christian Conceptualisations of the Body

- Jussi Junni: The Body in Alexandrian Theology
- Nevena Dimitrova: Re-imagining the Body. Nemesius of Emessa and Gregory of Nyssa
- Visa Helenius: Leibniz on the Human Body: One Philosophical Application of Christianity
- Risto Rätty: Health Reform and the Body

*Friday 3 November*

## 3a. Healing, Prayer, and Representations of the Body

- Verena Linder-Spohn: Sinner and Saint: Imaginations of the Christian Body and the Commitment to Christian Values in the Late Medieval Gebet vom Leben der Heiligen Elisabeth
- Judit Kis-Halas: “Send your golden heart to the Heavenly Treasury”: Ideas of the Christian Body in a Contemporary Scene of Religious Healing
- Minna Opas: Prayer, Corporeality, and Denominationalism in Amazonia

## 3b. Politics of the Christian Body

- Teemu Korpijärvi: “...they placed a priest Hartwig, a colleague of the Brothers of the Militia, upon an extremely fat ox, for he was equally fat.” Corporeality and the Body in the Chronicle of Henry of Livonia, and the Livonian Rhymed Chronicle
- Reima Välimäki: Body and Heresy in Moneta of Cremona's *Adversus Catharos et Valdenses* (ca. 1240)
- Helena Queirós: Female Body Representations and Practices in XVIIIth-Century Portuguese Devote Biographies

## 4a. Corporeal Souls and Spiritual Bodies? Christian Views on the Body

- Kristýna Zoé Syrová: The Fluid Body: Medieval Irish Thoughts on Shape-Shifting
- Katja Ritari: Earthly Bodies and Spiritual Souls in Early Medieval Ireland
- Jesse Keskiäho: Corporeal Souls and Apparition Bodies in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages
- Marika Räsänen: Imagining the Saint's Bodily Presence in Liturgy

## 4b. Ritual Imaginations of Bodies, Souls, and the Transcendent

- Nathanael J. Homewood: To Deliver is to Know: Pentecostal Epistemologies of Body and Spirit
- Tatiana Tiaynen-Qadir and Ali Qadir: Home and Journey in Embodied Experiences of Eastern Liturgy

- Laura Hellsten: The Porous Body as a Key for the Theological Imagination of Dance

The conference ended with a visit to Turku Cathedral's relics collection and the Cathedral Museum, followed by the "Reformation!" concert at Turku Cathedral.

Number of Participants: 48

### **Panel Discussion of the Candidates for the Position of Archbishop in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland**

December 13 2017 14.15–15.45

Mauno Koivisto Auditorium, Publicum Building (Assistentinkatu 7)



Minna Opas, Björn Vikström, Heli Inkinen, Marika Räsänen, Tapio Luoma, Ville Auvinen, Annu Perälä, Ilkka Kantola and Jenni Karimäki. Photo: Maria Vasenkari

The CSCC and the Centre for Parliamentary Studies (University of Turku) organised a panel discussion of the candidates for the position of Archbishop in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland. The theme of the panel discussion was "Candidates for Archbishop Examined: Value-Based Leadership in a Changing Society". The event was opened by Minna Opas and

Marika Räsänen, and hosted by Jenni Karimäki and Annu Perälä. All five candidates participated in the panel: Ville Auvinen, Heli Inkinen, Ilkka Kantola, Tapio Luoma, and Björn Vikström.

The panel discussion was recorded and streamed. The stream can be viewed on the University of Turku's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUPMXiHCd-o>

Number of participants: 82 + 55 online. By the end of 2017 the stream had been watched more than 500 times.



## MONTHLY SEMINARS

MONTHLY SEMINARS ARE THE BACKBONE OF THE CSCC'S YEARLY ACTIVITIES. MONTHLY MEETINGS BRING TOGETHER RESEARCHERS AND STUDENTS INTERESTED IN THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN RESEARCH ON CHRISTIANITY. THE SPEAKERS/PRESENTERS ARE WELL-KNOWN SCHOLARS FROM DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES.

**Harhaoppisuuden uudelleenteologisoituminen myöhäiskeskiajalla - eli miten inkvisiittorit kiinnostuivat uskosta**  
[Retheligionisation of Heresy in the Late Middle Ages – How the Inquisitors Became Interested in Religion]

Dr Reima Välimäki (University of Turku, Cultural History)  
3 February 2017 13.15–14.45  
Aikala Hall (Historicum Building, 2nd floor, Kaivokatu 12)

**Monitieteisyys kirkkotaiteen tutkimuksessa**  
[Multidisciplinary in Church Art Research]

Dr Hanna Pirinen (docent, University of Jyväskylä, Art History)  
27 April 2017 14.15–15.45  
Litzen Hall (Minerva Building, 1st floor, Kaivokatu 12)

**Kristna karaktärer i nordisk film**  
[Christian Characters in Nordic Films]

Dr Sofia Sjö (postdoctoral researcher, Åbo Akademi University, Comparative Religion)  
26 October 2017 14.15–15.45  
Seminar Hall E323 (Minerva Building, 3rd floor, Kaivokatu 12)

**Institutional Protestant Churches and the Language of the Market**

Dr Marcus Moberg (senior researcher, Åbo Akademi University, Comparative Religion)  
23 November 2017 14.15–15.45  
Aikala Hall (Historicum Building, 2nd floor, Kaivokatu 12)



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**PUBLICATIONS**

**COLLABORATIVE  
PARTNERS**

**AND**

**GRANTS**

## Collaborative Partners

During 2017 the centre has built networks and collaborated with various other centres and institutions. The most important include:

Turku Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (TUCEMEMS, University of Turku)

Turku Institute for Advanced Studies (TIAS, University of Turku)

The Centre for Parliamentary Studies (University of Turku)

Church Research Institute

Aboagora Symposium



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TUCEMEMS



KIRKON  
TUTKIMUS-  
KESKUS  
Suomen ev.lut.kirkko



## Key publications



This list includes some key publications by the CSCC's steering group members in 2017. It is not a complete list, but rather serves as an indication of the topics and approaches of CSCC-affiliated research.

**Opas, Minna & Haapalainen, Anna (eds.)**

2017 *Christianity and the Limits of Materiality*. Series: Bloomsbury Studies on Material Religion. London – Oxford – New York – New Delhi – Sydney: Bloomsbury Academic.

**Helin, Irmeli**

2017 *Nachhaltige Botschaft in den Stürmen der Geschichte. Kirchenlieder der Lutherzeit in ihren alten und neuen finnischen Übersetzungen*. Aue Stiftung Publikation Nr. 33. Helsinki: Aue Stiftung.

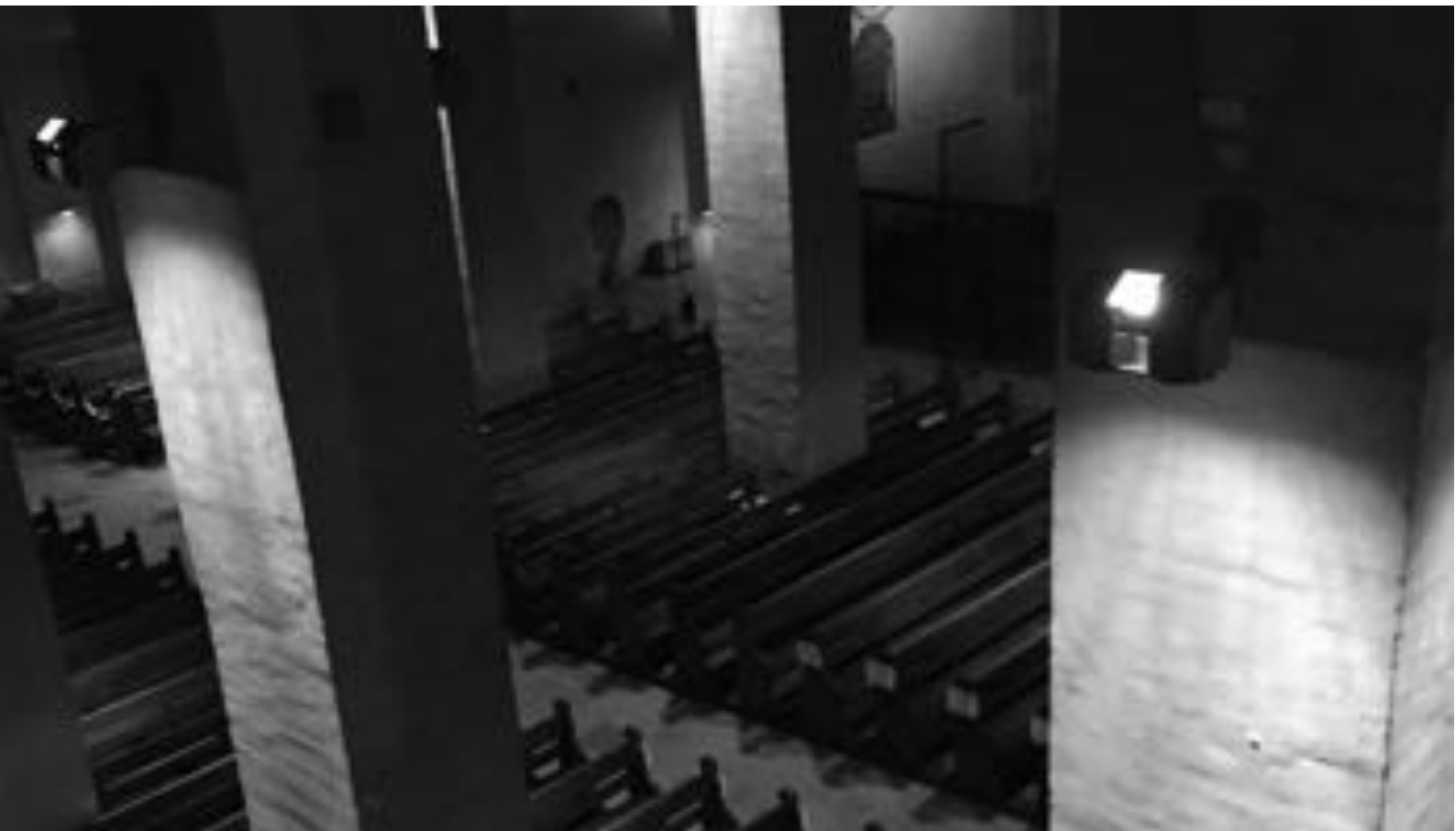
**Räsänen, Marika**

2017 *Thomas Aquinas's Relics as Focus for Conflict and Cult in the Late Middle Ages: The Restless Corpse*. Amsterdam: AUP.

**M. Räsänen, G. Hartmann, E. J. Richards (eds.)**

2017 *Relics, Identity, and Memory in Medieval Europe*. Series: Europa Sacra 21. Turnhout: Brepols Publishers.





## Grants

School of History, Culture and Arts Studies,  
University of Turku  
General funding for the CSCC, €2,000



Turku University Foundation  
Travel Grant for Professor David  
Thurfjell, €300



Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation  
Funding for the Christianity and  
Politics 2018 Conference, €10,000

## The CSCC and Social Media

The Centre for the Study of Christian Cultures is active in social media. The CSCC has Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram accounts, through

which it announces its activities and shares stories and photos from a wide range of events. The CSCC also has a homepage, where you can find our tri-lingual blog. The CSCC keeps its members informed via an e-mail list. The list is open to all who are interested in the CSCC's activities.

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/CSCCTurku/>

Twitter: @CSCCTurku

Instagram: CSCC@csccturku

To subscribe to the CSCC's e-mail list, send an e-mail to [csc@utu.fi](mailto:csc@utu.fi)



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## FINAL WORDS

As these pages show, we have organised many successful events for academic participants and reached out to the wider public during our first year of operation. Although the first year has been preoccupied with organising the CSCC's functions and discovering the best ways to operate, we have also been able to create networks and secure some external funding for this and next year. In 2018 we will continue to create national networks and begin to form international networks for the CSCC. We will be actively exploring opportunities for national and international research collaboration and funding. We have already started planning next year's events, the largest of which will be the international conference "Christianity and Politics", for which the centre has received a grant from the Wihuri Foundation, and the symposium on research on Orthodox Christianity. We wish everybody to join us both at these and other events, and in continuing to build the work of the CSCC!





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