

CURRICULUM VITAE

PUBLICATIONS

Prof. Dr. theol. Dr. rer. soc. Günter Thomas (Th.M.)

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I. Curriculum Vitae

Date of birth: July 7, 1960, Bietigheim-Bissingen , Germany

Nationality: German

Married to PD Dr. med. Christine Thomas, with two children, Jakob and Friederike

II. 1 Positions

09/2017-03/2018 Visiting Fellow at the Neubauer Collegium / University of Chicago

2013-2015 Dean of the Protestant Theological Faculty at Ruhr-University Bochum

2011-2013 Dean of Studies of the Protestant Theological Faculty at Ruhr-University Bochum

since 2004/April Full Professor, Chair for Systematic Theology / Interdisciplinary Studies at Ruhr-University Bochum (C4-Chair) with special emphasis on the Religious and Cultural Foundations of Ethics and Interdisciplinary Studies in Systematic Theology

since 2013/March Associate Researcher at the Department of Systematic Theology, Stellenbosch University (SA)

2008-2009 Fellow at the Center of Theological Inquiry / Princeton

1997-2003 Assistant Professor (Wissenschaftlicher Assistent) to the chair of Prof. Michael Welker (University of Heidelberg) / Postdoctoral Research on the religious Symbolism of New Creation

1991-1995 Teaching and Research Assistant (Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter) to Prof. Michael Welker (University of Heidelberg)

1990/1991 1990/1991 Research Scholar at the Annenberg School of Communication/CA Los Angeles (upon the invitation of Elihu Katz / working with Elihu Katz and James Beninger).

II. 2 Education

2004 / February Postdoctoral lecture qualification at the University of Heidelberg, (German „Habilitation' / *venia legendi*), Title: *Neue Schöpfung. Theologische Untersuchungen zum „Leben der kommenden Welt'*, Neukirchen: Neukirchener Verlag 2009).

1999 Dr. rer. soc. in Sociology from the University of Tübingen (Supervisor: W. Sprondel. Title: *Implizite Religion. Theoretischen und theoriegeschichtliche Untersuchungen zum Problem ihrer Identifikation*, Würzburg: Ergon Verlag 2001).

1996 Dr. theol. in Systematic Theology from the University of Heidelberg (Supervisor: M. Welker, *summa cum laude*. Title: *Medien-Religion-Ritual. Zur religiösen Funktion des Fernsehens*, Suhrkamp Verlag (Suhrkamp Taschenbuch Wissenschaft-Reihe) Frankfurt/M. 1998).

1986 Th.M. in Theology from Princeton Theological Seminary (mentors D. Migliore, C. Dykstra, M.C. Taylor and J. Stout, financed by Princeton Theological Seminary and the Fulbright Commission)

1981 / Fall – 1989 / Spring Protestant Theology, Sociology and Philosophy studies at the Universities in Tübingen, Heidelberg and Princeton / NJ. (MA Thesis on “Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Epistemology in *Sanctorum Communio*” with E. Jüngel and I.U. Dalferth, Grade A+ / University of Tübingen)

1979-1981 Apprenticeship in Cabinet Making (with distinction)

1970-1979 Student of the “Natural Science Gymnasium” in Bietigheim- Bissingen (South Germany)

II. 3 Grants, Prices and Stipends, Financing of Research Projects

9/2017-3/2018 Visiting Fellow at the Neubauer Collegium / University of Chicago

2014 – 2017 Co-PI of The Enhancing Life Project funded by the John Templeton Foundation (with PI William Schweiker UChicago) (4.600.000 US Dollar)

2012 Awarded a Seed Bed Grant by the German Research Council for the build-up of cooperations with Stellenbosch/Südafrika and Taipei/Taiwan for the Project “Church and World. Changes in the Relation between Religion and Politics in international Contexts” (20.000 Euro)

2012 Seed Bed Grant from the Program for Internationalization of Ruhr-University Bochum supporting the cooperation with the University of Chicago on: „Enhancing Life. Religion, Society and the Enhancement of Life“(36.000 Euro).

- 2012 Awarded a Research Grant by the Fritz-Thyssen Foundation for an interdisciplinary Workshop on: „Ende oder Umbau einer Erlösungsreligion? Verschiebungen in der Vorstellung eines nicht nur endlichen, sondern ‚ewigen‘ Lebens“ (Bochum, 12.07. – 15.07.2012) (17.000 Euro)
- 2008 Grant for a summer school by the BMBF on: „Ethische Beratung in der modernen Medizin: eine interdisziplinäre Tagung zur wissenschaftlichen Fundierung, Implementierung und Evaluation“ Ökonomie und Klinik“ in the Program Programm „Ethische, rechtliche und soziale Aspekte der modernen Lebenswissenschaften und der Biotechnologie“ (Lead applicant J. Schildmann, JS Gordon, J. Vollmann) BMBF)
- September 2008 until June 2009 Member in Resident at the Center of Theological Inquiry
- 2008 Awarded a research grant from the German Research Council / Gerda Henkel Foundation / Foundation for “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future” for an interdisciplinary research conference on: “Witnessing. Cultural Roots, Media-Related Forms and Cultural Memory” (April 27–30, 2008, Villa Vigoni / Italy (35.000 Euros)
- 2008 Awarded a research grant from the Thyssen Foundation for an interdisciplinary research conference on: “Schlechte Endlichkeit - heilsame Begrenzung? Die Endlichkeit menschlichen Lebens in philosophischen, theologischen und medizinischen Perspektiven“ (Bochum, 20.-22. June 2008) / „Bad Finitude – Beneficial Limitation? The Finitude of Human Life in Philosophical, Theological and Medical Perspectives “(20.000 Euro)
- 2005 Awarded a three-year research grant by the State of North Rhein – Westphalia in a statewide competition in the field of “Excellence in the Human Sciences” for the Project: “Interpretation of Illness in a Postsecular Society” (together with Isolde Karle) (<http://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/systheol-thomas/Krankheitsdeutung.htm>), combining classical conference work with qualitative research in the social sciences (187.000 Euro)
- 2005 Awarded first prize at the Ruhr University Bochum for the design of a university-wide research project on the distinction between health and illness (http://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/global-change/gcday_auswertung.htm) (25.000 Euro)
- 2003 Awarded Research Grant by the Fritz-Thyssen Foundation for a sociological symposium on: „Perspektiven der theologischen Rezeption Niklas Luhmanns (9.000 Euro, verlegt von der Wissenschaftlichen Buchgesellschaft Darmstadt)
- 2000 First Price in the Essay Competition of the John Templeton Foundation (Expanding Humanity’s Vision of God) with an Essay on: “Complexity in Theology. The Case of the Christian Concept of ‘New Creation’” (10.000 US Dollar)
- 1998 DFG Research Grant for an international and interdisciplinary Symposium on „Religiöse Funktionen des Fernsehens? Medien- und kulturwissenschaftliche Perspektiven [Religious Functions of Television? Perspectives from Media and Cultural Studies]“, Teilnehmer u.a. Elihu Katz (Jerusalem, Los Angeles; Media Studies), Carolyn Marvin (Philadelphia; Media Studies), Stewart Hoover (Boulder, CO; Media Studies), James Carey (New York; Media Studies) (16.000 Euro)
- 1990/1991 Awarded a Research Grant of the ‘Gottlieb Daimler and Carl Benz Stiftung’ to conduct doctoral Research at the Annenberg School of Communication/CA Los Angeles (9.000 Euro)

1990/1991 Awarded a Grant for doctoral work by “Studienwerk Villigst”, an organization for the promotion of young talent (26.000 Euro)

1982-1989 Awarded a Grant for supporting talented students by “Studienwerk Villigst” (54.000 Euro)

II.4 Memberships

International Society for Science and Religion (Cambridge / UK; on invitation)

American Academy of Religion (USA)

International Communication Association (USA)

Chairman of the annual Karl-Barth Conference (together with Prof. Dr. Peter Opitz) (Leuenberg/Schweiz)

Arbeitskreis Populäre Kultur

Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft für Theologie / Academic Society for Religion (Germany)

Gesellschaft für Evangelische Theologie / Society for Protestant Theology

Sektion Religionssoziologie der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie / Section Sociology of Religion of the German Society of Sociology

Netzwerk Medienethik / Network Media Ethics

II.5 Editorialships

Co-Editor of the series „Media and Religion“ (with international colleagues, Moscow State University)

Editorial Advisory Board der Zeitschrift „Philosophy, Theology and the Sciences“

Co-Editor: „Zeitschrift für Dialektische Theologie“

Co-Editor of the series: „Arbeiten zur Systematischen Theologie“ (with N. Slenczka und H. Bedford-Strohm / U. H.J. Körtner / R. Leonhardt, EVA Leipzig)

Co-Editor of the series: „Beiträge zur Systematischen Theologie, Ethik und Diakonie“ (with M. Beintker, J. Eurich, C. Tietz und M. Welker, Neukirchener Verlag)

Co-Editor: „Jahrbuch für Biblische Theologie“