

# Religious Stuff

## Knowledge and Emotions in Christianity

### After the Material Turn

**Interdisciplinary Workshop**  
 with Prof. Katherine Dauge-Roth,  
 Samuel Weber, and Andreas Berger

This workshop explores how a broad range of media—texts, objects, bodies, and communal settings—shaped religious knowledge and emotions in Christianity.

Recent scholarship has shifted from a focus on theological ideas to an understanding of religion as grounded in material and practical engagements with the divine. This perspective has opened new ways of interpreting devotional life, moving beyond familiar oppositions between Protestant textuality and Catholic materiality and showing that all religions and confessions relied on mediated practices to negotiate their relationships with heaven and earth.

Building on these insights, the workshop examines how media ensembles enabled believers to generate, embody, and share religious knowledge and affect.



Illustration: Altarpieces at the Santuario del Niño de Atocha in Plateros. Image by @destinozacatecas

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## After the Material Turn

Interdisciplinary Workshop with **Prof. Katherine Dauge-Roth** (Bowdoin College), Samuel Weber, and Andreas Berger

**Monday, December 15, 2025**

University of Bern, Mittelstrasse 43, room 228

**09.30–10.00**

**Meet & Greet**

**10.00–10.15**

**Samuel Weber and Andreas Berger (Bern)**

Introduction

**10.15–11.00**

**Francisco Reyes (Berlin)**

From Lebanon to Mexico: The Mexican Mahjar Press and the Cult of Marian and Saint Charbel Devotions

**11.15–12.00**

**Verena Eberhardt (Munich)**

The Mirror Between Religion and Science: A Study-of-Religion Approach to Worldviews in Seventeenth-Century Frontispieces

**12.00–13.15**

**Lunch**

at Mensa Mittelstrasse

**13.15–14.00**

**Andreas Berger (Bern)**

Obedient Matter and Powerful Bundles: The Material Worlds of Protection, Healing, and Knowledge

**14.00–14.45**

**Rahel Schär (Bern)**

From Fear to Gratitude: Coping With Natural Disasters Through Religious Material Culture

**14.45–15.15**

**Coffee Break**

**15.15–16.00**

**Dolores Bertschinger (Bern)**

Looking at Tibetan Buddhist Murals. Anthropological and Phenomenological Reflexions

**16.00–16.45**

**Samuel Weber (Bern)**

Making Pious Homes: The Religious Mood Work of Interior Design in Eighteenth-Century France

**17.00–18.00**

**Katherine Dauge-Roth (Bowdoin College)**

Keynote: From Stone to Skin: Sensory Devotion and Embodied Encounters in Early Modern Holy Land Pilgrimage

**18.30**

**Dinner**

at Restaurant Beaulieu

## General Information

### Who?

Samuel Weber, Andreas Berger

### When?

December 15, 2025  
10.15–18.00

### Where?

University of Bern  
Mittelstrasse 43  
3012 Bern  
Room 228

### Participation & Registration

Participation is open to all interested mid-level staff (Mittelbau). Please register by contacting either [samuel.weber@unibe.ch](mailto:samuel.weber@unibe.ch) or [andreas.berger-gehringer@unibe.ch](mailto:andreas.berger-gehringer@unibe.ch)

### Format

The workshop is based on the discussion of **pre-circulated papers**. Registered participants will receive the papers by December 7, 2025.

### Language

The workshop will be held in **English**.

### Lunch & Dinner

All registered participants are warmly invited to join us for lunch at the Mensa Mittelstrasse and/or dinner at Restaurant Beaulieu. Please note that, unfortunately, we **cannot** cover meal costs for non-speakers. If you would like to join us for **dinner**, please **RSVP**—including any allergies and dietary restrictions—by December 7 to [samuel.weber@unibe.ch](mailto:samuel.weber@unibe.ch).