

DFG-Projekt (Maria Teresa Fattori)

Provincial Councils in Polycentric Catholicism, 1517 – 1817. The Normative activity of worldwide episcopates in relation to the Papal Monarchy and Curial Congregations

This research project focuses on a global survey of the provincial Councils celebrated in the Catholic Church from 1517 to 1817. The project's objective is to comprehend the relationship between the Council of Trent, the local translation of the Council, including the interpretation of the Roman Congregation of the Council. In other words, it seeks to investigate the different forms, the wider context and the specific development of the provincial Councils on a global scale. Special attention will be paid to the mutual and reciprocal inter-relationships between different provincial Councils and the relation between the local and global levels.

At the core of the research project is a monography on the subject of Provincial Councils with a special emphasis on the relationships between local norms and the legal sources produced by the Congregation of the Council. Secondly, this research aims to set up an interdisciplinary platform facilitating exchanges between philologists and historians, among others through the organisation of a workshop: during the first years, the research aims to create a network of different linguistic and historiographical traditions to compare cognitive acquisitions and research methods. A third objective consists in the creation of a digital platform with a connected digital edition of source materials. The philological approach necessary for treating historical documents will be combined with the development of digital research tools for interdisciplinary research. From the methodological point of view, the project will adopt an approach comparing the history of the institutions and the history of canon law, encompassing the ongoing dialectic exchanges between the Roman centre and local centres in a polycentric Catholicism. The project presents a number of objectives to be attained:

- phasing of conciliar activity in different chronological and geographical contexts
- reconstruction of the bureaucratic procedures related to those Councils – primarily the recognition of the text of the provincial Councils made by the Congregation of the Council (from 1586 on)
- analysis of the interactions between the Roman Curia and local centres and between local ecclesiastic interests and political ones
- the exploration and description of different models of Provincial Councils in terms of normative content and in terms of celebration's typology
- last but not least, a complete catalogue of the provincial Councils celebrated worldwide from 1517 to 1817, constructed on the basis of edited collections and unedited sources