

1) Projektbeschreibung

Titel: "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 aims 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 (1517-1817) with a special emphasis on the relationships between local norms and the legal sources produced by the Congregation of the Council. From the methodological point of view, it is adopted an approach comparing the history of the institutions and the history of canon law, encompassing the ongoing dialectic exchanges between the Roman center and local centers in a polycentric Catholicism.

The project presents a number of objectives to be attained:

- (a) a global recognition of the metropolitan provinces, comparing the history of the institutions and the history of canon law, one encompassing the ongoing dialectical exchanges between the Roman center and local centers in a polycentric Catholicism;
- (b) reconstruction of the bureaucratic procedures related to those Councils - primarily the recognition (*recognitio*) of the text of the provincial Councils made by the Congregation of the Council (from 1564 on);
- (c) analysis of the interactions between the Roman Curia, in particular the Holy Office and the Congregation for the Propagation of the faith and local centers and between local ecclesiastic interests and political ones;
- (d) exploration and description of different models of Provincial Councils in terms of normative content and in terms of celebration's typology;
- (e) phasing of conciliar activity in different chronological and geographical contexts;
- (f) Last but not least, a complete catalogue of the provincial Councils celebrated worldwide from 1517 and 1817, constructed on the basis of edited collections and unedited sources.