



Christmas Letter 2021

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends of the Cusanus Institute,

Before Christmas and at the end of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you warmly on behalf of all staff members for supporting and accompanying the Cusanus Institute over the past months with your lectures, your essays, your participation in our events, your collegial advice and your sponsorship. Thanks to you, the year 2021 was a beautiful and successful one for us – despite the never-ending pandemic situation.

On 11 February, the Cusanus Lecture took place digitally for the first time. Professor Ulli Roth gave us a highly stimulating presentation on 'Die Antwort des Johannes von Segovia (gest. 1458) auf den Clash of Civilizations'. We also fondly remember the wonderful lecture 'Cusanus 1453. Ziele und Strategien einer Bischofsherrschaft' by Dr Thomas Woelki, which he also gave digitally on 19 May as the winner of the 'Helena Klotz-Makowiecki-Preises für wissenschaftliche Arbeiten zur Cusanus-Forschung'. We have seen on these two occasions that digital cannot replace direct contact, but that digital events make international exchange possible in a simple way.

This made it easier for us to decide to also hold our workshop 'Ansichten und Ausblicke. Cusanus-Rezeption und Cusanus-Bilder vom 19. bis 21. Jahrhundert' with colleagues from, Finland, Germany, Italy, Russia and Switzerland in mid-October digitally. The lectures and discussions were as intensive as they were inspiring, and in conclusion all participants agreed that the reflection on Cusanus research in this form was long overdue and that the definition of the position opened up new perspectives and paths.

The possibilities of digital working have also determined our activities in other respects. At the Rhineland-Palatinate Regional History Day on 9 October in Ingelheim the Cusanus Institute presented its own digital exhibition '[Zwischen Kues und Konstantinopel. Cusanus als Diplomat, Kirchenpolitiker und Friedensvermittler](#)'. This project was created in collaboration with the St. Nikolaus-Hospital/Cusanusstift. We received a very positive response to this, which of course pleased us and confirmed our intention to tackle larger exhibition projects, such as the new permanent exhibition in Bernkastel-Kues on the topic of 'Nikolaus von Kues als Mensch des europäischen 15. Jahrhunderts'.

And there is one thing we are particularly proud of: in the exhibition 'Zwischen Kues und Konstantinopel' you can already see images of manuscripts from the library of Nicholas of Cusa. Together with the St. Nikolaus-Hospital/Cusanusstift and the Manuscript Centre of the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz, we have set ourselves the goal of completely digitising the manuscript collection, which represents a world-class cultural heritage of the Middle Moselle. A start has been made thanks to the support of the University of Trier. Information about this can be found in our [blog](#).

The digitisation project is supported by research on the library, on the history of politics, ideas and culture of the 15th century and currently a PhD project on Cod. Cus. 221. The lectures and publications of the staff of the Cusanus

Institute can be found on our [homepage](#). I would like to refer explicitly only to the MFCG volume ‘Die römischen Jahre des Nikolaus von Kues’, which was funded by the Günter Klotz and Helena Klotz-Makowiecki Foundation. The next one is titled ‘Geld und Arbeit. Nikolaus von Kues und das ökonomische Denken im 15. Jahrhundert’ and will be published in 2022.

On 25 September, the Cusanus Institute participated in the ‘Market of Opportunities’ of the Faculty of Theology, Trier, which was organised as part of the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Faculty in 2020. In preparation, we were asked to describe the activities of the Cusanus Institute in three keywords in a very stimulating exchange with colleagues. We decided on #education #reform #dialogue and carry this claim into the year 2022.

The Cusanus team looks forward to seeing you again in Domfreihof 3, whose roof and facade have been renovated in recent months, or on screen – for example at the digital Cusanus Lecture by Professor Jeffrey Hamburger (Harvard University) on 17 February 2022, which we are organising together with the Academic Library of the City of Trier. The team of the Cusanus Institute wishes you a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

With best regards

Petra Schulte



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Institut**