

Abstract: Why it is impossible to write a history of the perception of „religions“ in the early and central Middle Ages

This contribution attempts first and foremost a precise evaluation of the monographic study Hans-Werner Goetz, *Die Wahrnehmung anderer Religionen und christlich-abendländisches Selbstverständnis im frühen und hohen Mittelalter (5.–12. Jahrhundert)*, Bd. 1–2 (Berlin 2013). To this end, further important scientific publications have been taken into consideration, especially those that before, simultaneously and after Goetz's publication critically assessed the use of the term „religion“, a modern term of Enlightenment, for the qualification of religious phenomena in Antiquity, the Middle Ages and early Modern Times. By these means, the contribution can adequately appraise a strong trend in current internationalised Medieval Studies; in so doing it stresses the methodological challenges and risks connected with this multi-disciplinary research.

Keywords: Religion; history of perception; Medieval Studies; methodology

Schlagworte: Religion; Wahrnehmungsgeschichte; Mittelalterforschung; Methodologie