

Bio Bettina Koch

Bettina Koch is Associate Professor of Political Science/ASPECT at Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University. Her research focuses on Western and non-Western political theory, the history of political ideas, comparative political theory, issues related to the interaction of politics and religion, political violence in trans-cultural comparison, the concept of terrorism as a topic in political theory, state decline and state failure, mass surveillance related topics, and state terrorism.

Her most recent monograph *Patterns Legitimizing Political Violence in Transcultural Perspectives: Islamic and Christian Traditions and Legacies* (De Gruyter 2015) discusses religious justifications of political violence in the Islamic and Christian traditions (the Middle East and Europe) and contemporary discourses (the Middle East and Latin America). Presently, she works on an edited volume on *State Violence, State Terror--Global Perspectives* (under contract with Springer). Her more recent publications involve "Against Empire? John of Paris's Defence of Territorial Secular Power Considered in the Context of Dante's and Marsilius of Padua's Political Theories," in *John of Paris: Beyond Royal and Papal Power*, ed. Chris Jones (2015), "Religious Dissent in Premodern Islam: Political Usage of Heresy and Apostasy in Nizam al-Mulk and Ibn Taymiyya," in *Religion, Power and Resistance from the Eleventh to the Sixteenth Centuries: Playing the Heresy Card* (2014), "Liberation Theologies, Periphery Existence, and Global Challenges: Towards a Transcultural Ideology of Liberation," *Athens Journal of Social Sciences* (2014), "Johannes von Salisbury und die Nizari Ismailiten unter Terrorismusverdacht: Zur kritischen Bewertung eines Aspekts in der aktuellen Terrorismusdebatte," *Zeitschrift für Rechtsphilosophie* (2013); "Religious Freedom and Majority Rule: Marsilius of Padua "on" Abdullahi Ahmed an-Na'im and the "Secular" Islamic State," *Politics & Religion* (2013), and "Priestly Despotism: The Problem of Unruly Clerics in Marsilius of Padua's *Defensor Pacis*," *Journal of Religious History* (2012). A full list of publications can be found at <http://www.bettinakoch.net/publications.html>.